TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Meeting Posting

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

DEPT./BOARD: School Committee
DATE: March 12, 2019
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

AGENDA*

1. Cast of Mamma Mia!
2. Poetry Out Loud – Caitlyn Shea
3. Approval of Warrant
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
   a). Student Representative
   b). Subcommittee Reports
   c). Ways/Means
6. Instruction/Technology (7:15 – 7:30 estimated time)
   a). BHS Wellness Day Summary
7. Communication
8. Old Business (7:30 – 8:00)
   a). Elementary Planning for Success – Second Reading
   b). Handling of Cash – Second Reading
   c). School Transportation Bid - Approval
   c). Warrant Articles – Backup Questions
9. New Business (8:00 estimated time)
   a). BHS Planning for Success – First Reading
   b). Out-of-State Staff Travel – Approval
   c). FY20 Draft Budget – BHS, Guidance, Athletics, Art, Music, Phys Ed & Health, Science Center, Student Information Office
10. Public Participation
11. Executive Session –
    a). Approval of Executive Minutes
    b). Contract Negotiations
12. Adjournment

*Agenda subject to change
Chairman Russo 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: Mr. Stephen Nelson, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr., and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti, Ass’t Superintendent Patrick Larkin, Business Manager Nichole Coscia, and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present. Mrs. Christine Monaco absent.

MOMENT OF SILENCE
A moment of silence was observed for the recent passing of Joan Miles an 18 year School Committee member. The School Committee offered condolences to her family.

Cast of Mamma Mia!
Members of the Mamma Mia! cast sang a song from the musical which will be performed over the next two weekends.

POETRY OUT LOUD
This year’s BHS Poet Laureate Caitlyn Shea recited a poem by John Dunn.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT
Mr. Murphy made the following statement: As you know, since the immediate family members of two School Committee members are teachers, the Committee cannot reach a quorum due to conflicts under the Conflict of Interest Law. We have been advised by counsel to invoke the Rule of Necessity to allow us to vote on any matter involving the financial interests of such family members, and by this statement, are invoking the rule. Detailed disclosures regarding the matter were made at the Committee’s April 11, 2006 meeting and recorded in the minutes, and are also on file with the Town Clerk and may be viewed in the Town Clerk’s office. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-1. Ms. Simon abstained.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Representative
Riya Karmani commented that the first Wellness Day was held last week and the highlight for students was to be able to unplug for the day. May 10 is the junior/senior program, April 5 is the grade 10 semi-formal and April 23 is the Senior Citizen’s prom.

Subcommittee Reports
Mr. Murphy stated he’d attended an Audit Committee meeting this morning where the work of the town auditor was reviewed; he’ll update the Committee as information becomes available.

Ways/Means
Members in attendance: Sue Harrigan, John Iler, Nick Priest and Diane Credon. The next joint subcommittee meeting on the FY20 budget will be held March 14 at 6 p.m.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY

BHS Wellness Day
Mr. Larkin showed a video of the student Wellness Day held at BHS last week. Regular classes were suspended for the day and students attended workshops on meditation, hobbies, yoga, music, etc. The premise was to help with student anxiety and the reduction of stress; feedback was very positive from both students and staff.

COMMUNICATION

March 11 Professional Development Day
Dr. Conti stated that a professional development day was held for staff and police officers yesterday on school safety and security with the Police Department covering the cost of speakers. The Principal of Columbine High School and the parent of a Sandy Hook student both provided presentations on the two tragic events. Dr. Conti further explained that it’s a challenging subject to discuss but a plan needs to be in place in case the unthinkable happens and Burlington needs to remain diligent.

OLD BUSINESS

Elementary Planning for Success – Second Reading
The four elementary principals were in attendance at the February 26 meeting to review their joint Planning for Success for a first reading. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Elementary Schools Planning for Success; motion carried 4-0-0.

Handling of Cash Policy – Second Reading
A first reading of the Handling of Cash policy was done at the February 26 meeting. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt the Handling of Cash policy; motion carried 4-0-0.

School Transportation Bid Approval
Transportation Consultant Rich Labrie was again in attendance to review the draft Transportation Bid. A discussion included: clarification of COLA increases, clarification of cost per gallon of gas, day rates and amount of business. Mr. Iler had sent an email earlier this evening with recommended clarifications/edits. Mr. Labrie was in agreement with the
proposed clarifications, date change, and correction of typos. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to accept the School Transportation Bid as submitted and discussed and to include Mr. Iler’s recommended changes/edits; motion carried 3-0-1 Mr. Nelson abstained. A revised copy of the Transportation Bid specs will be sent to the School Committee. Mr. Labrie stated that bus route runs will be available at the end of April, the bid opening will be in mid-April, and will be followed closely by the bid being awarded by the School Committee.

