AGENDA*

1. Approval of Minutes of 12/17/20/ and 1/14/20

2. Public Participation

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

4. Instruction/Technology (7:15 – 8:30 estimated time)
   a). Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results
   b). BHS Later Starting Time Survey Results
   b). Elementary Space Needs - Discussion

5. Communication (8:30 – 8:45 estimated time)
   a). Athletic Field Maintenance Update
   b). Monthly Financial Update

6. Old Business (8:45 – 9:00 estimated time)
   a). Equal Educational Opportunities (JB), Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (JFABF), and Educational Opportunities for Military Children (JFABE) - Second Reading

7. New Business (9:00 estimated time)
   a). FY21 Draft Budget Overview
   b). Out-of-State Staff Travel - Approval
   c). Ratification of 2020 – 2023 Custodial Union Contract – Approval

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 - Clerical Employees, BSAA, and Instructional Assistants
   b). Executive Minutes 1/28/20 - Approval

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 MINUTES
Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve minutes of 12/17/19; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve minutes of 1/14/20; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative
Student representative Bridget Conception reported that she completed a job shadow at Memorial school in kindergarten, a senior citizens dance will be held on March 25, and the Equity Committee met today to review a possible survey for students in grades 6-12 to complete.

Subcommittee Reports
None. The first budget subcommittee meeting is scheduled for March 5.

Ways/Means
Susan Harrigan, Diane Creedon, Jaya Voruganti, John Iler and Robert Neufeld in attendance.

Announcements
Mr. Larkin announced that the BHS Girls Winter Guard had come in first in their competition. The Superintendent commented that BHS had received an Innovation Pathways Grant in computer science and Department of Education staff and other community school leaders visited computer science classes today.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY
Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results
Health Coordinator Matt Jackling reviewed a comprehensive summary presentation of almost two hours on the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(^1\) that included data on survey results from students in grades 6-8 and students in grades 9-12. The survey was administered in spring 2019. The Wellness Committee reviewed student data and made recommendations for students in high school and separate recommendations for middle school students. Mr. Jackling explained that for high school students there were 100 questions on the survey and middle school students answered 70 questions. The six areas of questions were: unintentional injuries and violence, mental health, smoking, alcohol and drug use, sexual behaviors, and unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity. He reviewed these extensive summarized results for both high school students and middle school students during his presentation. Twelve recommendations were made to the School Committee by the Wellness Committee for high school students: share YRBS data with staff, students & parents, develop a YRBS guidebook for students, utilize flexblock/advisory program as an access point, review & promote the “active bystander” concept, revamp the “At Risk” process, implement a school climate survey to be administered in the off year of the YRBS process, advocate for additional Adjustment Counselor, new programming regarding sexual behaviors, develop intramural program to increase physical activity by students, professional development on mental health awareness, develop a vaping diversion program for students, continue to implement YRBS at BHS & MSMS. After presenting data in the same 6 areas for middle school students, Mr. Jackling shared 9 recommendations with the School Committee from the Wellness Committee: share YRBS data with staff, students and parents, develop a YRBS guidebook for students, implement a school climate survey to be administered in the off year of the YRBS process, provide current 5th grade/8th grade students with programming regarding SEL and transitioning to the next grade level, advocate for an additional school Adjustment Counselor, advocate for additional health education staff at the elementary level, utilize a school breakfast program at the middle school level, provide staff with professional development focused on mental health awareness, and continue to implement YRBS at BHS and MSMS as well as review data and analysis. Mr. Jackling observed that students need to be healthy in order to be successful in the classroom and in academics.

School Committee comments included: complemented Mr. Jackling and the Wellness Committee for having a good grasp of the issues as well as ways to address them.

\(^1\) 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Analysis
commented that results on vaping at the middle school seem underreported, parents need to receive information particularly on vaping, it’s valuable to have information from Burlington, Middlesex League and the state, suggested that students be trained on helping other students, and expressed concern about students who may have abuse occurring outside of school.

