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BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2009

2009 MAY 28 AM 10: 09

Chairman Michael F. DeSimone called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mr. Stephen A. Nelson, Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr., and Mr. John L. Vanella. Superintendent Eric Conti, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance.

SCHOOL CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

BHS Senior Janet Chikofsky received a certificate in recognition of being a finalist in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship program; 15,000 high school students are finalists and 8,200 of the finalists will received a merit scholarship award of \$2,500.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 2/26/09; motion carried 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Representative - SCAB Committee

Ms. Burke reported that seniors are planning for their prom at the Radisson Nashua and juniors are also finalizing their prom preparations. Sophomores are planning an upcoming dance. The junior SCAB representative announced that a battle of the bands will be held on April 17 with 15 bands competing.

Subcommittee Reports

The School Building Authority Executive Board meets tomorrow and Burlington is on the agenda for approval of next steps and a funding agreement.

Ways & Means

INSTRUCTION

Revision of 2009-10 School Calendar

Superintendent Conti noted that the 2009-10 School Calendar needs revising to adhere to the BEA contract, which requires that the work year for teachers begin the Monday prior to Labor Day. This will move the first day for teachers from August 24 to August 31. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the revised 2009-10 school calendar as presented; motion carried 5-0-0.

TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Conti noted that technology should be part of every budget discussion.

COMMUNICATION

The Committee and Superintendent commended the administration, high school staff, and police for the smooth evacuation event last week; feedback was largely positive.

BHS students appearing in the *Wizard of Oz* play next week stopped by and Eva Costanza sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow".

OLD BUSINESS

School Dept. Warrant Articles – Second Reading

Mr. Robinson again reviewed the warrant articles previously presented at the March 10 meeting. All 11 warrant articles are available on the Superintendent's blog. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the submission of warrant article 1 Burlington High School Locker Room Renovations; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr.

Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the submission of warrant article 2 BHS Fitness Room Renovations; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the submission of warrant article 3 Student & Faculty Bathroom Renovations at Marshall Simonds as presented \$85,000; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the submission of warrant article 4 – Pavement Replacement at BHS \$200,000 as written; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the submission of warrant article 5 – Student Locker Replacement at Marshall Simonds \$125,000; motion carried 5 –0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the submission of warrant article 6 – Community Custodial Services \$30,385 with the addition of Youth Lacrosse; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the submission of warrant article 7 Computer Technology Infrastructure & System Replacement \$350,000 as submitted; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved to approve the submission of warrant article 8 BHS Elevator Design \$72,000 as submitted; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the submission of warrant article 9 Burlington School Department Day Care Facility \$167,500 as submitted; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the submission of warrant article 10 Renovations & Improvements Varsity Field at BHS \$1,800,000; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 11 Memorial School; motion carried 5-0-0. Article 11 is a placeholder article with funds to be borrowed and the cost and reimbursement rate should be available after the SBA meeting tomorrow.

In response to a question, Mr. Robinson replied that regarding the proposed staff daycare facility: bids were obtained based on preliminary drawings completed by KBA Architects, it's expected to open in September, and he's working with the town to identify a funding source.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Elementary Schedule

The four elementary principals presented a proposal for an elementary schedule for the 2009-10 year which would have uninterrupted time each day: 90 minutes for Literacy, 60 minutes for Math, 30 minutes for Extension/Intervention time, 45 minutes for Specials, and 45 minutes for either Science or Social Studies. Student pullouts from class will be minimized, assessment will be completed with a computerized universal screening tool, which will require a computer lab and more classroom computers. As this is a first reading, it's expected a vote will be taken at the next meeting.

The School Committee thanked Principal Jane Dwyer for her efforts at Pine Glen School and wished her well on her retirement in June.

Proposed Sprouts Daycare

The Sprouts Daycare proposal was previously presented in depth at the January 27, 2009 School Committee meeting. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the creation of a staff childcare program that goes hand-in-hand with the warrant article; motion carried 5-0-0.

