

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECEIVED

April 6, 2010

2010 APR -2 AM 8:47

Agenda

TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B of the General Laws that a Special Budget meeting of the Burlington School Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 6, 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. Public Participation
3. FY11 Budget Wrap-Up
4. Warrant Articles for May Town Meeting - Discussion
5. Public Participation
6. Executive Session
7. Adjournment

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECEIVED
MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2010

Chairman Thomas F. Murphy Jr. called this Special 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 and Mr. John L. Vanella present. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson also in attendance. Ways & Means members present: Bill Beyer and Paul Noonan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Parent Martha Pearson asked the Committee to consider asking Town Meeting for more than the 2.5% budget guideline increase as 85% of the budget is for salaries and it's not fair to ask for a concession from previously negotiated salary increases.

FY11 Budget Wrap Up The proposed FY 11 school budget is \$37,988,845 and the 2.5% guideline budget is \$37,090,412 leaving a shortfall of \$900,000. Dr. Conti reviewed with the Committee a list of proposed cuts totaling \$495,000:

Projected retirements (estimated)	\$250,000
Elementary Italian	150,000
Custodian	43,000
Clerical	34,000
In-House Trades	<u>18,000</u>
	\$495,000

To meet the 2.5% guideline, an additional \$405,000 in cuts are needed. Proposed new staff positions for next year were identified as: restoration of a guidance counselor at Fox Hill, a 5th grade teacher at Francis Wyman, and ESL teacher, and a half-time reading teacher at Francis Wyman. School Administrators proposed a \$320,000 cut in the salary line, which would occur either through a concession or layoff of approximately 6 teachers. A 1% salary concession would result in a savings of \$250,000. School Administrators have had one dialogue with the BEA regarding a concession. A discussion followed with concerns expressed: increasing class size, identifying cuts that will be sustainable for the future, laying off staff, and restoring any cut staff positions. Ways & Means Bill Beyer stated that the next few years will be lean financially for the town and schools and suggested that the School Committee anticipate future guidelines of 2% – 2.5%.

After input from each Committee member, the Committee supported a budget increase of 2.75% which would include the list of proposed cuts above, a reduction of \$320,000 in salary, and the addition, due to increased student enrollment, of 2.5 staff members (ESL teacher, 5th grade teacher, and .5 reading teacher). At next week's school budget public hearing, the Committee requested additional scrutiny by Administrators for possible cuts in: non-salary items and specific identification of staff and program cuts. Chairman Murphy noted that the School Department is the only Town department anticipating reducing programs/services and employee layoffs.

The School Committee will meet with the Ways & Means Committee on

April 14 to review the FY11 school operational budget.

Warrant Articles for May
Town Meeting

Available funding for warrant articles has not yet been identified by the town. The middle school renovation/addition and paving projects are the most critical warrant articles for May town meeting. A prioritized list will be discussed at the April 13 School Committee meeting. The Committee requested that Mr. Robinson obtain a cost estimate for the Marshall Simonds project from architect Kevin Buckley for the next meeting.

MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Mr. Robinson received the project funding agreement (PFA) for the Memorial School from the Massachusetts School Building Authority yesterday requesting authorization of this agreement. After the MSBA receives the signed project funding agreement, certification of legal counsel, and a copy of the vote authorizing the town to enter into and be bound by the PFA, reimbursements will begin. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to authorize the School Committee Chairman to sign the Project Funding Agreement for the Memorial School from the Massachusetts School Building Authority; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to designate Craig Robinson as the person to receive all correspondence on the Memorial School from the Massachusetts School Building Authority; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the minutes of this April 6 school committee meeting; motion carried 5-0-0.

INTEGRATED
PRESCHOOL

The Burlington Integrated Preschool Program agreement between the School Department and the Town was for three years and Dr. Conti is requesting a one-year extension for the program. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella that the Burlington School Department extend the original three-year agreement for the Integrated Preschool for an additional one-year period and the funding through an accommodated account; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 8:50 p.m. to go into executive session to approve minutes and discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. DeSimone.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 9:35 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 4/6/10

Date approved: 4/6/10