In response to Mrs. Russo, Dr. Conti replied that the referred to new staff positions are in the draft FY21 budget. Dr. Conti complimented Mr. Jackling on his leadership in this area, thanked the members of the Wellness subcommittee, thanked Lahey Clinic for funding the survey, and the Middlesex League for sharing their town data with other communities. In response to Diane Creedon, Mr. Jackling replied that the Youth & Family Services organization takes some of the student caseload, however they have only so many slots and there may be insurance issues. Chair Simon further commented that Burlington students are referred to Youth and Family Services for counseling and at this time there isn’t a wait list. Dr. Conti stated that additional staff is needed to meet the social/emotional needs of students, social/emotional health is critical for students, the YRBS survey results are accurate but not precise; however, results will get more accurate over time and the middle school needs to offer a breakfast program.

Mr. Jackling stated that also as part of the YRBS survey, high school students reported dramatically higher percentages were getting 7+ hours of sleep per night.

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to take items 5b and 7a out of order and to potentially defer some agenda items; motion carried 5-0-0. In an email earlier today, Ms. Coscia sent out the full preliminary FY21 Draft Operating Budget² to the Committee, Administrators, and Ways & Means. She pointed out: the total FY21 requested budget of $55,830,569 includes new positions but does not include increases for unsettled union contracts, page 3 shows a placeholder amount of $920,092 for unsettled union contracts, and pages 4-7 show the requested new staff positions. In the electronic version, on page 1 and 2 there are electronic links to navigate to each department’s budget. Dr. Conti explained that page 3 shows a draft requested budget increase of 6.14%, it includes $1.3 million in 22 new positions, and there are currently four unions conducting bargaining. Mr. Murphy observed that if all contract negotiations are not completed by the end of March, there may not be a settled contracts figure available, a contingency needs to be planned for as a final FY21 budget number may not be available for town meeting in May. The Superintendent stated that over the next 6 weeks, each department and principal will review their individual budgets, staffing requests, and instructional programming; he is optimistic regarding the contract negotiation process and that it will be completed prior to town meeting.

Dr. Conti reviewed monthly financials (which were in the Committee’s meeting packet) stating that the school lunch program is in deficit of -$56,761 and an analysis of lunch prices is being conducted. In response to Mr. Nelson, Dr. Conti explained that it’s possible that school choice money could pay the lunch deficit, but it needs to be decided where the money will come from, a negative balance cannot be carried beyond June 30, and further explained that the school lunch program is not self sustaining. The Committee requested that Ms. Coscia complete an analysis of the lunch program including: expenses and the cost of breakfast and lunches (food and labor), what students are charged for lunch/breakfast, student participation rates, and suggested ways to increase student participation. In response to Mr. Tier, Ms. Coscia will need to check on the monthly run rate for the Sprouts program.

Mr. Cunha stated that the Request for Qualifications for architectural services was submitted, February 24 is the deadline for qualifications to be submitted, and 25 packets have been requested to date. He will share results of the RFQ with the Committee when they become available.

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to postpone the Athletic Field Update until the February 25 meeting; motion carried 5-0-0.

A first reading was held for these three policies at the January 25 meeting. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to adopt revised policy JB Equal Educational Opportunities with new language of neurodiversity; motion carried 4-0-0 (Mrs. Russo out of

² Operating Budget Draft FY21
Children in Foster Care, & Educational Opportunities for Military Children – Second Reading

NEW BUSINESS
Out-of-State Staff Travel – Approval
Ratification of 2020-2023 Custodial Union Contract - Approval

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to adopt policy JFABF Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to adopt policy JFABE Educational Opportunities for Military Children; motion carried 5-0-0.

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for Margaret Harrigan to the Music Educators Association Annual Conference in Pennsylvania on April 23-25, 2020; motion carried 5-0-0.

Dr. Conti requested this item be deferred until the February 25 meeting as Attorney Darren Klein had submitted revised vacation language, which the Custodial union has not seen yet. The cafeteria union is scheduling a ratification vote for completed negotiations. Dr. Conti further explained that all other union negotiations are ongoing.

None.

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.; motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

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