

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 2010

Agenda

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**TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA**

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, January 12, at **8:00 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – **8:00 p.m.**
2. Spotlight on Excellence – Heisman Student Athlete Award – Matt Sherman
3. Approval of Minutes of 12/8/09
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
 - a) Student Representative
 - b) Subcommittee Reports
 - c) Ways/Means
6. Instruction
7. Technology – January Town Meeting
8. Communication
 - a) 2010 Kindergarten Registration Week
 - b) Cafeteria Lunch Swipe Card System
9. Old Business
 - a) New Draft Policies – Second Reading & Adoption
 - b) BHS 2010-11 Program of Studies – Second Reading
 - c) Discussion - Staff Summer Schedule (Four Day Week)
10. New Business
 - a) FY11 Budget Discussion
 - b) Revised 2010-11 School Calendar – First Reading
 - c) Out-of-State Travel – Manchester, NH
11. Public Participation
12. Executive Session
 - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 12/8/09
 - b) Contract Negotiations
 - c) Litigation
13. Adjournment

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2010

2010 MAR 30 PM 2:50

Chairman Thomas F. Murphy Jr. called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Stephen A. Nelson, Mr. Michael DeSimone, and Mr. John L. Vanella. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to approve minutes of 12/8/09; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joe Morandi, a member of the BHS Varsity Field Subcommittee, asked the Committee about considering advertising on the new scoreboard; a few companies in town are interested. Chairman Murphy noted that the School Committee would need to discuss the possibility at a School Committee meeting, draft a sponsorship policy including dollar amounts, lengths of time, etc. and vote on it.

Town Meeting member Ernie Zabalotti asked that the School Committee consider applying for renewable energy and/or green project grants from the Dept. of Education. Mr. Robinson noted that cogeneration and solar work are currently being researched; the School Dept. does not have a grant writer but will monitor future opportunities and work with Mr. Zabalotti.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

SCAB Representatives

Senior Chelsea Rose reported that they're currently running a candy fund-raiser, planning a battle of the bands on 4/1, and planning prom details. Walter Kikuchi stated that sophomores are selling lanyards, holding a fund-raiser at Flatbread Pizza, running a dance on 3/5, and researching venues for their junior prom next year.

Principal Larkin reported that a BHS student's house was destroyed by fire prior to Christmas and a significant amount of cash, gift cards, and a two-week hotel stay was collected from staff, students, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and a hotel.

Subcommittee Reports

Principal Larkin noted that the Varsity Field Project will go before the Conservation Commission this week and the Board of Health next week with a site plan for the field. A waiver for a smaller number of bathrooms has been submitted to the State Plumbing Board.

Ways & Means

No one in attendance.

INSTRUCTION

Dr. Conti reviewed with the Committee a Race to the Top

grant (part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) from the Mass. Department of Elementary & Secondary Education. This initiative may provide potential federal grant money for Massachusetts and possibly Burlington. They are requesting from each town approval from the School Committee, Superintendent, and BEA for a Memorandum of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding. The BEA executive board is expected to vote on this tomorrow but Dr. Conti would like to move forward with or without the BEA vote as the deadline is tomorrow. After a brief discussion in support of this initiative, it was moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding and Memorandum of Agreement and to authorize the School Committee Chairman to sign the memoranda on behalf of the School Committee; motion carried 5-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY – Jan. Town Meeting

The Superintendent noted that a joint school and town warrant has been submitted for a five-year agreement with Cisco to update infrastructure for \$1.5 million at 0% interest.

COMMUNICATION

Training for the new student management system X2 will be held next week and operational on February 8.

Kindergarten Registration

Dr. Conti reviewed a press release announcing kindergarten registration and requirements. Registration will be held February 1 – 5 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at each elementary school. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to approve kindergarten registration week for February 1-5, 2010; motion carried 5-0-0.

