

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2008

2008 SEP -4 AM 9:46

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 Murphy Jr., and Mr. John L. Vanella. Acting Superintendent James Picone, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson, Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand and Town Administrator Bob Mercier also in attendance.

BURLINGTON, MA
TOWN CLERK

Spotlight on Excellence

Laura Mullen from the Mass. Assoc. for Supervision and Curriculum Development presented BHS teacher Bob Conceison with the Mentor of the Year Award.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 6/10/08; motion carried 5-0-0.

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. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the warrant; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS
Student Representative

The School Committee presented Katrina Harrington with a Spotlight on Excellence certificate in recognition of her service to the Committee for the past year as student representative.

Acting Superintendent's Report

Dr. Picone requested that the School Committee ratify a new three-year BEA contract agreement effective July 1. The agreement includes contract language changes, payment of a larger percentage of health insurance costs (30%), and increases of 3% the first two years of the contract and 2-1/2% the last year. It was noted that as the Board of Selectmen designee, Town Administrator Bob Mercier is entitled to vote on the contract. Mr. Mercier stated that he was impressed with the changes in the contract and specifically the health insurance but was not prepared to support the whole document especially the financial portion. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Vanella to ratify the BEA contract as has been agreed to by the BEA; motion carried 3-1-2. Mr. Mercier

opposed, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Nelson abstained.

Dr. Picone announced that new Fox Hill Principal Ellen Johnson will start on July 1.

Curriculum/Instruction

Absent.

Business/Finance

Mr. Robinson reported that Laura Driscoll has donated \$10,000 from the Afterschool program towards renovation of the Francis Wyman playground. The project needs \$51,000 in matching funds. Dr. Picone requested that \$20,000 be donated as the Afterschool program uses the playground heavily. Moved to withdraw \$20,000 from the Afterschool revolving account; this motion was then withdrawn by Mr. Nelson. After discussion, it was moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Vanella to withdraw \$26,000 from the Afterschool Program revolving account for the purchase of playground equipment at Francis Wyman School; motion carried 5-0-0. Mr. Robinson will conduct a bid process, anticipates a start in August, and completion of the renovation in the fall.

Subcommittee Reports

Mrs. Monaco reported that two fields at the middle school are in bad shape. Director Ed Gillis was consulted as two fields and possibly three may need to be closed; the high school soccer team practices will need to be relocated. Doug Gillingham will put new loam on the fields, hydro seed and hopes to re-open the fields in September. Mr. Murphy suggested that the town consider artificial turf for the future Capital Plan, which can be used continuously without damage.

Ways & Means

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The School Committee thanked Dr. Picone for coming out of retirement and returning as Acting Superintendent for the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

School Lunch Update and Recommendation

Food Service Director Paul Virgin presented a two-year comparative income statement, which reflected a deficit of \$18,807 for this school year. The shortfall was due to increased fuel and food prices. A transfer of funds and use of income from last year will cover the deficit. Mr. Virgin recommended a 25 cent lunch price increase to avoid a large deficit next year; projected to be \$67,546 if an increase is not approved. The School Committee discussed concerns about a possible drop in participation in the lunch program. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson to increase school lunch prices by 25 cents; motion carried 5-0-0.

Marshall Simonds 2008-09 Student Handbook

Principal Connors reviewed proposed additions, changes, and language changes to the 2008-09 Student Handbook,

which is incorporated into the student agenda notebook. Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the MSMS 2008-09 Student Handbook with changes as discussed; motion carried 5-0-0.

Out-of-State Travel

Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve out-of-state travel for the BHS Marching Band and chaperones to travel to Hampton Beach, NH on Friday, August 22, 2008; motion carried 5-0-0.

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. Nelson at 9:35 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes and discuss contract negotiations. 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 9:55 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 8/19/08

Date approved: 8/19/08

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JUN 20 2008



BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

JUNE 24, 2008

**TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA**

Agenda

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 24, 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. Spotlight on Excellence – MASCD Mentor of the Year – Robert Conceison
3. Approval of Warrant
4. Approval of Minutes of 6/10/08
5. Public Participation
6. Information/Reports
 - a) Student Representative
 - b) Acting Superintendent's Report
 - c) Curriculum/Instruction
 - d) Business/Finance
 - e) Subcommittee Reports
 - f) Ways/Means
7. Old Business
8. New Business
 - a) School Lunch Update and Recommendation
 - b) Marshall Simonds 2008-09 Student Handbook – First Reading
 - c) Out-of-State Travel – Hampton, NH
9. Public Participation
10. Executive Session
 - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 6/10/08
 - b) Contract Negotiations
11. Adjournment