



[Watch on BCAT](#)

RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 10:55 am, May 10, 2023

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 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. Steve Morin Ways and Means, Kerri Lamprey Director of English Learner Education, Christina Cicolini Director of Special Education and Christine Robinson-Conceison Director of Mental Health

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: The family of Dottie Yeadon

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 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): 2334 490 4129 | 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING

Naming property "in memory of"

Dr. Conti welcomed Mr. Joe Morandi of the Burlington Select Board, to the meeting and noted his presence at the meeting is to discuss naming the BHS driveway. The Select Board voted to name the BHS driveway to "Dottie's Way" in memory of Dotti Yeadon. Dr. Conti recommends the school committee approve naming the BHS driveway.

Mr. Morandi stated that the Select Board wanted to remember Dottie Yeadon in a special way, explaining that Dottie was a school bus driver for forty years and a staple in town. The Select Board all agreed with naming the BHS Driveway, from Cambridge Street down to the school, as "Dottie's Way." Mr. Morandi noted that the road is not an official Massachusetts road and the Highway Department is more than happy to make a sign.

Dr. Conti stated that district will work with the Select Board about installing the sign.

Ms. Monaco moved to name the BHS driveway to Dottie's Way; Mr. Foss seconded.

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.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Student Report

Dr. Conti congratulated the committee's BHS Student Representative, Mr. Matt Shannon, as he was sworn into the National Honor Society this evening.

Mr. Shannon thanked Dr. Conti and added that all the students who were inducted into the BHS Chapter of the National Honor Society were very happy. Mr. Shannon reported that the Track Team had it's All State meet and congratulated Grace Hanafin for winning the 55m during the D3 meet and is the top long jumper. Mr. Shannon also congratulated Senior Captain Alyvia Pena of the Girls' Basketball Team, who broke the scoring record as well as her own personal record of 1,000 points. Lastly, DECA will be competing at the State Conference next week.

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

PAGE: 2

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Bond asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to enter into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m.; 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 8:25 P.M., AND RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION

APPROVAL of WARRANT

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the warrant as submitted; seconded by Ms. Massardo.
Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by Roll Call Vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 2/14/23; seconded by Ms. Foss.
Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by Roll Call Vote.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Conti had no subcommittee report due to school vacation week.

Ways & Means

Mr. Morin announced that the Ways and Means will begin budget sessions this week.

Other Announcements

None.

LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING

BEAM Report

Dr. Conti informed the committee that Dr. Purchase has worked with consultants to review the BEAM (Burlington Extended Academic Model) program and the report is now finalized. It will be publicly available and on a future agenda for further discussion. The goal is to allow all students to access this program.

Further discussion to take place at a future meeting.

Field Study Report

Dr. Conti informed the committee that at Town Meeting last May, there was a Warrant Article for a comprehensive field study for all the athletic facilities.

Mr. Cunha clarified that although the field study is not complete, a draft was shared with the committee and it has not been shared with the public. There were a few more fields identified to be added to the study. The draft field study is a 500-page document, which is a lot of information and still needs to be streamlined and organized.

School Choice – 1st Reading

Dr. Conti stated this agenda item is an annual vote and first reading. Dr. Conti explained that Principal Sullivan is again recommending that for the 2023/2024 school year we continue to offer limited school choice by admitting non-Burlington resident students for a maximum of ten students in grade 9, five students in grade 10, five students in grade 11, and five students in grade 12. Dr. Conti informed the committee that if only the high school is participating in school choice, then the requirement is for the committee to formally omit school choice for grades K-8 for the 2023/2024 school year with a Public Hearing vote on March 14, 2023.

Waste Diversion Policy

Dr. Conti stated this is the second reading for the Waste Diversion Policy and recommends the committee vote to approve this policy.

Ms. Simon made a motion to approve the 2nd reading of the Massachusetts Waste Reduction and Diversion Policy for the Burlington Public Schools; 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.

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2023

PAGE: 3

Restorative Justice Trainings and Pilot

Dr. Conti provided an update on the Introduction to Restorative training that was provided in October by the Suffolk University Restorative Justice Center, as a Tier 1 training. There were twelve (12) educator participants from the elementary, middle and high schools. Dr. Conti noted the feedback on the training was positive and the district is planning a Tier 2 training. There is no district pilot underway.

Dr. Conti stated the Highland Institute provided training for the secondary and high school level educators and they will be providing a second session beginning on March 9, 2023. So far, the feedback is positive and we are planning to get more specific feedback in order to decide if we continue with Highlander Institute for a second year.

FACILITIES / FINANCE

Fox Hill School Building Committee – Update

Dr. Conti spoke to Dore & Whittier and they will be starting community forums to get different aspects from the community.

Mr. Cunha had consultants come in, which included hazmat and geotechnical testing with both vendors on site, inside and outside of the buildings, for two days. In addition, Dore & Whittier and DiNisco met at Fox Hill and Pine Glen to participate in the On-site Discovery to decide if the building is eligible for just the renovation, a renovation and addition, or a new school.

BHS Update

Dr. Conti noted the warrant for a BHS full feasibility study will be distributed separately from other warrants.

Mr. Cunha confirmed the MSBA Statement of Interest Core Program window is open and he and Dr. Conti both have access to submit a Statement of Interest and if the committee decides to move forward, he will continue with the application process. The application process will require a written statement from the committee, as well as a public vote, and will also need to go to the Select Board. The closing date is in early April. The BHS Statement of Interest will include BHS renovations and a new building.

The consensus was to move forward with the application.

