TOWN OF BURLINGTON
Meeting Posting

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

DEPT./BOARD: School Committee
DATE: June 11, 2019
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). Subcommittee Reports
   b). Ways/Means

4 Instruction/Technology (7:15 – 8:30 estimated time)
   a). 2019 Graduation
   b). BHS Tenacity Challenge
   c). BHS Environmental Club
   d). Innovation Pathways
   e). Future BHS Schedule Changes

5. Communication (8:30 – 8:45 estimated time)
   a). FY19 Financial Update

6. Old Business (8:45 – 9:00 estimated time)
   a). MASC Menu of Member Services

7. New Business (9:00 – 9:15 estimated time)
   a). Out-of-State Student Travel - Approval
   b). Capital Warrant Article Project Closeouts - Approval

8. Public Participation

9. Executive Session
   a). Approval of Executive Minutes of 5/28/19
   b). Contract Negotiations

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: Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. (7:10 pm arrival), Mr. Stephen Nelson, and Mrs. Christine Monaco. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present. Mrs. Kristin Russo absent.

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 Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the warrant; motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Murphy stated that the Recreation Commission would like to hold a meeting to discuss the possibility of using synthetic fertilizer on the fields at the middle school, Francis Wyman and Memorial. Currently the School department has a policy of using organic fertilizer but it’s not working. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Murphy and Mr. Nelson would represent the School Committee at a preliminary meeting with Brendan Egan to discuss the possibilities, ask questions, and bring a potential recommendation to the School Committee.

Dr. Conti and Mr. Murphy informed the Committee that they and Mrs. Monaco had met with Paul Sagarino and two selectman to discuss funding for a school renovation. They discussed how much money is in the debt schedule for a school renovation, further explaining that half of a BHS renovation project is planned but will depend on a percentage reimbursement from the Mass. School Building Authority. There is nothing currently planned in reserve for elementary space needs. Elementary space should be scheduled as a standing agenda item for upcoming School Committee meetings.

Ways/Means

Sue Harrigan, John Iler, Jaya Voruganti present.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY

2019 Graduation

Principal Sullivan reported that 249 seniors graduated on June 2 and Mrs. Russo spoke at graduation. Evening Academy graduated 5 students and the Simon Youth Foundation awarded an $8,000 scholarship to one of the graduates. Last Thursday 45 book awards were presented to grade 11 students.

BHS Tenacity Challenge

Ms. Chang, Mrs. Crossman, and 6 of their students were in attendance and spoke about their experiences at the annual Tenacity Challenge event, where 5 teams of Latino and African American students from BHS participated.

BHS Environmental Club

Ms. McInerney and Ms. Diozzi were in attendance with three of their students. Ricky Vittum, Stavan Shah, and Naaz Thotathil gave a powerpoint presentation on a possible environmental and health policy. The presentation outlined: recycling that Burlington is doing and offered some suggestions on what could be done better; such as compostable/reusable lunch trays/straws, meatless Mondays, enforcing auto idling laws, more solar panels, increase the number of Brita filters, reduce paper usage, increase proper recycling techniques and education. The School Committee congratulated the students and their teachers on researching this pressing issue facing the community and explained that there are a lot of different efforts as well as costs to look at. Dr. Conti suggested that if the School Committee agrees, we could gather some policy language to begin a policy review. He further noted that on things like cafeteria trays and straws the School Committee may need to supplement funding through the operating budget as the cafeteria is a break even

---

1 Burlington Environmental/Health
program. Mr. Cunha explained that the district is in the process of replacing 12,000 fluorescent light bulbs throughout the schools with more energy efficient LED donated light bulbs.

Dr. Conti introduced teachers Shereen Tyrell, LeRoy Wong, and Kerri Lamprey and explained that Burlington schools will receive a $50,000 Innovation Pathways Grant for the 2019-20 school year. Pathways are designed to give students coursework and experience in a specific high-demand industry, such as information technology, engineering healthcare, life sciences and advanced manufacturing. Ms. Tyrell reviewed a powerpoint overview of the five guiding principles, labor market demand, the process and criteria as well as explaining in addition to the $50,000, Burlington will also receive $10,000 as a planning grant to support part B of the application process. Mrs. Monaco expressed concern about students having to select either an elective of band or computer science as well as concern for special education students being able to participate. Ms. Tyrell explained that students will be offered additional choices next fall; computer science as an exploratory and elective course as well as an AP computer science course with no prerequisites. Mr. Wong and Ms. Lamprey further commented that ELL students are working at the student computer help desk at the high school. School Committee members: congratulated the teachers on applying for and being awarded this grant and commented that it’s a tremendous increased opportunity for students to participate in computer science.

