Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30A, c §18-25)

BOARD: School Committee
DATE: January 28, 2020
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

AGENDA*

1. Approval of Warrant

2. Public Participation

3. Information/Reports
   a. Student Representative
   b. Subcommittee Reports
   c. Ways/Mains
   d. Announcements

4. Instruction/Technology (7:15 – 7:45 estimated time)
   a. Portrait of a Graduate Update
   b. Diversity Committee Update
   c. Elementary Space Needs - Discussion

5. Communication (7:45 – 8:30 estimated time)
   a. Athletic Field Maintenance Update
   b. 2019/20 Student School Calendar
   c. Revised FY21 Budget Calendar

6. Old Business
   a. BHS 2020 Program of Studies – Second Reading
   b. Homeless Policy – Second Reading

7. New Business (8:30 estimated time)
   a. Equal Educational Opportunities (JB), Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (JFABF), and Educational Opportunities for Military Children (JFABE) – First Reading
   b. Mid-Cycle Progress Review – Superintendent

8. Public Participation

9. Executive Session
   a. G.L. c. 30A Section 21(a) Subsection 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – School Cafeteria Employees and Custodial Staff
   b. Review & release of Executive Minutes

10. Adjournment

*Agenda subject to change
Chair Martha Simon called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Christine Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr., Mrs. Kristin Russo, and Mr. Stephen Nelson. Superintendent Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Larkin, Business Manager Nichole Coscia, and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT
Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve the warrant; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative
Student representative Bridget Conceison reported on an upcoming dance on Friday, students are working on plans for the senior banquet and logistics for the prom. There will be job shadowing for students next week. This is the last school quarter for most seniors who will be interning during fourth quarter.

Subcommittee Reports
Dr. Conti thanked town meeting for approving the transfer of warrant article money last night from the under spent middle school cafeteria tables to overspent sewer pumps at Pine Glen.

Ways/Means
No one in attendance.

Announcements
Mr. Nelson congratulated the boys track team and coaches on their fourth consecutive year winning the state team relay contest.

OLD BUSINESS
BHS 2020 Program of Studies – Second Reading
By consensus, this item was taken out of order. At the January 14 meeting, BHS Principal Sullivan and Mr. Attubato presented the draft BHS 2020-21 Program of Studies for a first reading. The Superintendent explained that high school administrators had met a couple times to address the AP Biology prerequisite for 10th graders. Dr. Conti distributed an addendum from Principal Sullivan changing the current requirement of sophomores taking honors chemistry concurrent to AP Biology for students to “strongly recommends” honors chemistry concurrently. The high school will study the impact, if any, in regards to enrollment and performance in future years. Principal Sullivan is also requesting to add a new Honors Computer Science Principles course. Mrs. Russo thanked high school administrators and staff in the science department for the prerequisite adjustment in the AP Biology course and Mrs. Monaco commented that the prerequisite of strongly recommend is a step in the right direction. Mrs. Monaco requested examples of student completed modules from the BRIDGE to Social Emotional Learning course be provided. Chair Simon expressed concern about going against the recommendation of the Science department and requested a review of the sequencing of honors chemistry. She further explained the Committee would be voting on the approval of the full BHS 2020-21 Program of Studies and the Addendum dated 1/27/20. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the BHS 2020-21 Program of Studies with the revision before us; motion carried 5-0-0. Mrs. Russo departed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Communication
Athletic Field Maintenance Update
By consensus, this item was taken out of order and postponed until the 2/11/20 meeting. Mr. Cunha informed the Committee that BCAT was not livestreaming this meeting due to mechanical failure, the meeting is live on facebook, and a video of the meeting will be available on the BCAT website later this week.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY
Portrait of a Graduate
Mr. Larkin informed the Committee that he is attending staff meetings at each of the 6 schools and asking teachers what should every BHS Graduate be able to do (i.e., thinking skills, qualities). They will ask all teachers in grades K-12, not just at the high school level. During the next 5 months, the school district will interview all stakeholders and develop a collective vision that articulates the community’s aspirations for all students who graduate from BHS. Parents and School Committee members will be invited to participate in some activities.

Diversity Committee Update
Mr. Larkin reported that the Equity Committee is comprised of staff as well as four BHS student participants. They are looking at and discussing priorities and equity between schools. Currently they are working on a survey with Panorama which will be given to

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1 Addendum 1/27/20
middle and high school students regarding equity and inclusiveness in the school district. They are also working on a cover sheet to let the community know what the survey entails as well as the questions, and students have the choice to opt out from taking the survey.

