

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECEIVED**  
**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 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. Stephen A. Nelson, 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.

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Moved by Mr. DeSimone and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 4/28/09; motion carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Nelson abstained).
- APPROVAL OF WARRANT** Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Vanella to approve warrant; motion carried 3-0-2 (Mr. Nelson and Mr. Murphy abstained).
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** None.
- INFORMATION/REPORTS**  
Student Representative  
New student representative Traci DiBona reported on first week activities at BHS and that the first dance will be on 9/26.
- Subcommittee Reports  
Chairman Murphy reported that the architect for the new Memorial went before the Planning Board to begin the site plan process. The Memorial blog has been updated and the architect is currently preparing construction documents. At future School Committee meetings the following needs to be on meeting agendas: operational budget for Memorial, school equity (appropriate technology), KBA Architects will make a presentation to the School Committee after site plan approval (late October).
- Ways & Means  
No one in attendance.
- INSTRUCTION – September Town Meeting**  
Dr. Conti will meet with Town Administrator Bob Mercier, CBE, & Cisco to discuss financial aspects of a technology infrastructure for the town and schools prior to presenting it at the September town meeting.
- Dr. Conti provided a lengthy explanation regarding letters sent to parents of Pine Glen and Francis Wyman students about the No Child Left Behind Act 1 and Adequate Yearly Progress deficits and school choice (comprehensive details are available on the Superintendent's blog). In order to further explain this, a meeting has been scheduled for parents on September 9 in the Francis Wyman auditorium for a detailed explanation, options, and requirements to be met in order to access school choice.
- TECHNOLOGY**  
Mr. Robinson distributed a proposed point-of-sale project brochure for school cafeterias which would enable: a cashless environment, inventory tracking, student I.D's/pin numbers, tracking of lunches sold, and allow lunches to be prepaid by parents.
- COMMUNICATION – Upcoming School Committee Meeting Presentations**  
Dr. Conti reviewed with the Committee recommended presentations for the upcoming five School Committee meetings before January 1:  
- District Improvement Plan  
- MCAS Summary  
- School Department Policies  
- American History Grant  
- FY11 budget calendar  
- addition of a November 10 meeting

Contract Negotiation Process

Dr. Conti asked the School Committee when historically do contract negotiations begin before the end of each contract – the Committee responded that in the past they'd begin in October/November of the last year of the contract. A discussion ensued with some of the following suggestions:

- conduct negotiations/discussions in open session meetings
- terms of contract offers be made public
- if an impasse is reached, allow each side to reveal offers

The School Committee will discuss this topic further at future meetings and with union representatives so that negotiations are a more open process. Discussion may need to be held with unions regarding FY11, depending on the guideline set by the town for the next budget year.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Conti reported that the EdNets (a fundraising program for schools) will not proceed due to the company not receiving venture capital; there are no financial consequences to the school district.

Mr. Robinson will prepare for the next meeting a student enrollment chart to compare to last year, the master plan, and projected NESDEC enrollment study.

Committee members received in their packet: a summary of the corrective action plan to Special Education from the DOE. Recommendations have been partially implemented as well as a copy of the Teaching American History grant awarded to Burlington (the grant was written by Social Studies Coordinator Jane Hundley). The Burlington Drug & Alcohol Task Force is requesting permission for middle and high school students to complete a survey on alcohol use, the Committee received a copy of the survey and it will be scheduled for a vote at the 9/22 School Committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of BHS Music Revolving Account

Music Director John Middleton submitted a request to create a revolving account for the BHS Music program to collect revenue (plays), as well as pay for supplies, contracted services, and salaries. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. DeSimone to approve the creation of a BHS music revolving account; motion carried 5-0-0.

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 9:15 p.m. to enter into executive session to approve minutes, discuss contract negotiations, litigation and exemption 7. 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. Nelson at 10:15 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon D. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 9/22/09  
Date approved: 9/22/09 hold