

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2008

2008 JUN 13 AM 9:38

Chairman Michael F. DeSimone 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, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr., and Mr. John L. Vanella. Acting Superintendent James Picone, Superintendent Elect Eric Conti, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance.

TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

CERTIFICATE

The School Committee presented a certificate to the Rotary Club in recognition of their 50 years of service to Burlington including \$400,000 in scholarships, teacher stipends, and donations of dictionaries to students.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve minutes of 4/28/08; motion carried 4-0-1; Mr. Nelson abstained.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Mr. Murphy made the following statement: As you know, since the immediate family members of three School Committee members are teachers, the Committee cannot reach a quorum due to conflicts under the Conflict of Interest Law. We have been advised by counsel to invoke the Rule of Necessity to allow us to vote on any matter involving the financial interests of such family members, and by this statement, are invoking the rule. Detailed disclosures regarding the matter were made at the Committee's April 11, 2006 meeting and recorded in the minutes, and are also on file with the Town Clerk and may be viewed in the Town Clerk's office. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the warrant; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Ms. Harrington reported on proms and upcoming events.

Student Representative

Acting Superintendent's Report

Dr. Picone thanked donors to the Burlington scholarships including the Blais' who attended the recent scholarship luncheon. He also reported on the Student Government Day held last week.

Curriculum/Instruction

Mrs. Marchand announced details of the NCSM math conference held in Utah attended by the math coaches and herself. The remaining funds from the FLAP grant were expended during the staff trip to Italy during April vacation. BayPath College will offer two courses for BHS students, who will receive college credit and dual enrollment.

Business/Finance

Mr. Robinson thanked the Ways & Means Committee for their recent support of 12 school warrant articles.

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| Subcommittee Reports | None. |
| Ways & Means | Nothing to report. |
| OLD BUSINESS | None. |
| NEW BUSINESS | Principal Larkin reviewed proposed changes and additions to the 2008-09 student handbook. The School Committee requested clarification and amendments for the addition on Student Probation. Mr. Larkin will submit changes for the May 27 meeting and the item will be voted on at that time. |
| BHS Student Handbook 2008-09 – First Reading | |
| BHS School to College Report | Mr. Larkin presented data for the BHS class of 2005 on the number of students who are attending state or community colleges in Massachusetts. He reported that 92% of BHS graduates go on to post-secondary schools. |
| Out-of-State Travel | Principal Larkin requested permission for the Senior Prom to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua, NH next May. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve out-of-state travel to Nashua, NH for BHS students on 5/9/09; motion carried 5-0-0. |
| | Moved to approve out-of-state travel to Canobie Lake in New Hampshire on 5/30/08 for MSMS Music students and chaperones; motion carried 5-0-0. |
| | Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve out-of-country travel for France for BHS students and chaperones for February 13 through February 21, 2009; motion carried 5-0-0. |
| Public Hearing – School Choice – First Reading | Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded to open the public hearing on school choice; motion carried 5-0-0. No one from the public was present for this hearing. The School Committee discussed whether it wishes to remain consistent with its present policy by withdrawing from School Choice for the 2008-09 school year. For the past few years, the Committee voted against participation for the following reasons: because of the language of the law with respect to reimbursement for affected schools, to limit its schools to residents of the town who bear the cost, and to maintain its current class sizes. Dr. Picone also noted the lack of space to accommodate additional students. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to continue the public hearing on school choice until the next scheduled meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. |
| School Committee Summer Schedule | The School Committee tentatively recommended a summer School Committee meeting schedule of July 15 and August 19. |
| 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 8:40 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 10:10 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 6/10/08

Date approved: 6/10/08

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BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MAY 13, 2008

Agenda

RECEIVED
2008 MAY -9 AM 9:50
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 13, at **7:30 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – **7:30 p.m.**
2. Approval of Minutes of 4/29/08
3. Approval of Warrant
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 Student Handbook 2008-09
 - b) BHS School-to-College Report
 - c) Out-of-State Travel – Senior Prom, Nashua, NH
 - d) Out-of-Country Travel – France
 - e) Public Hearing – School Choice – First Reading
 - f) School Committee Summer Schedule
8. Public Participation
9. Executive Session
 - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 4/29/08
 - b) Contract Negotiations
10. Adjournment