

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2009

Agenda

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B of the General Laws that a meeting of the Burlington School Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes of 2/24/09
3. Public Participation
4. Information/Reports
 - a) Student Representative
 - b) Subcommittee Reports
 - c) Ways/Means
5. Instruction
6. Technology
7. Communication
8. Old Business
 - a) Approval of School Bus Contract
9. New Business
 - a) Proposed School Department Warrant Articles
 - b) Out-of-State Travel – New Haven, CT and Italy
10. FY10 Budget Review – High School, Middle School, Textbooks
11. Public Participation
12. Executive Session
 - a) Contract Negotiations
13. Adjournment

RECEIVED

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2009

2

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Chairman Michael F. DeSimone called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mr. Stephen A. Nelson, Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, and Mr. Thomas P. Murphy Jr. Mr. John L. Vanella absent. Superintendent Eric Conti, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance. Ways and Means members present: Bill Beyer and Brad Bond,

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve minutes of 2/24/09; motion carried 3-0-1 (Chairman abstained).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

BHS senior David Murray was presented a certificate in recognition of his participation in the Poetry Out Loud contests at both the regional and state level. David recited the poem "Madmen" for the Committee.

Two BHS students were recognized for their organization and participation in a BHS 30-hour fast fundraiser; \$5,000 was raised for world hunger.

The Superintendent and Principal Larkin reported on a number of student accomplishments (sports, robotics team, scholars brunch, Boston Globe Scholastic Art Award winners).

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Representative

Jenna Burke thanked A&F Bus. Co. for donating buses to watch hockey tournaments. The Superintendent reiterated thanks for the buses.

Subcommittee Reports

All requested Memorial school submissions were sent to the SBA for the 3/1 deadline. The SBA will review the plans, and it's anticipated that financial information will be received from the SBA by the end of the month.

Mr. Robinson reported that the Francis Wyman Playground Committee is working with the low bid contractor; the project is expected to begin this spring.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of School Bus Contract

Mr. Robinson is seeking School Committee approval for regular student transportation to be awarded to the low bidder A&F Bus. Co. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the low bid contract from A&F Bus. Co. for regular student transportation and authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract; motion carried 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Council on Aging - Meals on

Foodservice Director Paul Virgin stated that the Council on Aging has proposed that the BHS cafeteria prepare

Wheels

meals for seniors due to problems with their current vendor. The Council on Aging provides between 6 – 30 meals per day; pricing has not been determined yet. Mr. Virgin expects that during summer and school vacations a non-union employee will prepare the meals for seniors. Transportation of the meals to the Human Resource Center is being discussed. The tentative start date is May 1. The School Department will work cooperatively to collaborate with the town to provide the meals.

Out-of-State Travel

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-state travel for wrestlers and coach to New England Tournament in New Haven, CT; motion carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-country travel to Italy for BHS students and chaperones on 2/11 – 2/20/10; motion carried 4-0-0.

Proposed School Department Articles

Mr. Robinson reviewed the proposed 10 warrant articles for May Town Meeting:

- BHS locker room renovations
- BHS fitness room renovations
- Student bathroom renovations at MSMS - \$85,000
- Pavement replacement at BHS - \$200,000
- Student locker replacement at MSMS - \$125,000
- Community custodial services - \$30,385
- Computer technology initiatives & system replacement - \$350,000
- BHS elevator design - \$72,000
- Renovations & improvements at BHS Varsity Field - \$1,800,000
- Reaffirmation/alteration of 5/8/2006 Town Meeting vote on Memorial School

Warrant article backup and financials will be available for the 3/24 School Committee meeting during which the Committee will vote on articles to be submitted to Town Hall for a March 27 submission deadline.

FY10 Budget Review

Ways & Means Chairman Bill Beyer explained that the Ways & Means Committee has been reviewing budget and income projection since September and decided on a 3% guideline; this decision was made before the economic downturn. The town is projecting a \$1.4 million deficit and would like to retain current programs and services. Town employees are being asked to accept a 1% lower increase on July 1, 2009; the Superintendent and Mr. Robinson have met with unions to explain the situation. Some of the deficit will be paid from free cash or the stabilization fund. He explained that the town is self-insured and if layoffs are instituted, three jobs will need to be cut to save the money of two jobs. The possibility of activity fees was briefly discussed and it was agreed not to implement fees.

Marshall Simonds Middle School and Textbooks

Principal Connors stated that current class size is 24 – 25 students; projected enrollment for next year is up by 8 students. The middle school budget increased a total of 3.4% (+\$4,427,301) with salaries up 4.08% (+\$175,836). Contracted services decreased 53% (-\$12,947), supplies decreased 9% (-\$7,381) and equipment also decreased 61% (-\$4,045). Textbooks are level funded due to a lease agreement. The principals account is level funded at \$20,000.

Burlington High School and Textbooks

Principal Larkin noted that projected enrollment for next year shows an increase of 37 students with no increase in staff positions. Salaries are up 7.1% (+\$378,662); Mr. Robinson was requested to review the professional staff salary line, which shows a 10.26% increase. Contracted services decreased 27% (-\$11,525), supplies are level funded, and equipment decreased 6% (-\$918). Textbooks showed a 1% increase due to a lease agreement. The principals account is level funded at \$30,000. Principal Larkin is researching a sign/message board for Cambridge Street. The current sign will be refurbished and installed in the circle entrance.

Principals Office

The Principals Office increased 1.8% (+\$29,896) overall. Salaries increased 3% (+\$41,289), contracted services and supplies and materials were level funded. Equipment decreased 19% (-\$11,369).

It was agreed that the 3/24 and 3/31 School Committee meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Budgets scheduled for the 3/24 meetings are: elementary, athletics, SPED, ELL, guidance, and textbooks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman DeSimone announced that the Committee had a need for executive session and would only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 10:20 p.m. to enter into executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 11:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/24/09

Date approved: 3/24/09