Chairman Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Kristin Russo, Mrs. Christine Monaco, Mr. Stephen Nelson and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Larkin, and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the minutes of 12/19/17; motion carried 5-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-2. Chairman Murphy and Mr. Nelson abstained.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Murphy explained that the Music Revolving account review has not been completed by town auditor Jim Powers and anticipates it will be on the February 13 agenda. TMM Shari Ellis inquired about the Burlington Community Scholarship organization; Chairman Murphy explained they are an independently run organization. Dr. Conti stated that there was a reorganization of the national fundraising group to Scholarship America; he attends some meetings, attends board meetings, but he makes no decisions or disbursement of funds. Ms. Ellis further commented that she was disheartened by Chairman Murphy's comments at the last meeting after residents spoke and departed; she felt it wasn't fair and not called for. Chairman Murphy responded that comments were taken out of context.

Ways & Means subcommittee member Joan Kennedy-Constant made the request that auditor Jim Powers attend the February 13 meeting. Chairman Murphy responded that he'd pass the request along but can't make any promises. Ms. Kennedy-Constant stated that two town meeting members have inquired what the balances for revolving accounts were for 6/30/17. Dr. Conti replied they'd been supplied to the subcommittee. Ms. Kennedy-Constant inquired which account was money transferred from to satisfy the cafeteria account deficit; Dr. Conti replied it was transferred from the International Student account. Ms. Kennedy-Constant will send her requests to Dr. Conti as he didn't have exact amounts immediately available. Mr. Nelson commented that she should email an information request and an answer is mosty available in 24 hours.

Dr. Conti requested a moment of reflection in observation of the school shootings in Texas and Kentucky.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Representative

The student representative was not in attendance.

Subcommittee Report

Ms. Simon reported that the Burlington Youth & Family organization met last week, provided services were reviewed and they have moved to 33 Center Street. Mrs. Russo explained that the District Capacity Group meets monthly (labor/management) where professional development and profession learning is discussed. The group includes 4 subcommittees with teachers as members; they've visited two elementary schools recently and have completed a mission statement which includes values and vision.

Ways & Means

Nothing to report.

COMMUNICATION

Middlesex League Northeastern
Meeting Summary

The Superintendent stated that the Middlesex League superintendents had met last week and visited the Costas Center at the Northeastern site in Burlington, met researchers and discussed how they can work with school districts. Northeastern is looking to build a new, larger building which would include a drone center. They are looking to develop a joint course to offer across all 12 Middlesex league districts and summer opportunities for STEM programs.

Programming the Acceleration
Of Computing and Equity

Burlington is one of 14 districts selected to participate in the PACE initiative; Dr. Conti explained he may need input/support from the School Committee. The state is seeking to make computer science a core course rather than an elective. Computer science will be a new foundational and literacy skill in the future, it will meet a one year science requirement, and they will eventually create a MCAS test to demonstrate proficiency in that discipline. BHS will be discussing students' course pathways and the limited teaching pool, as well as no teaching certification currently exists. In response to Chairman Murphy, Dr. Conti replied the goal is to create a pathway in five years, teachers will need to be cross-trained (through
the state & industry, and staffing will be impacted.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY
MSMS Principal Search
Committee Members

Mr. Larkin updated the Committee on the middle school principal search: 28 applicants to date, an open forum for parents will be held this week to discuss characteristics of a new principal, the search committee will meet on January 29 and interviews will begin a week later. He’s seeking input via facebook and on the Superintendent’s blog.

New Interim Special Education Director

Dr. Conti announced that Pat Cosgrove, a retired SPED director on the South Shore, will be the Interim Special Education Director until June 30. Preschool Director Deborah Cark will be chairing the search committee.

OLD BUSINESS
BHS 2018-19 Program of Studies – Second Reading

Principal Sullivan and the BHS Guidance Coordinator were at the January 9 meeting to review the added, deleted, and revised draft BHS 2018-19 Program of Studies. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the BHS 2018-19 Program of Studies; motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS
2018-19 School Calendar - First Reading

Mr. Larkin explained at the last meeting the Committee reviewed a preliminary 2018-19 calendar. During the joint labor/management meeting yesterday, they discussed where to schedule an additional professional development day, they came up with three suggestions, and Mr. Larkin would like to survey teachers for input before the School Committee votes on a calendar. Mrs. Monaco expressed concern at the number of non-school days in November and suggested the day after Halloween as a potential consideration. Ms. Simon will share with the Committee a portion of the Lexington homework policy which integrates consideration of holidays with no homework during the school year.

Middle School A/V Specialist & Computer Specialist Stipends - Approval

The Superintendent stated that during BEA negotiations stipends were discussed and two new stipends were put forward; a middle school stipend for A/V specialist and a computer specialist. These will be similar to the elementary stipends, where teachers work through their prep time in order to assist other teachers and are to be compensated at the same levels as at the elementary stipends. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve a middle school A/V Specialist stipend and a middle school Computer Specialist stipend at the same financial compensation as the two elementary stipends; motion carried 5-0-0.

Superintendent Mid-Cycle Goals Progress Report

Dr. Conti distributed the Planning for Success: District Plan 2016-191. He reviewed with the School Committee his mid-year progress2 towards his goals for 2018-19, including: professional practice, student learning, and school improvement goals. Progress on professional practice goals included: forums, communication, and responses with parents and the community on a later BHS start time; upgrades and planned work on the school website. Examples on progress on his student learning goal included: model engaged learning, development of PBIS, student writing practice on iPads for MCAS preparation, high graduation rate, and elementary homework choice charts. The Superintendent stated that all initiatives are in progress, and thanked Mr. Larkin, Mr. Cunha, teachers and staff who do the day-to-day work.

In response to Ms. Simon, Dr. Conti replied that he will schedule a presentation at a future meeting to demonstrate the elementary choice homework charts. Mr. Larkin replied to Ms. Simon that they have ordered an additional 50 keypads at each of the elementary schools to allow students to practice writing assignments on the iPads. Mr. Nelson commended the Superintendent on his strong leadership, the respect he receives from administrators and staff and congratulated him on being the Mass. Association of School Superintendents President-Elect. Mrs. Russo commented that she appreciated how Dr. Conti’s goals link to the district plan and the cohesive student learning goals. Mrs. Monaco stated that the Superintendent is doing extremely well, his mid-year report is on track, and thanked him for keeping Burlington schools ahead of the curve.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joan Kennedy-Constant inquired about the middle school principal search: how many candidates will be interviewed, suggested putting the job description on the BPS homepage, and that education requirements be put on the job description. Mr. Larkin responded that the search committee will discuss how many applicants they anticipate interviewing at their first meeting next Monday and at the second group meeting, individual members will advocate for

1 Planning for Success: District Plan 2016-19
2 Mid-Cycle Goals Progress Report
individual candidates to interview.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Murphy announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to discuss contract negotiations and the approval of executive minutes and MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21 (a) to comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law – specifically GL. c 214, §1B – Privacy because holding it in an open session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body. The School Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo at 8:50 p.m. to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations, litigation, and review executive minutes. Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mrs. Russo, aye; Mr. Nelson, aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Ms. Simon, aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 11:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 2/13/18
Date approved: 2/13/18