FY10 Budget – Elementary

In response to a request to explain the town perspective to deal with the \$1.4 million town deficit and budget process, Ways & Means – School subcommittee Chairman Bill Beyer stated that a 3% guideline increase to

operating budgets was recommended before any knowledge of a future deficit. All town departments are working to close the funding gap, but with salaries driving all town operating budgets, a request has been made for all town employees to accept a 1% lower salary increase on 7/1/09. To adjust for the deficit: approximately \$500K would come from salaries, some from the stabilization fund and some from other town sources. Mr. Beyer noted that if employees agree to the wage concession there'd be no layoffs, but some vacant positions will not be filled. Mr. Murphy noted that with variables regarding any funds from the federal stimulus package, the town doesn't have the luxury to wait for federal money. He noted that if employees agree to the wage concession, if money becomes available the School Committee would reciprocate. A 1% concession is equivalent to two working days. Mr. Murphy estimated that if reductions are needed, it may mean the layoff of 25 – 30 employees due to the town being self-insured, and this would affect services, programs, and class size. The School Committee directed the school administrators to start identifying \$700K of reductions at the next meeting on 3/31.

Mr. Robinson noted that requested staff next year increased by two teachers, due to the revised elementary schedule, and decreased by two instructional assistants. Salary increased 6.07% (+\$579,864); salary is 84% of this budget. Contracted services and equipment were level funded. Contracted services decreased 57.34% (-\$28,840) and supplies increased 2.65% (+\$4,337). Overall increase is 5.68% (+\$555,360). Mr. Robinson reviewed student enrollments for next year and reported that the teacher to student ratio is projected to be 18.09:1. Elementary textbooks increased 9% (+\$8,370) and capital funding remained at \$10,000 for each school.

Principal's Office

This budget is up 1.8% (+\$29,896) overall. Salaries increased 3% (+\$41,289), contracted services and supplies were level funded and equipment decreased 19% (-\$11,369).

Special Education

Dr. Estep was in attendance. The budget is up 3.8% (+\$108,357) for salary, contracted services increased 9% (+\$6,828), materials are up 46% (+\$11,115), contracted services increased 9% (+\$6,828), and equipment decreased 26% (-\$6,200). Overall, the SPED increased 4.01% (+\$120,100).

ELL

This budget increased a total of 8.4% (+\$14,112); salaries increased 8% (+14,112).

Guidance

Salaries increased 9% (+\$94,922), contracted services are up 31% (+\$3,746), contracted services increased 31% (+\$3,746), materials decreased 1% (-\$95), and equipment increased 150% (+\$1,500). Overall, the increase is 8.8% (+\$100,073).

Athletics

Salaries are up 9% (+\$94,922), contracted services increased 31% (+\$3,746), supplies are down 1% (-\$95), and equipment increased 150% (+\$1,500). Total athletics budget increased 8.8% (+\$100,073).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman DeSimone 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 9:30

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p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes, discuss contract negotiations, and litigation. Motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 10:35 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 4/14/09

