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**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

2008 SEP -5 AM 9: 34

**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, ON, MA** September 9, 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 Warrant
3. Approval of Minutes of 8/19/08
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
  - a) Student Representative
  - b) Superintendent's Report
    - i) Instruction
      - a) BHS Ranking – Boston Magazine
      - b) Memorial School Update
      - c) MCAS Summary
    - ii) Technology - Update
    - iii) Communication
      - a) NEASC
      - b) Blog
      - c) Superintendent Lunch – September 24
      - d) Burlington Public School Policies
  - c) Curriculum/Instruction
    - i) Professional Development Update
    - ii) Student Expectation Update
  - d) Business/Finance
    - i) Warrant Article Amount – Union Contract Settlements
  - e) Subcommittee Reports
  - f) Ways/Means
6. Old Business
7. New Business
  - a) Ratification of Tentative Custodial Agreement
  - b) Draft of 2009-10 and 2010-11 School Calendars – First Reading
8. Public Participation
9. Executive Session
  - a) Approval of Executive Minutes of 8/19/08
  - b) Contract Negotiations
  - c) Litigation
10. Adjournment

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008**

2008 OCT -6 AM 9:23

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 E. N. Murphy Jr., 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. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve minutes of 8/19/08; motion carried 5-0-0.

**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** Student representative Jenna Burke invited the School Committee to a reception for the Italian exchange students on Saturday and reported on fundraisers. The student council is examining creating a recycling program for bottles and cans at BHS.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**Memorial School Update** Dr. Conti recommended a new format for School Committee meetings to include three new topics: instruction, technology and communication. A meeting with the School Building Authority today to review the designer selection process. The SBA has changed some language requirements which may require Burlington to change its warrant language. SBA officials requested that student enrollment projections be resubmitted and plans of all current instruction spaces be submitted. The expected next step will be to discuss scope of the project.

**MCAS Summary** Draft MCAS scores have been received and raw score data is being reviewed by staff. School Committee topics in October will include: District Improvement Plan, MCAS, and NEASC Accreditation Process.

**Technology Update** The Superintendent stated that the town and schools are doing joint information gathering; joint meetings will be scheduled to collaborate.

**Burlington School Policies** The school department has purchased a policy manual from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the School Committee will be asked to review/adopt policies at meetings over the next couple years.

**Curriculum/Instruction** Mrs. Marchand stated that a survey monkey software program has been utilized by staff after professional development meetings to provide feedback on each

offering; feedback from August professional development days was positive. A Professional Development Plan for 2008-09 has been completed and was distributed.

Mrs. Marchand commented that last year a project was started on creating standards based student expectations for each grade; work is continuing. They are also working on new elementary student report cards and rubrics.

Business/Finance  
Warrant Article Amount -  
Union Contract Settlements

Mr. Robinson explained that the School Committee had submitted a placeholder warrant article for September town meeting to finance increased employee health insurance contributions. The estimated cost for all unions is \$320,338. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Vanella to insert a figure of \$320,338 into the placeholder warrant article 13; motion carried 3-0-2. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Nelson abstained. The Superintendent was requested to obtain an opinion from legal counsel determining if Mr. Nelson and Mr. Murphy may vote on dollar figures that directly relate to teachers (warrants, budgets).

Subcommittee Reports

Mrs. Monaco noted that the Recreation Commission would like to know what will be involved with the renovation of varsity field. Mr. Robinson replied it will be the replacement of bleachers, a new field house with restrooms, and artificial turf. This is tentatively expected to happen in the summer of 2010.

Ways & Means

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The Superintendent reported that the start of the new school year went smoothly and thanked custodians, summer staff, teachers and administrators for preparing the schools for students.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratification of Tentative  
Custodial Agreement

Mr. Robinson reported that the custodial union had ratified a new three-year contract with increases of 3%/3%/2% and an increase to 30% for the health insurance contribution. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to ratify the tentative three-year agreement with the School Custodial Staff, AFSCME Local 1703; motion carried 5-0-0.

Draft of 2009-10 and 2010-11  
School Calendars – First  
Reading

The Superintendent noted that as part of the new three-year BEA contract it will need to include three years of school calendars. The 2009-10 calendar includes the elimination of the teachers last day as a professional development day. The Superintendent was requested to identify the three Wednesday after school professional development meetings on the 2010-11 school calendar for the 9/23 School Committee meeting. He was also

requested to review BEA contract for language regarding the starting day of the new school year (i.e., before/after Labor Day). As this is a first reading, the calendars were taken under advisement and it's anticipated they will be voted on at the 9/23 meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

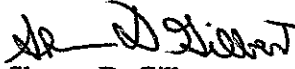
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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 9:15 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 10:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sharon D. Gilbert  
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 9/23/08

Date approved: 9/23/08