Cafeteria Lunch Swipe Card

Cafeteria staff is being trained on the new computer point of sale cafeteria system, which will be cashless. Students will use a pass/card to pay for lunch. The swipe card system will begin at the high school, go on to the middle school, and then the elementary schools. Parents will have an online account to buy lunches and the Superintendent is proposing a notification process to parents when their account is down to five lunches and to allow for up to five lunches in arrears so that children will not be refused a lunch.

OLD BUSINESS

New Draft Policies – Second Reading & Adoption

Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy BIA New School Committee Member Orientation; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy BID School Committee Member Compensation & Expenses; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy BK School Committee Memberships replacing old policy

1600; motion carried 5-0-0. These three newly adopted policies had a first reading at the October 27 meeting and a second reading at the November 17 meeting.

Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy FA Facilities Development Goals; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to table policy FB Facilities Planning; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy FCB Retirement of Facilities; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to adopt policy FF Naming of New Facilities; motion carried 5-0-0. These three newly adopted policies had a first reading at the November 17 meeting.

BHS 2010-11 Program of Studies – Second Reading

The 2010-11 BHS Program of Studies was presented for a first reading at the December 8 meeting. An addendum has also been submitted for approval to modify the Microsoft Office course (563) to a one-semester course and approve a new course Web 2.0. After a brief discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the BHS 2010-11 Program of Studies as well as the Microsoft Office course addendum and the addition of the course Web 2.0 as presented; motion carried 5-0-0.

Staff Summer Schedule - Discussion

Dr. Conti explained that the School Department is exploring the possibility of a four-day summer work week, which would increase productivity and potentially save \$15,000 - \$20,000 for three days per week without utility costs. The feedback from groups inside and outside is largely positive (absenteeism is high on Friday). Parks and Recreation is working through options including the need to house program participants on inclement Fridays. A possibility may be to open Francis Wyman, as the Afterschool Program currently runs five days. The School Committee authorized the Superintendent to move forward with this idea and requested specific details prior to a School Committee vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Project Scope and Budget Agreement

Mr. Robinson requested that the School Committee approve the Project Scope and Budget Agreement for Memorial School from the Massachusetts School Building Authority which has been reviewed by the architect and owner's project manager. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve the Project Scope and Budget Agreement for the Memorial School Project to execute the document; motion carried 5-0-0.

FY11 Budget Discussion

The Superintendent noted that to maintain services the School Department will need a 3.5% budget increase,

Ways & Means has approved a 2.5% guideline, and principals are requesting an increase of 4.98%. A shortfall of \$900,000 is anticipated. Increases are due to: decrease of anticipated retirements, increased staff due to enrollments, and restoration of programs. Dr. Conti sent a request to the BEA to reopen salary negotiations and the reply from the BEA is that they're not interested at this time. In order to decrease the operational budget discussions will need to cover: eliminating programs, larger class size, concessions, and options to eliminate the deficit. The School Committee requested that the budget books identify all requests and then the Committee will decide on changes. Chairman Murphy noted that to attain a 2.5% guideline program and staff cuts will be required.

Revised 2010-11 School Calendar -- First Reading

Dr. Conti reviewed with the Committee a revised 2010-11 Teachers' School Calendar which included the addition of five afternoon professional development days and November 2 as a professional development day due to a federal election. The Committee requested that on the calendar November 2 is identified as a professional development day and that the 5 afternoon professional development meetings are categorized as at the conclusion of the school day. The Committee will take the calendar under advisement and vote on it at the January 26 meeting.

Out-of-State Travel -- NH

Moved to approve out-of-state travel for teachers Marielle Silva and Nicole Ardell on February 2, 2010 to Manchester, NH; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

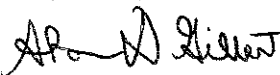
None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 10:20 p.m. to go into executive session to approve minutes, discuss contract negotiations and litigation. Motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Desimone, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 11:10 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 2/9/10
Date approved: 2/9/10