

22

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2008**

RECEIVED

Chairman Stephen A. 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. Michael F. DeSimone, Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr., and Mr. John L. Vanella. Acting Superintendent James Picone, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve minutes of 12/12/07; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative

Ms. Harrington reported on upcoming activities and fundraisers.

NEW BUSINESS
Phonics Adoption

By consensus, this item was taken out of order. Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand, ELA Curriculum Coordinator Bette Murray, and Reading Specialists Rene Sacco and Donna Murphy were in attendance to present a proposal to adopt a phonics program, Wilson Foundations, at the elementary level. A comprehensive proposal was reviewed including: history, process, rationale, site visits, anecdotal evidence, and costs. A timeline of adoption of the 2008-09 school year for kindergarten and to add another grade for the following three years (K-3) was proposed. A four-year program adoption cost chart was reviewed. PAC member Dennis McCarron spoke in favor of the adoption. The School Committee will take this proposed adoption under advisement and vote at the 1/22 meeting.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Acting Superintendent's Report

Dr. Picone congratulated the 22 BHS Cheerleaders on winning the National Championship in Texas. BHS mid-term exams will be held beginning 1/22 and kindergarten registration will be the week of 1/28. The Burlington Public School web site has been updated by Joan Tuttle, who will give a presentation at the 1/22 School Committee meeting.

Curriculum/Instruction

Mrs. Marchand reported that a mini-sub had been donated by the Museum of Science to the Science Center and thanked John Papadonis for his part in procuring the exhibit.

Business/Finance

Mr. Robinson reported that principals and department chairmen had submitted all budgets. He expects to present the initial budget at the February 12 meeting. The SBA has invited 6 representatives from Burlington for a meeting on February 28 in Boston to discuss the Memorial project.

Subcommittee Reports

Nothing to report.

No agenda

Ways & Means

No one in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS – BHS Program
Of Studies 2008-09**

At the 12/12/07 meeting, BHS Principal Larkin presented the recommended changes, additions, and deletions to class offerings and class rank/GPA for the 2008-09 school year. After that presentation and discussion with the School Committee, Principal Larkin is recommending the omission of the limited enrollment designation from the following English courses: Expository Writing, Advanced Expository Writing, Creative Writing I, Creative Writing, II, Drama, and Public Speaking. If student enrollment numbers become a concern in these courses, he will request additional staff in the budget for the 2008-09 school year. Moved by Mr. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the 2008-09 BHS Program of studies as presented and amended; motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for the BHS Wrestling Team and chaperones to New York on 1/11 – 1/12/08 to attend the Eastern States Wrestling Exposition; motion carried 5-0-0.

Chairman Nelson noted that 24 applications were received for the Superintendent position, which the School Committee will review over the next couple weeks. There may be some preliminary information available at the 1/22 meeting regarding the number of applicants to be interviewed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

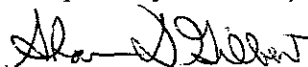
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Nelson 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. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 8:40 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes and discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 9:15 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 1/22/08

Date approved: 1/22/08