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BURLINGTON

■■■■■■■■■■ PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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DATE: Tuesday, April 25, 2023

TIME: 7:00 pm

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

Find ATTENDEES

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chair, Ms. Martha Simon, Vice Chair Ms. Melissa Massardo, Ms. Chris Monaco, Ms. Katherine Bond, Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Finance Director, Ms. Nichole Coscia, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Dr. Lisa Chen

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

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

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ms. Christine Sheppard, Ms. Stephanie Fishel, Ms. Jennifer Agati, Ms. Jill Coleman, Ms. Shereen Tyrrel

PARTICIPATION REMOTE: None

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Simon 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 Simon reminded participants that comments and statements are limited to 3 minutes each. Meeting Access Code: Meeting number (access code): 2338 894 3190 | 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.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Student Report

Dr. Conti reported for the BHS representative, Mr. Matt Shannon. Matt's commented that coming up on April 28th, April 29th, May 5th, May 6th and May 7th, the BHS students are putting on an Adams Family Musical and tickets can be purchased at burlingtontheatre.com. The AP exam week is right around the corner and the students are studying as hard as possible to display their work - good luck to all students taking the AP exams. The students versus teachers of Mathcathalon took place and the student champions, The Royal Children, defeated the teachers with a 24-11 match and it was really fun! Overall, the students are ready to cruise the rest of the year. Matt wanted to relate that he will be the School Committee student representative again next year, as well.

Dr. Conti and the committee all thanked Matt and are looking forward to working with him again, next year.

Subcommittee Reports

None.

Ways & Means

Mr. Morin reported that the Ways and Means Committee will be having a follow-up meeting for the Operating budget tomorrow evening, 4/26/23, at the Town Hall and it will include a presentation. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

Other Announcements

Ms. Simon informed the committee that for National History Day, a number of students went on to the nationals and DECA had great success. The World Language department is excited to share the list of seniors that have earned the Seal of Bi-Literacy award this year. These are students who can demonstrate proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in two languages. Earning this Seal of Bi-Literacy means the students will have an additional seal on their diploma for these accomplishments. Congratulations to the following students: Vela Belin, Andrew Bilcz, Kathryn Campbell, Denisse Cheng, Brunna Ferandes, Alexander Genov, Serli Jabnian,

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the Section B, as a 2nd reading, where policy BEDI reflects Attorney Klein's recommended changes resulting from a SJC ruling.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

Dr. Conti explained that Attorney Kline took out language from this policy due to the SJC ruling that you can't restrict obscene language however the Chair can stop public comments.

Ms. Simon stated there has been a legal opinion that committees do not have to allow public participation, although there hasn't been any committee request to stop public comments, so we will continue to allow it.

Draft School Calendar 2023/2024 - 2nd Reading

Dr. Conti recommended approving one of the school calendars they are presented with, either no school on Good Friday, or, as a regular school day on Good Friday. It is up to the School Committee to decide what the best 180 days are for the district.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the School Calendar 2023/2024 with no school on Good Friday, as a 2nd Reading; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

Motion Carried 3:2:0.

FACILITIES / FINANCE

FY '24 Budget Update/Changes

Dr. Conti explained that during the presentation to Ways and Means Committee, one of the formatted cells in the budget was incorrect because the spreadsheet was malfunctioning and we thought we'd need to make further deductions, however, Ms. Coscia found that the error was actually in our favor. The recommendations are now to add an Assistant Principal for Fox Hill, an additional Newcomer Academy teacher, an alternative high school program during the day, with additional academic support for those students. Dr. Conti noted the School Committee originally approved a 4% increase and now with all the recalculations, it actually came out to a 3.97% increase over FY'24.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ms. Simon announced the opening of the public hearing to discuss the FY'24 budget and asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the School Committee budget for FY'24 salaries in the amount of \$53,991,652; seconded by Ms. Bond.

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

Motion carried 5:0:0.

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

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

Motion carried 5:0:0.

Ms. Simon closed the public hearing.