Anti-bias training will also be part of this project with just BPS administrators taking the training at first. Dr. Conti stated that Mr. Larkin and Ms. Faust will also attend job fairs to try and attract educators of color. He further explained that the school district may consider doing an equity audit next year. A social emotional learning meeting was held today with other school districts and funded by a grant from the Rennie Center. They will put together a long term plan to look at strengths and growth in social/emotional areas. Burlington has completed a vision statement regarding social/emotional needs and it will be shared with the School Committee soon.

**Elementary Space Needs - Discussion**

Mr. Cunha stated that he will share with Committee tomorrow via email a draft Request for Qualifications for on-call architect/engineering services created by the City of Salem and updated by Whitney Haskell in the Town Accounting office and himself to reflect the needs of the Town of Burlington’s requirements. He requested the Committee review the RFQ and send any questions or concerns to him prior to Thursday, January 30 at 3:30 p.m. This will allow him to post it to the central register on Thursday and then the document would be live on February 5. If the Thursday deadline is not met, it would be posted on February 6 and live on February 12. Dr. Conti commented that the Committee may want to request a GSA warrant article for May town meeting for some funding (there is some available money for the BHS HVAC design). In response to Mr. Nelson, the Superintendent replied that specific capital GSA warrant funding hasn’t been announced yet, but he anticipates it will be in the $2-1/2 million range for this year. Mr. Nelson explained that there is not a need to be overly specific with detailed design services in order to put forward an RFQ this week. In response to Mr. Murphy, Dr. Conti explained that compression testing is being conducted on the BHS Varsity Field, which may need refurbishment and the funding to complete it.

**COMMUNICATION**

2020-21 Student School Calendar

Dr. Conti distributed a draft Students’ School Calendar for the 2020-21 school year which showed a student start date prior to Labor Day on August 31 due to Labor Day falling on September 7. He stated parents are calling regarding the start of school for family planning purposes and he’d like to establish the start and end dates for students. Some dates may need to be changed such as professional development or parent conference days. Feedback on the draft 2020-21 student calendar will be gathered and he further noted that negotiations with the BEA union will begin in late February. After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the Students’ School Calendar of 2020/21 with a start date of August 31 for grades 1-12 and a September 8 start date for preschool and kindergarten students; motion carried 4-0-0. The School Committee was in agreement with students starting school prior to Labor day.

Revised FY21 Budget Calendar

Dr. Conti reviewed a revised FY21 Budget Calendar schedule which was also distributed at town meeting last night.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Homeless Policy – Second Reading

An updated Homeless policy was submitted to the Committee for a first reading at the January 14 meeting; this revised policy has been reviewed by School Counsel Darren Klein. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt the revised Homeless policy JFABD reviewed by school counsel to replace the old policy from 2005; motion carried 4-0-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Equal Educational Opportunities, Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care, & Educational Opportunities for Military Children – First Reading

Chair Simon read aloud the draft revised JB Equal Educational Opportunities policy. SEPAC parent Beth Colburn suggested possibly adding the term neurodiversity to the first paragraph, second sentence. Mrs. Monaco and Mr. Nelson recommended that Attorney Klein review the proposed changes in this policy. As this is a first reading, the Committee will take this under advisement and vote on it at the February 11 meeting. Two new policies from MASC were also submitted for a first reading: Educational Opportunities for Military Children and Educational Opportunities for Foster Children. The Committee will also vote on these two policies at the February 11 meeting.

Mid-Cycle Progress Review

Dr. Conti distributed a Mid-Cycle Goals Progress Report and the Planning for Success District Plan 2019-22 document. He summarized the four areas of focus from his mid-
cycle goals: culture and relationships, learning, equity, and facilities & finance. All four of these goals are on target. He further reviewed from the Planning for Success document (pages 5-7) details, strategic objectives, initiatives, progress, and outcomes. Mrs. Monaco inquired if faculty and students are offered anti-bias training. Dr. Conti replied yes and we are also looking how we impact others, how we include others, how people treat each other, and breaking old patterns. Mrs. Monaco requested that Dr. Conti provide an update on the trainings including specific trainings, what is involved, and to include examples. Chair Simon concluded by thanking Dr. Conti for his work and being a good leader.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Chair Simon announced that the body has a need for executive session – G.L. c.30A Section 21(3) subsection 3: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares – Cafeteria and Custodial Staff. The School Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mr. Nelson to enter executive session at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Nelson, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Ms. Simon, aye; Mrs. Russo, aye, Mr. Murphy, aye; motion carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.; motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 2/25/20
Date approved: 2/25/20

Planning for Success District Plan 2019-22