

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2008

2008 APR 15 AM 10:52

Chairman Stephen A. Nelson called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mr. Michael F. DeSimone, Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, and Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr. Mr. John L. Vanella absent. Acting Superintendent James Picone, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance. Ways and Means members Dan DiTucci and Brad Bond in attendance.

TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Nelson announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to discuss contract provisions for a new Superintendent. Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 6:40 p.m. to enter into executive session. Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Recommendation for Superintendent Position

The public portion of the meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m. By consensus, the School Committee took item 7f out of order. Chairman Nelson explained that the School Committee has been involved with the search for a new Superintendent for the past 6 months, soliciting 24 applicants, interviewing 9 applicants, and 4 semi-finalists. Three strong finalist candidates were interviewed in public school committee meetings last week and subsequently Katherine Darlington withdrew, as she is a finalist in Lowell.

After careful consideration of finalists Patricia Adams and Dr. Conti by the School Committee, it was moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to appoint Dr. Eric Conti as the new Superintendent of the Burlington Public Schools subject to successful negotiation of a contract; motion carried 4-0-0.

Chairman Nelson noted that Dr. Conti has a strong background, experience, a degree from Brown, and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Conti grew up in Massachusetts and his parents are both teachers and he has a passion for education. Mr. Nelson will offer Dr. Conti a contract beginning July 1 and Dr. Picone will finish out the school year.

Mr. Nelson requested a 10-minute recess and upon his return, he announced he'd spoken to Dr. Conti via phone and Dr. Conti accepted the offer of Superintendent subject to satisfactory contractual arrangements.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative

Ms. Harrington reported on a number of upcoming activities at the high school.

Certificated of Appreciation -

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Richard

no rent to be collected for rooms 124 and 126, and the School Department pays for reasonable utility costs. Moved by Mrs. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the Burlington Access Facilities Agreement for a term of 10 years; motion carried 4-0-0.

Out-of-State Travel – Art, Food, & Culture Workshop

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to approve out-of-state travel for the Art, Food, and Cultural workshop on Monday, March 11, 2008, to Providence, RI for four middle school teachers; motion carried 4-0-0.

FY09 Budget Review – High School

Principal Larkin was in attendance. The high school budget is up .98% (+\$57,709). Staffing remains the same, salaries are up 1.9% (+\$95,697), contracted services decreased 39% (-\$27,740), supplies decreased 7% (-\$6960), and equipment decreased 36% (-\$51,709). Principal Larkin stated that priorities for the future included: science teachers, and possibly a part-time art teacher and language department.

An amount of money has been restored to each school for funding projects at the discretion of each principal: the high school will receive \$30K, middle school \$20K, and each elementary \$10K.

Textbooks

Textbooks for the high school decreased 32% (-\$18,469) due to the start of a new three-year lease; all requested textbooks were approved.

Middle School

Principal Connors reported that approximately 150 students in each grade participate in afterschool MCAS prep program, class size is approximately 24, and there is no extra space. The middle school budget is up 1.1% (+\$48,020). Staffing requests are for the restoration of a health teacher and an additional reading teacher for an increase of .5 FTE. Salaries are up 1.12% (+\$46,527), contracted services increased 16% (+\$3,390), supplies decreased 2% (-\$1928), and equipment stayed the same. A warrant article to renovate two bathrooms is anticipated to be presented at the March 25 School Committee meeting for submission to May town meeting.

Superintendent's Office

This budget decreased 5.6% (-\$56,325) due to not hiring an accountant in Janaury. Salary is down 7.2% (-\$61,475) due to a clerical shift with reorganization. Contracted services is up 2.1% (+\$3,000), supplies is up .8% (+\$150), and equipment is up 100% (+\$2,000).

School Committee

The FY09 budget decreased 15.5% (\$-42,000). Salaries decreased 25.6% (-\$47,000) and contracted services increased 7.3% (\$6,000). A salary decrease of \$50,000 was realized due to the Early Retirement Incentive for Teachers not being offered. Legal fees under contracted

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2008
Agenda

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2008 FEB 29 AM 10:01

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B of the ^{TOWN CLERK} General Laws ^{BURLINGTON, MA} that a meeting of the Burlington School Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 4, at **6:30 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – **6:30 p.m.**
2. Certificate of Appreciation – Richard Linder – Generator Donation Agreement
3. Approval of Minutes of 1/22/08
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
 - a. Student Representative
 - b. Acting Superintendent's Report
 - c. Curriculum/Instruction
 - d. Business/Finance
 - e. Subcommittee Reports
 - f. Ways/Means
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. BHS Post Graduation Party
 - b. Reaffirm PTO and SC Agreement
 - c. BCAT Facility Agreement
 - d. Out-of-State Travel – Art, Food, & Culture Workshop – Providence, RI
 - e. FY09 Budget Review – High School, Middle School, Superintendent's Office and School Committee
 - f. Recommendation for Superintendent Position
8. Public Participation
9. Executive Session
 - a. Approval of Executive Minutes of 1/8/08, 1/22/08, 2/4/08, 2/5/08, and 2/6/08
 - b. Contract Negotiations
 - c. Litigation
10. Adjournment