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BURLINGTON

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 10, 2023
TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA 01803
Administrative Offices, School Committee Room

ATTENDEES

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chair Ms. Katherine Bond, Vice Chair Mr. Carl Foss, Ms. Martha Simon, Ms. Chris Monaco, Ms. Melissa Massardo, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Finance Director, Ms. Nichole Coscia, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha, and BHS Student Representative, Mr. Matt Shannon

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: None

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Mr. Mark Sullivan, Mr. Joseph Attubato, Ms. Cari Perchase

GUEST(S) REMOTE: Mr. Steve Morin, Ways and Means

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and read the following statement: The public can also access this meeting via WebEx Technology. The Burlington School Committee will hear public comment in person and virtually. Meetings are also broadcast live on Burlington Cable Access TV (BCAT) as usual. Chair Bond reminded participants that comments and statements are limited to 3 minutes each. Meeting Access Code: Meeting number (access code): 2339 415 2667 | Password: Tuesday.

EQUITY STATEMENT

Educational equity means **that every child belongs and receives whatever support he/she/they need to develop his/her/their full academic, emotional, and social potential to learn and thrive every day.** This begins with kindness and valuing the humanity of every child or individual.

APPROVAL of WARRANT

Ms. Simon made a motion to approve the warrant as submitted; seconded by Mr. Monaco.

Ms. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the amended meeting minutes of 12/6/22; seconded by Mr. Foss.

Ms. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 5:0:0 by Roll Call Vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Student Report

Mr. Matt Shannon informed the committee that the BHS Music Department will be holding a Coffee House on January 24th at 7 pm and it will include poetry and song. DECA is holding a mock competition for the DECA district and over 60 students are qualified for this state competition. In addition, DECA is holding a silent auction on January 26th at 6 pm. Lastly, the English Department met to discuss a Poetry Out Loud competition.

Subcommittee Reports

None.

Ways and Means Report

Mr. Morin had no updates from Ways and Means and requested an initial schedule for the budget season.

Dr. Conti told Mr. Morin that he will have the schedules at the next meeting on January 24, 2022.

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Other Announcements

Ms. Simon discussed an action taken by other school committees. This is to support advocating with our state legislators to use state pandemic funds for the following purposes:

1) To advocate to our state delegation for the use of state American Rescue Plan Act funds to cover the pandemic-induced inflationary increases in current Massachusetts School Building Core Program projects; 2) To urge the state delegation to do what is necessary to restore the Massachusetts School Building Authority Accelerated Repair program; 3) To urge the state delegation to do what is necessary to expand funding for the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Dr. Conti reinforced Ms. Simon's suggestion and will propose language for us to discuss at a future meeting.

LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING

High School Program of Studies/First Reading

Dr. Conti stated the High School Program of Studies is an annual discussion in order to make necessary changes and Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Attubato are in attendance to discuss.

Mr. Sullivan explained that planning for next school year's development of the program of studies, the process requires discussion about modification of courses and that includes additional proposed courses and some modified courses. The changes also include policy changes such as advanced placement, dual enrollment, weight change and graduation requirement changes. Mr. Sullivan noted the new courses and provided an explanation for the committee. Those courses included: Writing Fellows Class; Yearbook Production; Fundamentals of Business in a Global Environment, which is a dual enrollment offering; Animal Care and Management, which Ms. Pavelcik will formalize; and the last course is Sculpture, formerly ceramics.

Mr. Attubato stated some courses were removed due to low or no enrollment for a number of years. Those courses included: Graphic Narratives; Art of Argument; Python for Programming; Data Base Management; Classical Roots of Civilization for International Studies, Studio Art Course, which was a half year course, however there is a full year course and that will stay. Mr. Attubato explained there are modifications of courses and those are courses that were renamed or restructured in some way such as a few English classes that were listed previously and these classes will stay as a stand-alone class. An additional class is an Honors Public Speaking class and must start with an incoming Freshman class. Name change courses included: Tech Integration that will now be Tech Exploration; Computer Graphics; Ceramics; and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. Sullivan stated there were modifications to policies with advanced placement, dual enrollment and graduation requirements. The recommendation is for students not be required to take the AP exam, it should be optional, dual enrollment should be weighted and the digital citizen course that requires all seniors to audit no longer makes sense as a graduation requirement.

Mr. Attubato explained changes for the classes of 2023, 2024 and 2025, the MCAS score has been raised for passing. This senior class of 2023 will only need a MCAS course and will not need to take the test and the classes of 2024 and 2025 will get back in swing of it and the threshold will increase for 2026 and every year thereafter.