Principal Sullivan presented proposed schedule changes for BHS effective in September 2020 (included in meeting packet). He reviewed the process, logistics, staff involvement/input, testing of the proposed schedule, and services for special education students. For the 2019-20 school year pedagogical planning and preparation will take place. In the proposed new schedule: homeroom has been eliminated, there will be 5 classes per day and students will have a total of 7 classes per cycle with a rotating class schedule. Flex periods will be offered for student support two times per week. Teachers will continue to have common planning time as well as prep time. Student dismissal time is projected to be 2:50 p.m. while still meeting time on learning requirements. Principal Sullivan will send a link to the School Committee for them to access the BHS Schedule 2020/2021. Dr. Conti further explained to the Committee this was an introduction to the School Committee for the proposed September 2020 schedule change and he will seek a vote from the Committee in fall 2019.

Dr. Conti reviewed the 6/1/19 FY19 Financial Update including revolving accounts stating that there are no red flags in the school lunch account or the FY19 budget to date. He then focused on pages 5-7, which show the projected year end totals with a surplus of $83,000 anticipated in the operating budget and a projected surplus of $154,894 in the accommodated budget. The largest payroll of the school year including stipends has been submitted. In response to Mr. Nelson, Dr. Conti replied that the circuit breaker reimbursement is projected at 65% but they are hoping to receive 72% in reimbursement. In response to Mr. Iler, Dr. Conti will check with Ms. Coscia regarding: line 17 teacher lane changes/column adjustment includes a large dollar increase from the May 1 financial update and line 27 tutors has a $107,000 deficit. Ms. Harrigan suggested closing the China Pathways revolving account; Dr. Conti replied that they are waiting for a final agreed to procedures document from Powers & Sullivan prior to making any changes.

MASC representative Dorothy Presser was in attendance and reviewed what services the Mass. Association of School Committees could possibly provide to Burlington: including policy support, training, advocacy, resources, and Superintendent searches. Ms. Presser explained that the cost for an extensive MASC policy review is $10,500, which is billed over three fiscal years or $500 for a policy manual (which Burlington purchased in 2008). MASC could facilitate a workshop/retreat for the School Committee at no charge to the school district on for instance district governance.

Three School Committee member comments: thank you for the information, the Committee has not had an opportunity to discuss a course of action as yet or what if anything is needed. Chair Simon stated that school district policies need to be reviewed, we could compare our

---

2 High-Quality College & Career Pathways
3 6/1/19 Financial Update
4 MASC Services
policies to the template of MASC's policies, and someone with Ms. Presser's experience is an advantage. Dr. Conti thanked Ms. Presser commenting that people rely on her support, she'd be a great resource, policy review would be helpful, and MASC offers conference trainings that are high level on such subjects as school funding, advocacy, and graduation requirements. Chair Simon inquired about a process going forward; Mrs. Monaco suggested making it a future agenda item when the Committee has a chance to digest what was presented. Mr. Nelson suggested that Mrs. Monaco and the Chair sit as a subcommittee in the fall to review school district policies.

NEW BUSINESS
Capital Warrant Article
Project Closeouts – Approval

The Superintendent stated that Mr. Cunha and Ms. Coscia had conferred on capital warrant articles and are requesting that 5 completed capital warrant article projects be closed out and remaining funds turned over to the town. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to close out the completed Fox Hill boiler replacement project warrant article for $7,048.45; motion carried 4-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to close out the completed BHS field lighting project warrant article for $48,724.50; motion carried 4-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to close out the completed BHS mechanical roof repair project warrant article for $68.00; motion carried 4-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to close out the completed BHS rubber gym divider wall project warrant article for $16,712.36; motion carried 4-0-0. At the next meeting, the School Committee will be requested to close out a revised amount for the Pine Glen walk-in freezer.

Out-of-State Student Travel - Approval

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-state travel for the BHS Marching Band and chaperones to Orlando, FL on April 15 – 20, 2020. Motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In response to Town Meeting member Eileen Sickler, Dr. Conti replied that the FY19 Financial Update figures will be on the school website. Ms. Sickler further enquired about student bus ridership, how many students participated, and suggested conducting a parent survey to inquire about their child's bus riding habits. Alternatively, Dr. Conti suggested sending parents a transportation satisfaction survey; the district plans for one bus seat per student but students may not ride the bus every day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Simon announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to discuss: approval of minutes and contract negotiations. The School Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 9:30 p.m. to enter executive session. Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye. Motion carried 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 6/25/19
Date approved: 6/25/19