Mr. Cunha provided a comprehensive review of proposed FY20 Capital Warrant Articles. The list was not in priority order, the 19 projects totaled $1,772 million, the schools have been assigned a total of $1.4 million for warrant articles, and $350,000 needs to be cut from the proposed articles. Some discussion comments: there are no warrant articles from last year included on this year’s list, painting costs include supplies only – school staff will do painting, Project Adventure updated quote is an additional $5,000, walkie talkies are for the schools with separate channels for police to communicate with the schools and includes installation of an antenna on the water tower, MSMS cafeteria table configurations were chosen by middle school staff, a new DSC classroom will be needed for September at Pine Glen, proposed deleting Pine Glen Lighting and Ceiling Tiles for $300,000 to put it on the 10 year capital plan, and the A/C project at Francis Wyman will go out to bid and it’s anticipated that phase 2 and 3 will be completed this summer. A prioritized warrant article list will be provided to the School Committee by next Tuesday. Mr. Cunha commented that the following projects from last year that have not been completed yet but the School Department has approved funds from last year are: Francis Wyman fire alarms, $60,000 for paving, phase 2 of A/C at Francis Wyman and rubber playground surface at Pine Glen. The Committee also requested to be provided with an updated Capital Plan list.

In response to Mr. Murphy, Dr. Conti explained that the proposed Distance Learning Initiative is a proposal for next year, the stakeholders are still exploring/planning for substitutes and special education students, and currently a trial day has not been planned.

NEW BUSINESS

FY20 Draft Budget
BHS

By consensus, this item was taken out of order. Principal Sullivan reviewed his FY20 budget request beginning on page 71 of the budget book. The budget is up 2% an increase of $4,500 for a total of $242,932. The high school is seeking additional staff: adjustment counselor in Guidance, a 4 English teacher, two special education teachers and an ELL teacher. In response to Chairman Russo, Ms. Coscia explained that supplies for Evening Academy are up $2,500 as it was overlooked last year.

Music

Music Director John Middleton-Cox reviewed the K-12 Music budget beginning on page 95 with a 19.81% increase, up $14,648 for a total of $88,595. The largest increases are in: contracted services +$5,748, BHS supplies +$3,500 and textbooks +$5,400. The Music department is seeking additional staff: 2 strings teacher at BHS, 4 music teacher at MSMS, .5 music teacher at Pine Glen (restoration of last year’s cut position). In response to Ms. Creedon, Mr. Middleton replied that professional musicians are used in the orchestra pit for the spring play; Ms. Creedon suggested using BHS students, which would allow more students to participate, sell more tickets with more parents attending, and be cheaper for the musical production.

Guidance

Guidance Coordinator Joe Attubato reviewed the Guidance budget on page 105 with a 1.77% increase of $456 for a total of $26,242. They are requesting a new guidance position for next year.

Athletics

Athletics Director Shaun Hart presented his budget request increase of 35.95%, $107,897 for a total of $407,987. Mr. Hart reviewed areas of requested large increases: contracted services up 14% an increase of $39,536 for a total of $315,400, athletic supplies up 6% and equipment expenses of $68,000. Ms. Coscia further explained there is $53,000 in the athletic revolving account which could help offset equipment expenses. There was also a $40,000 discrepancy in coaching salaries that are not included in the BEA contract. In response to Ms. Creedon, Mr. Hart replied that helmets are provided to students in the football and hockey programs but not in lacrosse and that there are four trainers on staff to cover athletic events.

Art

1 FY20 Capital Warrant Articles
Ms. Coscia explained that the art budget request on page 142 is up a total of 5.84% an increase of $2,500 for a total of $45,319.

The phys ed and health budget request is up .30% an increase of $110 for a total of $37,478.

Ms. Pavlicek reviewed the Science Center budget request decrease -57.45% a decrease of $-33,760 for a total of $58,760; she explained the decrease is due to the finished curriculum frameworks completed over the past five years. The Science Center curriculum is shared with other school districts at no cost. Next year Sean Musselman is the chairman for the National Science Teachers Conference in Boston, Ms. Pavlicek presented a professional development workshop for DESE, and they have a joint magazine article coming out in March on Phenomena Based Learning.

Manager Robyn Miliano reviewed the Student Information Office budget on page 91, which shows a decrease of -1% down -$1,200 for a total of $103,550. The School Committee commended Mrs. Miliano on her seamless transition. In response to Ms. Creedon, Ms. Coscia explained that postage is centralized for the school district and each cost center doesn’t have a postage budget. Ms. Simon departed the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Principal Sullivan reviewed the high school’s progress on four strategic objectives: engaged learning, relationships, communication and facilities & operations.

Mr. Larkin explained that this overlooked after the fact out-of-state travel approval was for two middle school staff members who attended the Where Everybody Belongs training on February 25-27 in Skytop, Pennsylvania. The trip was funded by a grant from the Burlington Education Foundation. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-state travel for two staff members to Pennsylvania on February 25-27; motion carried 3-0-0.

None.

Superintendent Conti stated that the School Committee did not have a need for executive session this evening.

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 10:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/26/19
Date approved: 3/26/19