DEI Update

Dr. Conti stated he wanted to highlight some of the specific activities that were happening relative to DEI. Dr. Conti noted that Ms. Purchase and Mr. Sullivan have been working with the Highlander Institute relative to cultural teaching at the secondary level and asked them to summarize their experience with working with Highlander.

Mr. Sullivan stated that during a discussion with Ms. Purchase regarding professional development for the schools they realized there was a void in the teaching staff and educators as well as with the leadership teams at the middle and high schools. With Dr. Conti's approval, they engaged in a conversation with the Highlander Institute. As a result, the Highlander Institute offered two full days of professional development training for the middle school and high school teaching staff around culturally responsible teaching and culturally responsive practices in the classroom, as well as leadership. In addition, they offered monthly professional development meetings. If the feedback is positive with the teacher and leadership teams, then it may be worthwhile to continue a long-term partnership with Highlander.

Ms. Purchase stated the first full day of training with the faculty and staff was very well received. It provided an overview of their culturally responsive framework, which is a four (4) stage model. The model included awareness, community building, cognitive development, and critical consciousness. Ms. Purchase stated the framework was a positive experience and we look forward to continuing.

Dr. Conti stated that professional development is a big part in making sure that diversity, equity and inclusive is in our practices every day. Dr. Conti described the following items are included in the DEI work in progress:

- The middle school hired an instructional coach;
- The Incident Report protocol has been created for Burlington, but it is not live, yet;

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- Ms. Lamprey has established free adult English classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.;
- There is a new school recruitment manual and anti-bias training that is part of the DEI effort;
- The work continues relative to talking about rehiring a DEI Director;
- Stated partnership with Cartwheel Care that provides counseling in different languages.

School Climate Survey

District-wide School Climate Survey Results

Dr. Conti thanked Ms. Concesion for overseeing the school climate survey and presented the data based on elementary and secondary schools; the results are broken down by schools. Dr. Conti will meet with each of the Principals to discuss the data and outcomes specifically, then Principals will share the results with their school staff in order for them to develop action plans based on the results. This survey will be done every year and discussions will continue moving forward.

May Town Meeting (warrant for funding feasibility study for BHS)

Dr. Conti stated the operating budget takes a huge amount of time and effort, as do the warrants, and the warrants are usually completed last and then they need to be rushed to get the information to Town Meeting. Due to the rush of the Warrants, it is recommended that the process be changed and this can be discussed at the next meeting on 1/24/23 as well as Ms. Coscia sharing the budget calendar with an updated capital plan and list of warrants. Dr. Conti stated the warrants will include the full feasibility study for BHS, updating the fire alarm system and of course the other usual warrant items.

Tour of MSMS on 1/30/22 at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Conti stated the schedule for the tour at the Marshall Simonds Middle School will be held on 1/30/22 at 10:00 a.m., along with the Select Board members.

Food Service Management

Ms. Coscia reported that she issued the RFP for Food Service Management and received three (3) proposals. These proposals are now ready to be evaluated. Ms. Coscia stated she has five (5) series of books to be evaluated and asked for four (4) volunteers from the committee to evaluate noting that Ms. Stevens will also be an evaluator. The four volunteers from the committee include Ms. Massardo, Ms. Simon, Mr. Foss and Ms. Monaco.

Composting

Mr. Cunha explained the pricing and quotes he received and this discussion will be continued.

Assistant Superintendent Search

Dr. Conti distributed the handouts that include a list of people who volunteered to serve on a screening committee and noted the posting closes next week. Ms. Joanne Faust will coordinate the screening committee. Dr. Conti explained this will be a multi-step process and the School Committee will have an opportunity to participate.

Waste Diversion Policy/First Reading

Dr. Conti explained that this is a first reading for the School Committee. This is a Waste Diversion Policy from the Green Sword and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Much discussion followed and will be continued.

FACILITIES/FINANCE

Financial Update

Ms. Coscia stated that all funds are in good standing, no concerns and not much change for operating or accommodated.

Fox Hill School Building Committee Update

Mr. Cunha stated there is a form that needs to be signed by three people regarding the designer selection process. On 1/17/22 there is a Designer Selection meeting at 8:30 a.m., members will receive zoom information and there building committee meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.

BHS Update

No updates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to enter into Executive Session at 9:26 pm; seconded by Mr. Foss.

Ms. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 5-0-0 by a Roll Call Vote.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to adjourn at 9:52 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Simon.
Ms. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Mr. Bond - aye.
Motion Carried 5:0:0 by Roll Call Vote.

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,

Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 1/24/2023

Date Approved: 1/24/2023