Fox Hill School Building Committee

Mr. Cunha stated the next meeting is a virtual only meeting and flyers will be posted around town and emails sent out to announce this Community Forum Meeting on 5/18/23, an on-line only meeting. There will be presenters from the design company and the OPM and then there will be a Q&A session at the end of the presentation. This meeting will not be an interactive meeting, such as soliciting feedback during the presentation, but questions will be answered during the Q&A session.

Ms. Monaco stated there is one school that hasn't been addressed for any renovations and that is Pine Glen. Ms. Monaco suggested Pine Glen be added to the list of schools that will be addressed at each School Committee and propose a warrant article for a feasibility study for the Pine Glen school during the next budget season.

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BHS Update

Mr. Cunha has no update at this time but wanted to thank the cafeteria staff for their cooperation. On behalf of the BPS, we listened to the cafeteria staff about their concerns and had numerous conversations, including with Whitsons. Five external positions have been posted and positions adjusted. The feedback has all been positive. The management of Whitsons are also in agreement that the changes have been positive.

Ms. Bond stated she got follow-up from some of the cafeteria staff that spoke at the meeting and they are happy with the new liaison. Ms. Bond noted that she was told the changes are positive and have helped.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to enter into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to adjourn at 10:08 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Bond.

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

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

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,

Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

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



RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 9:18 am, Sep 13, 2023

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Executive Session of April 25, 2023 called to order by Chair, Ms. Martha Simon, at 8:13 p.m.

Chair Simon read the following: Executive Session - M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a): Subsection 2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – BEA Teachers Union Grievance; Subsection (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School District and the Chair so declares – BEA Teachers Union Grievance.

Present: Ms. Martha Simon, Ms. Melissa Massardo, Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Ms. Katherine Bond, Ms. Chris Monaco, Dr. Eric Conti, Ms. Coscia.

Remote Guest: School Counsel Attorney Darren Kline, Pine Glen School Nurse Ms. Alexandra Laverty, and BEA President Mr. Sean Musselman.

Present Guests: Ms. Jill Coleman from the Massachusetts Association, Pine Glen Teacher Ms. Jennifer Agati, Pine Glen Building Representative Ms. Christine Sheppard, and BEA PRR Ms. Stephanie Fishel.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – January 10, 2023

Ms. Monaco moved to approve and release the Executive Session Minutes of January 10, 2023; seconded by Ms. Bond.

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

Motion Carried by Roll Call Vote 4:0:1.

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – February 28, 2023

Ms. Monaco moved to approve and release the Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2023; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

Motion Carried by a Roll Call Vote 4-0-1.

BEA Teachers Union Grievance

Dr. Conti explained that this grievance is about changing working conditions without bargaining and is a level 3 grievance with no resolution and that is why it gets bumped to the School Committee. This grievance is about a non-PTS employee whose contract is not being renewed. The issue is that this employee is questioning the evaluation process and if their contract was violated. Attorney Klein will be present remotely in order to answer questions for the committee.

Ms. Stephanie Fishel, BEA PRR, stated that at the beginning of March the BEA were alerted to some concerns with the format of the evaluation process for the member. During the investigation, the BEA learned that there were some missed steps along the way. In order to get this process formalized for the 2022-2023 school year, the BEA submitted a grievance to Dr. Conti on March 21, 2023, and received a reply on April 5, 2023. The BEA then forwarded the formal grievance to the School Committee on April 10, 2023.

Attorney Klein stated the process was thorough and although the timelines were done out of sequence, the Union did not say any steps were missed and therefore, it is the schools' position that there was substantial compliance with the procedures. There was substantial compliance with the process and the evaluation process and the non-renewal process, although related, are different processes and it is a sole managerial right to grant any teacher, educator, or nurse tenure status.

Much discussion, questions and answers ensued.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to continue the grievance hearing to the next meeting on 5/9/23; Ms. Massardo seconded.

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

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

Ms. Monaco made a motion to end Executive Session; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

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

Executive Session adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri

Date Submitted: 9/12/23
Date Approved: 9/12/23