



Town of Burlington  
29 Center Street  
Burlington, MA 01803

## AGENDA

For Town Clerks Use:  
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TOWN CLERK  
BURLINGTON, MA

(Signature)

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

DEPT./BOARD: School Committee

DATE: June 14, 2011

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

1. Spotlight on Excellence – BHS Athletes
2. Approval of 5/24/11 minutes
3. Public Participation
4. Information/Report
  - a). Student Representative
  - b). Subcommittee Reports
  - c). Ways/Means
5. Instruction/Technology
6. Communication
  - a). Redistricting Update
  - b). Marshall Simonds Middle School Groundbreaking
7. Old Business
  - a). Summer Schedule
  - b). Revised Acceptable Use Policy – Second Reading
  - c). Elementary School Improvement Plans – Second Reading
8. New Business
  - a). Varsity Field Scoreboard
  - b). Varsity Field Heat Policy – First Reading
  - c). LABBB Expansion – BHS
  - d). BHS Facility Use – Approval
  - e). BHS Photography Club – Approval
  - f). Out-of-State Travel – Orlando, FL
  - g). Draft Elementary Report Cards – First Reading
  - h). Balancing FY12 Budget
  - i). Inegrated Preschool – K-2 Programmatic Expansion
9. Public Participation
10. Executive Session
  - a). Approval of executive minutes of 5/24/11
  - b). Contract Negotiations



**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2011**

RECEIVED

Chairman Stephen Nelson 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. Thomas F. Murphy Jr., Mrs. Kristin Russo, and Mrs. Christine Monaco. Mr. Michael DeSimone absent. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson also in attendance.

**SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE** Thirty seven BHS athletes were recognized as All Stars in spring sports.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 5/24/11; motion carried 4-0-0.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** Parent Joanne Frustaci expressed concern that parents were not informed on a permission slip of the possibility of brief nudity during a BEAM 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Huntington Theater to attend a play on June 10 and she described the brief final scene. By not notifying parents, an informed consent couldn't be made. Pat Angelo, Janice Cohen, Rose Manni, Jeff Purcells, and Mr. Cohen also voiced concern about the field trip as well as age appropriateness for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Parent Catherine McDonald noted that she'd gone on a number of BEAM field trips to the Huntington Theater in the past and nudity was never present; she also noted that the BEAM program was of great value to students. Dr. Conti noted that students had attended this particular play in past years with no nudity, but this year a new troupe from England performed it for the first time, and the permission slip omitted including the possibility of brief nudity during the performance. The new production should have been more thoroughly researched prior to the field trip. Chairman Nelson stated that it's appropriate to inform parents of possible nudity prior to a field trip to give the option to opt out, prior years performances didn't include nudity, it was an omission not to include the statement on the field trip permission slip, and going forward due diligence will be done prior to a field trip.

**INFORMATION/REPORTS**

Student Representative  
Subcommittee

Absent.

Mrs. Monaco noted that the Recreation Commission would like to hold their meetings in the School Committee room to televise the meetings on BCAT – Mr. Robinson stated he'd spoken with the Director and they'll have their meetings in the School Committee room beginning in the fall on Mondays.

Ways & Means

No one in attendance.

**COMMUNICATION**

Redistricting Update

Dr. Conti reported that out of district student requests have been approved to date, student enrollments are steady, teachers from Pine Glen and Fox Hill have been reassigned, kindergarten assistants are in the process of being moved, 2,000 boxes have been ordered for the move, and work is progressing with the bus company to finalize elementary start/end times and bus routes.

Marshall Simonds Middle  
School  
Groundbreaking

A formal groundbreaking for the Marshall Simonds project was held on June 5 with Katherine Craven of the MSBA, Representative Charlie Murphy, and Treasurer Steven Grossman in attendance. The

Superintendent thanked the School Committee for their participation.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer Schedule

The clerical and custodial unions have approved a one-year agreement for a pilot four-day summer work week for July and August. Only Francis Wyman will be open for five days to accommodate the Afterschool program, LABBB, and for Recreation space in case of rain. Savings will be evaluated and presented to the School Committee in the fall.

Revised Acceptable Use Policy –  
Second Reading

The draft acceptable use policy was previously reviewed at the prior two School Committee meetings. Principal Larkin added permissions for picture taking as well student expectation and parent expectation sign offs. Moved by Mrs. Russo and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Acceptable Use Policy; motion carried 3-0-0 (Mr. Nelson out of room).

Elementary School Improvement  
Plans – Second Reading

The four elementary principals presented their individual School Improvement Plans at the May 24 meeting. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the elementary school improvement plans as presented at the last meeting; motion carried 4-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

BHS Varsity Field

Scoreboard Enterprises submitted a quote for the Varsity Field scoreboard and installation of \$44,445. Mr. Robinson reviewed a draft schematic that included a message board across the top. Gochis Insurance has donated funds for the scoreboard. The School Committee will be presented with the proposed colored rendition including the logo for final approval prior to the manufacture of the scoreboard. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Robinson explained that the crane and concrete truck needed to install the scoreboard will not be on the track - the concrete truck will be on the grass and the crane will be on the street. Mr. Robinson will contact Megan of Stantec for a punch list for the varsity field project, track striping, and any heat policies they may have for the field surface.

