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

BOARD: School Committee
DATE: February 25, 2020
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

AGENDA*

1. Approval of Minutes of 1/28/20 and 2/11/20

2. Approval of Warrant

3. Public Participation

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

5. Instruction/Technology (7:15 – 7:30 estimated time)
   a). Elementary Space Needs – Discussion

6. Communication (7:30 – 7:45 estimated time)
   a). Skills Capital Grant

7. Old Business (7:45 – 8:15 estimated time)
   a). Athletic Field Maintenance Update

8. New Business (8:15 estimated time)
   a). Ratification of 2020 - 2023 Custodial Union Contract – Approval
   b). Ratification of 2020 - 2023 Cafeteria Union Contract - Approval
   c). FY21 Draft Budgets – Curriculum, Health, IT, Library, Maintenance, Custodial

9. Public Participation

10. Executive Session
    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

11. 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 Mrs. Russo and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 1/28/20; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 2/11/20; motion carried 5-0-0.

**APPROVAL OF WARRANT**
Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-2; Mr. Nelson and Mr. Murphy abstained.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None.

**INFORMATION/REPORTS**

Student Representative
Student representative Bridget Conceison reported student council is planning and gathering donations for the Senior Citizen’s dance on March 29 and commented on athletic accomplishments this week.

Subcommittee Reports
Mr. Murphy stated that the Recreation Commission is awaiting a response regarding maintenance of the school athletic fields; which will be discussed later this evening.

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

Announcements
Mr. Murphy noted that the Burlington Education Foundation Trivia Night will be held March 6.

**INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY**

Elementary Space Needs -
Mr. Cunha stated that 6 submissions were received in response to the RFQ for architectural services and he will share the results with the Committee digitally. Dr. Conti explained that an architectural firm does not have to be assigned by the April 6 Statement of Interest deadline; however, if a firm is retained before the deadline they could review the final draft SOI submission. Once a firm has been contracted, they could begin with the BHS HVAC system with approved warrant article funding. Dr. Conti also explained that the finalist firms could come to a School Committee meeting if the Committee requests it.

**COMMUNICATION**

Skills Capital Grant
Dr. Conti introduced Dennis Villano, Director of Technology Integration who accepted a state grant from the state for BHS. The Skills Capital grant award was $225,700 to improve the equipment in the Innovations Pathway Program ($50K was awarded for this last year). The high school will purchase new computers, robotics, augmented/virtual reality equipment to expose more students to computer science (a limited number of students have been able to access the program due to equipment constraints). Mr. Villano is also hoping to expand the number of girls participating in the computer science field. The School Committee thanked Mr. Villano for writing the grant and congratulated the team for participating in this effort for BHS. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Russo to accept the Skills Capital Grants funds of $225,700; motion carried 5-0-0. Dr. Conti announced that BHS students & Middlesex League students will be participating in a drone day at Northeastern University and BHS students and Art teachers will be meeting with Boston Architectural College to discuss creating a BHS dual enrollment course.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Athletic Field Maintenance Update
Mr. Murphy explained the background of this ongoing subject of using all organic or nonorganic products on school athletic fields. A discussion of over 45 minutes ensued with some of the comments expressed: concern about staff, students, workers, and dogs being exposed to chemicals with use of non-organic products, concern about chemicals/synthetics remaining in the soil, organic is more costly as well as labor intensive, it has been the School Department past practice to use all organic but a written policy is not in existence, the non-organic product trial at Wildwood Park has gone very well, only fields with irrigation can be considered for a non-organic program, the risks of using synthetic fertilizer, possibly using a hybrid program with one application of weed killer and then using all organic products.

All organic products for one year of application at the Francis Wyman field will cost $30K, the Recreation Commission is seeking funding support from the School Department if it’s decided to use all organic products and there is no identified funding in the budget for this
item. A suggestion was made for a one year trial with all organic, if it does not work sufficiently, at that time consider a one-time application of weed killer, and to fund $15K for the Francis Wyman field to get the program started. The Committee can also revisit athletic field conditions on a yearly basis.

