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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

**LOCATION:** 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA 01803  
Administrative Offices, School Committee Room

### ATTENDEES

**MEMBER(S) PRESENT:** Ms. Katherine Bond, Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Ms. Chris Monaco, Ms. Melissa Massardo, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Chen, Finance Director Ms. Nichole Coscia, and Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha

**MEMBER(S) REMOTE:** None

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Ms. Martha Simon

**GUEST(S) PRESENT:** Ways and Means Mr. Steve Morin and Mr. Rob Newfeld, Director of Special Education Ms. Christina Cicolini and Director of BECC Ms. Deborah Clark

**GUEST(S) REMOTE:** None

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** CPAC Members, Ms. Meghan Nawoichik and Ms. Kathy Cashman

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE:** None

### CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Conti 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): 2332 286 1248 | 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.

### School Committee Assignments

Dr. Conti stated that this is the first meeting after the elections and thanked Ms. Bond for serving as Chair during this past year and Mr. Foss for serving on the School Committee for the last 3 years. Dr. Conti welcomed Mr. Jeremy Brooks, as the new School Committee member, and thanked him for his previous community work as well serving our Country in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Conti also welcomed the Dr. Lisa Chen, the new Assistant Superintendent, as this is her first School Committee meeting in-person.

Dr. Conti asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to nominate Ms. Martha Simon, as Chair; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.**

**Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.**

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to nominate Ms. Melissa Massardo, as Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. Brooks.**

**Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.**

**Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.**

### School Committee Assignments

Ms. Massardo, the newly appointed Vice Chair, requested motions for School Committee assignments.

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to nominate Mr. Jeremy Brooks to serve on the Recreation Commission, formerly filled by Mr. Foss; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.**

**Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.**

**Ms. Bond made motions for the following committees to remain the same: Ms. Simon and Ms. Massardo (as alternate) to continue on the Academic Review Board, Ms. Monaco and Dr. Conti to continue on the Sick Leave Bank Committee of the Burlington Educators' Association, and Ms. Simon to continue on the Sick Leave Bank Committee of the Burlington School Administrators' Association; motions were seconded by Ms. Monaco.**

Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Ms. Bond and Mr. Brooks to be the Legislative contact persons for the Massachusetts' Association of School Committees; seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made motions for the following committees to remain the same: Ms. Bond and Ms. Monaco to continue as the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee Liaisons, Ms. Monaco and Ms. Bond to continue on the Subcommittee to the Select Board, and Ms. Monaco and Ms. Simon to continue on the Subcommittee to the Ways & Means; motions seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made motions as follows: Mr. Brooks and Ms. Simon to serve on the Subcommittee to the Board of Health, Mr. Brooks and Ms. Bond to serve on the Recreation Committee, Mr. Brooks and Ms. Massardo to serve on the Subcommittee to the Planning Board; motions seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Ms. Simon, Ms. Massardo and Dr. Conti to serve on the Subcommittee for Wellness; seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made motions as follows: Ms. Bond, Ms. Massardo and Dr. Conti to the Subcommittee for Transportation, and for Ms. Monaco to continue on the Audit Subcommittee; motions seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made motions to name the following committee members as PTO Representatives: Ms. Bond and Ms. Monaco for Fox Hill, Mr. Brooks and Ms. Simon for Memorial, Ms. Massardo and Ms. Monaco for Pine Glen, Ms. Monaco and Ms. Massardo for Francis Wyman, Ms. Simon and Ms. Bond for MSMS and Mr. Brooks and Ms. Bond for BHS, and Ms. Monaco for BECC; motions seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made motions as follows: Ms. Simon to continue on the Burlington Youth & Family Services, and Ms. Simon and Ms. Monaco to continue on the Disability Access Commission; motions seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Dr. Conti to continue as School Committee designee to the LABBB Collaborative; seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Ms. Faust and Ms. Cicolini to continue as the Central Office Sexual Harassment/Complaint Management Facilitators; seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Ms. Faust and Ms. Cicolini to continue as the Coordinators for Nondiscrimination Compliance (including civil Rights and Title IX); seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Monaco made a motion for Ms. Fabbri to continue as School Committee Recording Clerk; seconded by Ms. Bond.  
Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0 by a Roll Call Vote.

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**APPROVAL of WARRANT(s)**

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the S34-23 warrant as submitted; seconded by Ms. Bond.

Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 4:0:0.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the S38-23, S39-23 and S40-23 warrant as submitted; seconded by Ms. Bond.

Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 4:0:0.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

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**INFORMATION / REPORTS**

**Student Report**

Dr. Conti reported for Mr. Matt Shannon. The report is as follows: BCAT and Quizmaster, Chris Flaherty, hosted its annual Fact-cath-athon Bracket and the Royal Children comprised of Emerson Waisnor Julia Shvartzman and Matt Shannon, and Julia Sportsman won; Model UN dominated at two conferences meaning Burlington students excelled - congratulations to our Model UN teams; student elections are coming up and students are ready to run and advocate for their fellow classmates. Finally, during spring break, Matt Shannon is going to Rome with the Latin group.

**Subcommittee Reports**

Dr. Conti noted any subcommittee reporting will be addressed during the budget session.

**Ways & Means**

Mr. Morin stated he will provide updates during the budget session.

**Other Announcements**

Ms. Monaco wanted to acknowledge Christopher, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Pine Glen, for helping her Granddaughter, Eva, last week. Ava fell and hurt herself at school and Christopher made her feel much better because he was very nice to her and stayed with her as she waited for the ambulance. From Eva to Christopher, thank you!

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**LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING**

**MASC Policies – Sections A & B – 2nd Reading**

Dr. Conti asked for a motion to table this item until the full committee is present noting that Mr. Brooks hasn't had enough time to review the documents and Ms. Simon is not here.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to table the MASC Policies Sections A&B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading; seconded by Ms. Bond.

Ms. Monaco – aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Ms. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 4:0:0.

Dr. Conti informed the committee that Attorney Darren Kline, School Committee Labor Attorney, reviewed the policy on Public Participation due to the recent changes and the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling on public participation. This is only for that one policy in Section B, which was updated based on that ruling.

**Wellness Policy Amendment – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Dr. Conti stated that the SEPAC wanted to add a bullet to this amended policy to ensure that recess and/or physical education could not be taken away from a student as a form of punishment or discipline.

After much discussion and hearing from SEPAC members, Ms. Meghan Nawoichik, and Ms. Kathy Cashman, it was decided to add verbiage to the Amended Wellness Policy. The verbiage will indicate that Physical Education or Recess will not be withheld or taken away as a punishment or discipline.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the Wellness Policy Amendment, as recommended by the state, and to add the request by the SEPAC; seconded by Ms. Bond.

Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks – aye, Ms. Massardo – aye, Mr. Bond - aye.

Motion Carried 4:0:0.



retirements so when a teacher retires, the new teacher's salary projection is less. Dr. Conti stated it is difficult to fill a position for teachers with a Master's Degree and many reductions of these positions remain unfilled. We have eliminated an Assistant Principal at Fox Hill, a Strides teacher at Francis Wyman Strides teacher, clerical support, EL Instructional Assistant, Coach, MS, Spec Ed, Math Coach, Curriculum, as well as maintenance and facilities. There are students at the high school coming in without a lot of formal education and we need to create a different program for them. We are requesting to add two newcomer teachers and are developing this program as we go. Thus, the 3.75% increase may come in closer to 4% and Dr. Conti is requesting the Operating Budget come in slightly over the guidelines at \$61,917,987.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to open a public hearing on the 2023/2024 School Budget Approval; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to close the public hearing on the 2023/2024 School Budget Approval; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0**

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the School Committee budget for FY '24 salaries in the amount of \$54,500,104; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the School Committee for non-salary items for FY'24 in the amount of \$7,912,793; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

Ms. Monaco stated the total Operating budget is in the amount of \$61,917,897, which does not need a second vote.

**Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the School Committee budget for the Town held Accommodated account for FY '24 in the amount of \$14,202,037; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

**Ms. Monaco moved to approve the Francis Wyman Baseball field for \$700,000; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

**Ms. Monaco moved to withdraw warrant article 7-32 MSMS Athletic Field Improvements; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

**Ms. Monaco moved to withdraw warrant article 7-33 BHS Athletic Field Improvements; seconded by Ms. Bond.**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Ms. Bond - aye.  
Motion carried 4:0:0.**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to adjourn at 9:09 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Bond**

**Ms. Monaco - aye, Mr. Brooks - aye, Ms. Massardo - aye, Mr. Bond - aye.  
Motion Carried 4:0:0.**

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**SUBMITTED**

Respectfully,  
Marianne Fabbri  
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 5/9/23  
Date Approved: 5/9/23