

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2009

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. Michael F. DeSimone, 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. Stephen A. Nelson absent.

2009 JUN 25 PM 12:23  
OWN DIALER  
COUNCIL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nurse Keiren Stewart spoke on behalf of the school nurses in attendance requesting that the school nursing positions not be privatized with agency nurses. She read a lengthy statement citing the loss of consistency, diminished quality of services to students, familiarity, trust, as well as examples of good student outcomes, for the Committee to reconsider the May 26 School Committee privatization vote. The School Committee room and halls were packed with teachers and parents. Public participation lasted for 1-1/2 hours with parents speaking about some of their concerns: continuity of care, hasty decision, real savings, unemployment costs to the town, agency nurse skill level dealing with serious chronic medical conditions (diabetes, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, etc.). Ways & Means member John Cormier spoke in favor of the privatization citing the current town economic crisis (as well as next year) and all town unions granting a wage concession except for the teachers union. He suggested that people should be angry with the teachers negotiating team who would not call a meeting to allow teachers to vote on a concession. After listening to 11 parents, Chairman Murphy explained the long budget process, including budget cuts, union concessions, and the rationale that led to the recommendation to privatize the school nurses.

OLD BUSINESS

EdNets Contract

Dr. Conti reported that the leadership team is in place, legal counsel has reviewed the contract with some revisions. The School Committee requested a revision in section 14.5 and put on the 6/23 meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Intramural Programs – MSMS

Athletic Director Ed Gillis is requesting the creation of an intramural advisor position at the middle school. The position will oversee intramural field hockey, girl's lacrosse, and wrestling. This item will be voted on at 6/23 meeting after identifying further details.

Ratification of BSAA Contract

The Superintendent reviewed the Administrators' Association tentative contract for 2008-11 which includes increases of 3/3/3 and health insurance premium changes. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to ratify the 2008-11 Burlington School Administrator's Association agreement; motion carried 4-0-0.

Breakdown of FY11 Budget

Mr. Robinson and Dr. Conti reviewed the FY10 School Budget voted on at the April 14 public hearing (\$35,808,000), the total requested budget (\$16,583,001) and the revised budget request approved at May town meeting (\$36,185,768). Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to amend the vote of 4/14/09 to a FY10 salary account of \$30,150,435; motion carried 3-0-1 (Mr. Murphy abstain). Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to amend the vote of 4/14/09 to a FY10 non-salary account of \$6,035,333; motion carried 4-0-0. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to amend the vote of 4/14/09 to a FY10 total operating

budget of \$36,185,768; motion carried 4-0-0. Dr. Conti reviewed the School Committee approved budget reductions from the May 26 meeting as well as the projected student enrollment and staff ratios for 2009-10. The School Committee requested that staff moves for next year be reviewed at the 6/23 meeting.

Summer School Comm.  
Meetings

A summer meeting schedule of July 21 and August 25 was recommended; the School Committee concurred.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nurse Stewart stated that the nurses have worked this whole school year without a contract. The School Committee noted that a privatization vote wouldn't have been made if the full \$400K deficit could have been met. Mrs. Monaco stated that she'd ask the Committee to reinstate the nurses if a way can be identified on how to do it. In response to a question, Chairman Murphy noted that the privatization vote could be reconsidered, but there are processes and procedural things to be done by that union or a School Committee member could make a motion to reconsider/rescind nurse privatization. When the request for proposal is written, it will include terms that the agency provide: pediatric nurses, familiarity with school nursing, and assigning the same nurse to each of the 6 schools for the school year. Nurse Stewart inquired about unemployment costs – the Chairman replied that the town is self-insured and has budgeted \$150K for town wide unemployment costs, savings would also be realized from health insurance, and over the long term. The School Committee sympathizes and shares the concerns of parents, and Mr. Murphy explained that the Committee was happy with the nurses' performance and that the privatization vote was solely a cost savings measure.

#### 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 9:30 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes, exemption 7, discuss contract negotiations, and litigation. Motion carried 4-0-0. Mr. DeSimone, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mr. Vanella, aye.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 10:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 6/23/09

Date approved: 6/23/09

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

JUNE 9, 2009

2009 JUN -5 AM 8: 52

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, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

1. Pledge of Allegiance – 7:30 p.m.
2. Public Participation
3. Information/Reports
  - a) Subcommittee Reports
  - b) Ways/Means
4. Instruction
5. Technology - Update
6. Communication – New Elementary Schedule Available on BCAT
7. Old Business
  - a) EdNets Contract
8. New Business
  - a) Intramural Programs – MSMS Advisor
  - b) Ratification of BSAA Contract 2008-11
  - c) Breakdown of FY11 Salary/Non-Salary
  - d) Summer School Committee Meetings
9. Public Participation
10. Executive Session
  - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 5/26/09
  - b) Contract Negotiations
  - c) Litigation
  - d) Exemption 7 – General Privacy Exemption
11. Adjournment