

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2009

2009 MAY 28 AM 10:09

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

SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE

BHS students in swimming, indoor track, and girls gymnastics were presented certificates in recognition of their winter sport accomplishments.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Representative

Jenna Burke announced upcoming BHS events and exams.

Subcommittee Reports

None.

Ways & Means

No one in attendance.

INSTRUCTION

A BCAT show is being created to explain the new elementary schedule.

TECHNOLOGY

Town meeting has approved the technology infrastructure warrant article. A joint decision will be made with the town on joint technology needs with a technology subcommittee being created.

COMMUNICATION

The Francis Wyman playground project is progressing: the walkway is laid out, Shawsheen students are working on a brick maze which will be installed as well as railings.

Mr. Robinson thanked the Disability Access Commission for their support of the BHS elevator with a donation of \$20,000.

Mr. Robinson reported that the architect met with all town department heads and reviewed fields, traffic patterns, and design progression for the Memorial project. A civil engineer will design a stormwater collection system, which is a green initiative. Traffic pattern won't be reimbursed by the SBA; site plans will be submitted for approval to the Planning Board in July (they will address Winn Street access). Project milestones: documents completed in December, bids requested in January, and ground breaking in March 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

FY10 Budget Summary

The FY10 budget is \$42,675,215 and a meeting with Administrative Council is scheduled for Thursday to begin identifying \$397,000 in cuts. A pool of 10 - 15 teachers will receive a reduction in force letter. Two proposed new elementary teaching positions have been eliminated. It's anticipated that approximately 6 - 8 teachers will be laid off. The Committee thanked the unions that approved a 1% wage concession and expressed frustration with the BEA executive board for not allowing their members to vote on a concession. The Superintendent and Committee are very upset at the

prospect of having to lay off exceptionally talented young teachers after having fought for teachers and education for the town.

Dr. Conti noted that a last school day for teachers needs to be identified because a staff development day was cancelled as a snow day. According to the BEA contract, staff development cannot be scheduled for Fridays so it may possibly be scheduled for Monday, June 22. Dr. Conti will make a recommendation at the May 26 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

School Improvement Plans – MSMS and BHS

Principal Connors and some members of the Marshall Simonds Council were in attendance to present the middle school improvement plan. Mr. Connors reviewed the four major goals and how they'd be accomplished. Goals are: improve capacity, provide clear direction for technology, improve communication and customer service at all levels and throughout the community, and continue to improve facilities and business management operations.

Principal Larkin also provided details of the high school improvement plan, which has the same four major goals. Mr. Larkin specifically reviewed proposed student handbook changes for 2009-10: use of cell phones and a draft contract for at risk student athletes. The two proposed handbook changes will be voted on at the next School Committee meeting. The five-year progress report was submitted to NEASC last month.

Francis Wyman and BHS Roof Bid Results

Mr. Robinson summarized bid results for the BHS and Francis Wyman roofs with a chart showing that twelve bids were submitted and the lowest bidder was Gibson Roofs, Inc. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to award low bidder Gibson Roof of Hanover, MA the contract to replace the BHS and Francis Wyman roofs for the amount of \$1,162,000; motion carried 4-0-0.

School Choice – Public Hearing

Superintendent Conti asked the Committee to consider opening in a controlled way school choice for 10 non-Burlington resident ninth grade students, which would include a four year commitment to these students. Approximately 23 8th graders will transfer to Shawsheen Tech next year and Principal Larkin agreed that 10 additional freshman can be accommodated without additional staffing. State funding for the 10 students would come to Burlington. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to open the public hearing for school choice; motion carried 4-0-0. The Committee discussed: parents to provide transportation for school choice students and possible grades to be considered. The Committee requested that the public hearing for school choice be continued until the 5/26 meeting and requested that prior years reasons for declining school choice be included in the meeting packet.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

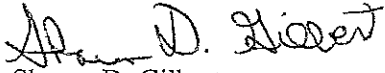
Chairman Murphy announced that the Committee had a need for executive session and would only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 10:25 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes, discuss contract negotiations, and litigation. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

May 12, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 10:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 5/26/09

Date approved: 5/26/09

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2009 MAY -7 PM 12: 54 *ju*

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, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

3. Pledge of Allegiance – 7:30 p.m.
4. Spotlight on Excellence
5. Approval of Warrant
6. Public Participation
7. Information/Reports
 - a) Student Representative
 - b) Subcommittee Reports
 - c) Ways/Means
8. Instruction
9. Technology – Town Capital Budget
10. Communication
11. Old Business
 - a) FY10 Budget Summary
12. New Business
 - a) School Improvement Plans – BHS and MSMS
 - b) Francis Wyman & Burlington High School Roof Bid Results
 - c) School Choice – Public Hearing
13. Public Participation
14. Executive Session
 - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 4/14/09
 - b) Contract Negotiations
 - c) Litigation

Adjournment