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson that the School Committee agrees to enter into an understanding with the Recreation Commission to contribute up to $15,000 for Tom Irwin Company to maintain the Francis Wyman playing field with the understanding that all organic materials be used with funding through either the operating budget or revolving account as School Administrators determine; motion carried 5-0-0. Mrs. Monaco requested that a draft policy for School Athletic Field Maintenance be created for the next regular School Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
Ratification of 2020-2023 Custodial Union Contract - Approval

Dr. Conti explained that a tentative three-year agreement with the Custodial unit has been ratified by union members. The union will receive a compensation increase of 2.5% year 1, 2.5% year 2, and 2.5% year 3. Other changes include an increase in longevity of $100 per year, a clothing allowance increase, and parameters for taking vacation time during the summer. The new agreement is effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023. He thanked Mr. Cunha and the custodial union for respectful contract negotiations. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to ratify the custodial contract in front of us; motion carried 5-0-0.

Ratification of 2020-2023 Cafeteria Union Contract - Approval

Dr. Conti stated that a tentative three-year agreement with the Cafeteria unit has been ratified by union members. The union was granted a 2.5% wage schedule increase on July 1, 2020, a compensation increase of 2.5% year one, 2.5% year two, and 2.5% year three. Other changes include a clothing allowance increase and seniority language. The new agreement is effective July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to ratify the contract for cafeteria employees; motion carried 5-0-0. Dr. Conti thanked Mr. Cunha and the cafeteria union for positive and productive contract negotiations. Mrs. Monaco commented that cafeteria workers do a great job and take great care of Burlington students and requested that cafeteria substitute wages be increased to the minimum wage. After a brief discussion it was moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to increase substitute cafeteria workers wage to minimum wage effective immediately; motion carried 5-0-0. The Superintendent was requested to research if all school employees make at least the minimum wage.

FY21 Draft Budgets Health Services

Nurse Leader Barbara Conley reviewed a powerpoint presentation Health Services 2020 which detailed number of students per nurse, number of student visits to nurse from September 2016 – December 2019, student safety, nurse staffing ratios, and the inability to support field trips. She further outlined concerns of: appropriate and sufficient coverage at each school, coverage for nursing staff for personal, sick, IEP & 504 meetings, lunches, planning time, etc. Over the past four years there has been a 31.5% increase in services and workload and she has specific coverage concerns at Fox Hill and Francis Wyman. There have been large increases in student: allergies, ADHD, FPIES, blood disorders and diabetics. The schools are not meeting nurse to student ratios and Mrs. Conley is requesting two additional nurses for next year; one at Fox Hill and one at Francis Wyman. Dr. Conti and Mr. Larkin thanked Mrs. Conley for her patience in a two year plan to increase nursing staff and Mrs. Monaco commented that at the joint guideline meeting last fall with the town, the School Committee made a strong effort of support requesting additional nurses. Mrs. Russo observed that students/staff need nurses and health care so students can learn.

IT

IT Director Jose DeSousa stated that the IT department’s budget is level funded for FY21 and is requesting an additional staff position. Currently there are only three staff members to perform all repairs/requests district wide. Dr. Conti explained that the requested staff position is the restoration of a technician position that was not replaced 3-4 years ago. In response to Mr. Iler inquiring about $85K for repair supplies, Mr. Cunha explained that printers are owned by the district and copiers are either purchased or leased from the state bid list. He further noted that there are classroom projectors in every teaching space and computer supplies are $150K for the replacement of teacher devices.

Library

Dennis Villano commented that this budget is level funded for FY21 and additional funding

1 BPS Health Services 2020
for contracted services may be needed for the following fiscal year. He explained that the Francis Wyman library will be refurbished over the summer break.

Director of Operations Bob Cunha stated the maintenance budget is level funded. In response to Mr. Iler, Mr. Cunha explained that the district has just over two vehicles and plumbing services are provided under contracted services as it's not cost effective to be an in-house service and $75K is budgeted for parts and labor. He is requesting the restoration of a system-wide maintenance shop position. The custodial budget is also level funded for next year.

Assistant Superintendent Larkin stated the Curriculum budget is level funded for next year. In response to Mr. Iler, Mr. Larkin explained that $35K for translation services are a legal requirement to provide parents with school information in their home language. Dr. Conti next explained that the $70K for iReady is a student reading assessment tool for students in elementary and middle school that is administered three times per year.

Dr. Conti summarized that all budgets presented this evening were level funded for FY21 and 4 staff positions were being requested: two nurses, one technician, and one maintenance worker.

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 – Clerical, BSAA and Instructional Assistants. The School Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to enter executive session at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Nelson, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Ms. Simon, aye; Mrs. Russo, aye, Mr. Murphy, aye; motion carried 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.; motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/10/20
Date approved: 3/10/20