

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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March 9, 2010

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**Agenda**

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, March 9, at **7:30 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – **7:30 p.m.**
2. Spotlight on Excellence – Burlington High School Cheerleaders
3. Approval of Minutes of 2/9/10
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
  - a) Student Representative
  - b) Subcommittee Reports
  - c) Ways/Means
6. Communication
7. Technology
8. Instruction
9. Old Business
10. New Business
  - a) Out-of-State Travel – NY, CT, and IA
  - b) Approval of Math Revolving Accounts
  - c) Redistricting
  - d) FY11 Budget – Elementary Schools, Special Education, Guidance & Textbooks
  - e) Capital Plan/Warrant Articles
  - f) Draft New Policies – Attendance Areas and Assignment of Students to Schools – First Reading
11. Public Participation
12. Executive Session
  - a) Approval of Executive minutes of 2/23/10
  - b) Contract Negotiations
13. Adjournment

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BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2010 MAR 30 PM 2: 50

Chairman Thomas F. Murphy Jr. 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: Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Stephen A. Nelson, Mr. Michael DeSimone, Mr. John L. Vanella, and student representative Tracy DiBona. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson also present. Ways & Means member Brad Bond in attendance.

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE Actors from the play *Titanic* sang three songs from the play. BHS senior David Murray recited his second place poem from the state competition.

BHS cheerleaders were presented certificates of excellence for their recent state competition win.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve minutes of 2/9/10; motion carried 5-0-0.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS Tracy DiBona reported on an upcoming Art Open House, Student Representative a Robotics competition, and events at the high school.

Subcommittee Reports Mrs. Monaco informed the Committee that the Recreation Commission will use all organic products on the parks and fields.

Ways & Means Ways & Means Vice Chair Brad Bond was in attendance to substitute for Bill Beyer.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to approve out-of-state travel retroactively for BHS Out-of-State Travel wrestlers and coaches to Connecticut on March 6; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for five track athletes and coaches to Nationals in New York on March 13, 2010; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for BHS students and chaperones on April 15 to Yew York; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve out-of-state travel to Iowa on April 6-8 for Principal Larkin and Timothy Calvin; motion carried 5-0-0.

Approval of Math Revolving  
Accounts

A request has been submitted for the creation of a revolving account for the Math Wizard program at Fox Hill and a Fraction, Decimals, and Percentage programs at the four elementary schools. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to authorize the establishment of a new revolving account for Math programs; motion carried 5-0-0.

Memorial School Project

Mr. Murphy reviewed with the Committee a draft letter to the Board of Selectmen (requested by the Planning Board) agreeing that the School Committee will cooperate to the degree necessary if there are future modifications to the Winn Street corridor in the area of the Memorial and Middle Schools. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson to authorize Chairman Murphy to sign the letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding collaboration for future Winn Street improvements; motion carried 5-0-0.

FY11 Budget – Special  
Education

Pupil Services Director Cath Estep introduced Integrated Preschool Director Louise D'Amato and Evaluation Administrator Julie Woodland. The Special Education budget for FY11 is up 1.17% to \$3,151,628, (+\$36,464) with no additional staff requested. The ESL budget increased 32.7% to \$247,876 (+\$61,041) due to the addition of one teacher. Currently 112 students are being serviced by 2.7 teachers in 33 languages. They will not be in DESE compliance without an increase of a teacher. Guidance is up 3.5% to \$1,278,272 (+\$42,679) due to the restoration request of an unfilled retirement position last year. Mr. Robinson reviewed a brief overview of accommodated accounts for special education (out-of-district tuitions, LABBB transportation) - town side. This budget increased 8.13% to \$6,835,413 (+\$513,665).

Elementary Schools

The four elementary principals were in attendance to speak about their individual school budgets. Collectively, the elementary budgets are up 3.37% to \$10,679,797 (+\$348,041). Due to increased enrollment, an additional 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and a .5 reading teacher are being requested at Francis Wyman. The textbook budget increased 9% to \$105,403 (+\$8,840).

The four elementary principals requested future additional support staff in the areas of literacy and math, if possible. Principal Johnson requested the restoration of a guidance position at Fox Hill. Francis Wyman parent Mary Sweeney noted that previously the fifth grade has always had five teachers, but this year only has four; so the position request is a restoration. Chairman Murphy noted that the School Committee anticipates five 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at Francis Wyman next year.

Principals Office

Budget is up 6.8%, to \$1,778,242 (+\$113,064), primarily due to negotiated salary increases and a .5 staff addition.

A discussion by the School Committee followed:

- Committee is obligated to try to meet 2.5% guideline
- An increase of 3.5% is needed to retain all staff
- To meet the guideline, \$330,000 needs to be cut
- 83% of the total school budget is salary -- not many areas to cut that are non-salary items

Brad Bond of Ways & Means noted that the next two years will be difficult for town finances and requested that the School Committee do their best on behalf of townspeople.

Capital Plan/Warrant Articles

The School Department is anticipating submitting a warrant article for May's town meeting for the renovation of the Marshall Simonds Middle School. The MSBA has authorized a feasibility study for the school. KBA Architects has estimated the cost to the town as \$12 million and reimbursements from the SBA of between \$14 – 16 million. A prioritized list of warrant articles for May town meeting will be reviewed at the March 23 meeting. Mr. Robinson reviewed a draft 10 year capital plan.

Draft New School Policies

By consensus, the Committee decided to postpone reviewing draft policies until the March 23 meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 10:05 p.m. to go into executive session to approve minutes and discuss contract negotiations. 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. DeSimone at 10:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/23/10

Date approved: 3/23/10