Date approved: 4/14/09

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BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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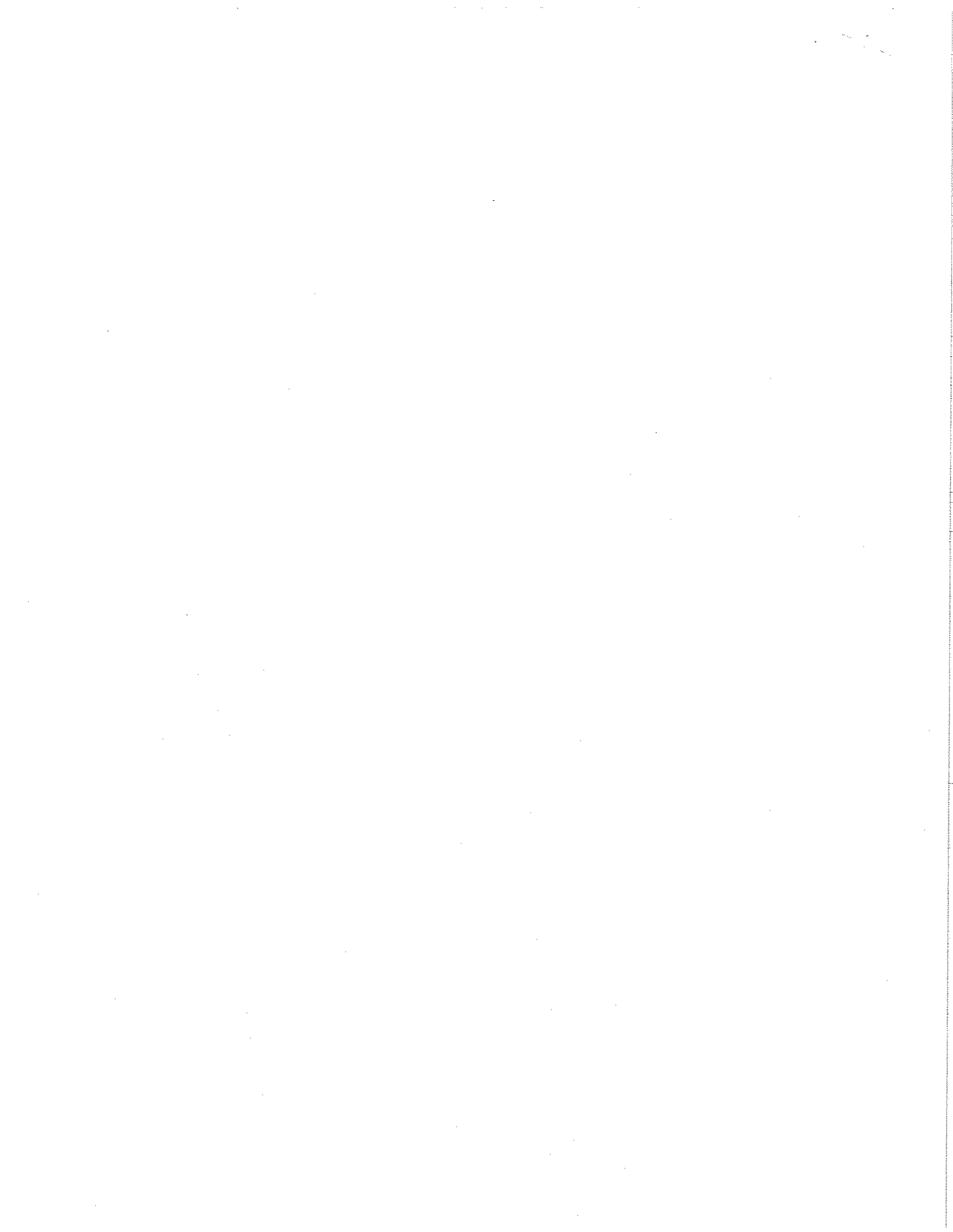
2009 MAR 20 PM 1: 22 ^{AM}

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 24, at **7:00 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 7:00 p.m.
2. Spotlight on Excellence
3. Approval of Minutes of 2/26/09 and 3/10/09
4. Approval of Warrant
5. Public Participation
6. Information/Reports
 - a) Student Representative – SCAB Committee
 - b) Subcommittee Reports
 - c) Ways/Means
7. Instruction
 - a) Revision of 2009-10 School Calendar
8. Technology
9. Communication
10. Old Business
 - a) School Department Warrant Articles – Second Reading
11. New Business
 - a) Proposed Sprouts Daycare
 - b) Draft Elementary Schedule
12. FY10 Budget – Elementary Schools, Textbooks, Athletics, SPED & Guidance
13. Public Participation
14. Executive Session
 - a) Approval of Executive Minutes 2/24/09 and 3/10/09
 - b) Contract Negotiations
 - c) Litigation
15. Adjournment



**Burlington Public Schools
School Committee Agenda**

Action _____

Informational X

**ITEM:
BACKGROUND:**

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