Budget Session

Ms. Coscia stated the Operating budget got aligned for FY'24 and is a 3.75% increase, which is approximately \$2.2 million over the current year. The personnel costs account for about 90% of the Operating budget. All union contracts, with exception of the Instructional Assistants, are settled for FY'24 and COLA for those are at 3% and the increases are already incorporated throughout the document. Ms. Coscia informed the committee that the departments were asked to level fund their expense budgets, which has been requested of the departments for the past few fiscal years due to the rising cost of supplies, although this may not be something we can continue to sustain in future years. Ms. Coscia noted that on Page 5 of the document, it has a score card that compares expense budget requests over the current fiscal year making it easy to identify which departments asked for increases. For FY'24, the Operating budget position requests were 25.9 FTE's, which total approximately \$1,965,000. All position requests are included in the document and there is a brief rationale for each position at the end of the document. The new requests are highlighted in blue and some are highlighted in green, which indicated positions that are funded from an alternate source, such as a grant. Inclusive of all the new position requests, the budget is at a 6.98% increase, which is approximately \$1.9 million over guideline. Ms. Coscia verified that at the very end of the document there is a list of all the new positions requested.

Dr. Conti expressed gratitude for Kevin Keen at the DPW and his crew for treating the roadways. Dr. Conti noted there is a lot of work needed to make sure the roads are safe and a lot of people work hard to make sure schools are open and the roads are safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Foss to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Monaco.

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: 5/9/23

Date Approved: 5/9/23



RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 9:26 am, Apr 26, 2023

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Executive Session of February 28, 2023 called to order by Chair Bond at 7:14 p.m.

Chair Bond read the following:

1. Executive Session (7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.): General Laws 30A, Section 21(a) – Purpose (7) - To comply with any general or special law, specifically the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act ("FERPA"), G.L. c. 71, §§34D, 34E and 603 CMR 23.00.
 - a). Approval of Executive Session Minutes of 1/10/23 and 2/1/14/23
 - b). ELL, SPED and MH Presentation to the School Committee and Ways and Means

Present: Chair Ms. Katherine Bond, Vice Chair Mr. Carl Foss, Ms. Martha Simon, Ms. Melissa Massardo, Ms. Monaco, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Finance Manager Ms. Nichole Coscia, Ways and Means Mr. Steve Morin, Director of Specialized Learning Kerri Lamprey, Director of Special Education Christina Cicolini, Director of Mental Health Christine Robinson-Conceison

Approval of Executive Minutes

Ms. Simon moved to approve and hold the Executive Session minutes of February 14, 2023; seconded by Ms. Massardo. Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye. Motion Carried 5-0-0 by a Roll Call Vote.

ELL, SPED and MH Presentation

Dr. Conti explained that the district needs more resources due to the changing need in student body and the point of this meeting is to illustrate the needs in ELL, MH and SPED.

Ms. Christina Cicolini, Director of Special Education, started the presentation pointing out that in November 2021/2022, the total students with an IEP (Individual Education Program) was 503; by August 2022/2023, it increased to 531 and by February 8, 2023, there was a total of 603 with 25 initial evaluation requests in the queue and that is out of 3,533 students. Ms. Cicolini explained there is an increase in the level of need for students receiving specialized services and one possible reason is that more people are moving into the district with IEPs. Ms. Cicolino noted that more specialized teachers and instructional assistants are needed, as well as an increased need in technologies and other technical needs for the students, i.e., iPads. The New England Center for Children is pushing for someone to oversee these programs as well as oversee the curriculum needed. There is currently a full time team chair and a half time team chair, which is not enough. In addition, there is a need for more classrooms and more classroom staff. During 2022/2023, the cost per student is \$100,000 and for 2023/2024 the cost is \$100,000 with an additional 14% increase. Ms. Cicolino stated that the average increased cost is \$60 million for Program Directors and Teachers for FY'24 and projected costs for new hires for 2023/2024 would be \$1,285,000.

Ms. Christine Robinson-Conceison, Director of Mental Health, stated the national trend of mental health crises worsened since Covid. The crisis numbers for adolescents and ages 5-11 have gone up. Lahey and Winchester Hospitals' mental health providers are experiencing an increase in visits to their Emergency Departments with an average wait time of 7-9 hours for a mental health evaluation and if eligible for services, there is another 5 to 15 day wait at the hospital. There is a 2-3 month wait for clinicians and a backlog in partial programs. Students experience trauma 36% more and there is a higher level of diagnoses than in the past, i.e., Schizophrenia, Bipolar and Borderline Personality Disorder. Ms. Conceison stated there is a big surge in mental health for children, as well as an increase in the response to homes by police that always involve a 944 response. Tier 2 services spike during middle school and there is a spike in 51A reports and the school counselors are doing more in the classroom. In addition, there needs to be more CBT groups for anxiety and depression as well as more grief support groups.

Ms. Kerry Lamprey, Director of English Learner Education, noted that her chart includes numbered data boxes. The first box shows the population of ELL K-12, which was 209 for 2021/2022 and is now 292 for 2022/2023, and there is always an increase during the middle of year. Eight years ago there were 88 ELL students and now there are 292. Box 2 shows the growing population. Box 3 shows specifically for BHS, there is an increase in population by 77.1% and Box 4, shows the biggest increase of population from each country for BHS. Box 5 indicates that BHS started with 41 students that were at the very beginning level of English and Box 6, illustrates the number, and ages, of those students at the beginner level English. Ms. Lamprey stated that Box 7 is the drop-out rate and noted that the district needs to do more to support these students as they need this type of program and support.

Motion to Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Bond requested a motion to end Executive Session and return to Regular Session.

Ms. Simon made a motion to end Executive Session and return to the regular session; the motion was 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.

Executive Session adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marianne Fabbri

Date Submitted: 4/25/23
Date Approved: 4/25/23