A heat policy for the new field is being researched; Mr. Robinson and Mrs. Russo have been monitoring temperatures on varsity field during the recent hot days. The School Committee noted that it needs to be identified at what temperature the field becomes too hot and also to seek input from medical sources.

LABBB Expansion – BHS

Dr. Conti explained that Patrick Barbieri of LABBB is seeking space at BHS for autistic high school students. BHS staff visited an autistic class in Belmont, they felt it would be a good program for BHS, and would provide diversity to the student population. A best buddy program would be started between BHS and autistic students. There will be no cost to Burlington, and there would be approximately 10 LABBB students who attend a primarily occupational program at work sites but also need classroom space. The School Committee was unanimous in support of this new class. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Russo to make available a classroom at BHS to house a LABBB program for autistic spectrum high school children; motion carried 4-0-0.

BHS Facility Use – Approval

Mr. Robinson reviewed a facility use request submitted by the World

Champion Cadets drum and bugle corps from Pennsylvania to use BHS on Thursday, August 4 for sleeping, showering, eating, and rehearsing prior to a competition. If approved, there is concern with setting a precedent as it's a unique request for sleeping quarters and Mr. Robinson was seeking the School Committee's opinion. The organization will be provided a cost estimate prior to August 4 - \$75 per hour for the gym and \$53 per hour per custodian. They'll use the facility for approximately 12 hours and will need Board of Health approval to prepare food. The School Committee suggested approving the request for a one-time trial and if all goes well, it could be approved as a yearly event. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Russo to permit the World Champion Cadets to use the high school facility as described on the conditions that the Cadets check with various Town departments for permits and approvals and provide release indemnifications, an insurance certificate, and that there are no date/activity conflicts; motion carried 4-0-0.

BHS Photography Club – Approval

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve a BHS photography club; motion carried 4-0-0.

Out-of-State Travel - Orlando

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve out-of-state travel to Orlando, FL for the boys basketball team and chaperones on December 27 – 31, 2011; motion carried 4-0-0.

Draft Elementary Report Cards First Reading

Dr. Conti reviewed the new draft standards based report cards for grades K-5 to be implemented with the Aspen student management system. Two curriculum councils, teachers, and principals have reviewed the new report cards. Principals will inform and review the new report cards with parents at coffees to be scheduled. They will be implemented in the fall and feedback will be gathered from parents and teachers during the next school year. A discussion followed regarding: standards, terms, definitions, sections, educating parents, training teachers, and do the new report cards cover the essentials of the common core. Teacher Amy Gonzales suggested creating an information sheet with explanations and definitions. BEA President Diana Marcus noted the need to train teachers and provide professional development across the four elementary schools. As this is a first reading, the Committee took this item under advisement and will vote at the June 28 meeting.

Balancing FY12 Budget

Dr. Conti presented a chart with recommendations for Balancing the FY12 budget<sup>1</sup>, which included:

- Elementary program adjustments, which had no budgetary impact for FY12 – addition of a .8 physical education teacher, addition of a .5 music teacher, and a .3 reduction in art (which is currently being taught by retired Principal Jane Dwyer)
- BHS program reduction – eliminate food prep program for a savings of \$85,000 and save \$15,000 with salaries of new hires

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the BHS program reduction and eliminate the food prep program as outlined

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<sup>1</sup> Balancing the FY12 Budget

in the backup; motion carried 4-0-0.

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve that elementary specialists be adjusted according to the proposal presented; motion carried 4-0-0.

Chairman Nelson asked if projected staff retirements had been realized. Mr. Robinson replied that the hiring process is incomplete with interviewing ongoing, a retirement list will be available for the next meeting, and if hiring at the Masters 3-5 guideline is followed, savings will be realized.

Integrated Preschool – K-2  
Programmatic Expansion

The Superintendent stated that the Integrated Preschool has finished a fourth successful year with a population of Burlington students aging out but wanting to stay in Burlington instead of having to go out of district. He noted there is a need to create a kindergarten through grade 2 developmentally appropriate high quality program for these students in Burlington, which will save on tuition and transportation costs. One special education teacher and assistant would be needed, a program would be developed with Preschool Director Louise D’Amato for implementation in the fall, the program would be housed at Pine Glen and overseen by Principal Lyons. In the future, depending on student population, the program could be opened to LABBB students. The Town Manager is aware of the proposal and the program would be funded through accommodated accounts for the 2011-12 year. The School Committee spoke in favor of the proposal noting that it is fiscally responsible and will save on tuition and transportation costs.

Moved by Mrs. Russo and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the creation of an Integrated K-2 classroom at Pine Glen School; motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Nelson announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to approve minutes and to discuss contract negotiations because holding it in an open session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body. The School Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 9:55 p.m. to go into executive session. Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Russo, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye. Motion carried 4-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 11:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 8/23/11  
Date approved: 8/23/11