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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021

**TIME:** 7:00 pm

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

### ATTENDEES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chair Mrs. Katherine Bond, Mr. Carl Foss, Mrs. Christine Monaco, Superintendent Eric Conti, Business Manager Nichole Coscia, Director of Operations Bob Cunha

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Chairman Thomas F. Murphy, Jr., Assistant Superintendent Patrick Larkin

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

**GUEST(S) REMOTE:** Mr. Douglas Place, representing National Ataxia Foundation, Ways & Means Committee Member Mr. Roger Riggs, Transportation Committee Member John Strauss, Interim Memorial School Principal Tara Harris, Interim Director of Special Education Mrs. Christina Cicolini

### CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bond called this meeting to order at 7:00 pm and read the following statement: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the School Committee is utilizing participation for the public via remote technology only. She further explained that if someone would like to be recognized to raise their hand virtually.

### APPROVAL of WARRANT

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the warrant; seconded by Mr Foss.  
Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye. Motion carried 4-0-0.

### Approval of MSMS Gym – National Ataxia Foundation Walk

Mr. Douglas Place, representing the [National Ataxia Foundation](#), is requesting permission for use of the MSMS gym on Saturday, August 21st. A walk on the town common is scheduled; however, in the event of inclement weather, they are requesting an indoor space. They used the MSMS gym in 2019 and the space worked well for their event. They are expecting approximately 50 people and would need the space from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. The actual walk is from 9:00 am - Noon, but will need the additional hours to set up and clean up. Mr. Place will contact Mr. Bob Cunha to make arrangements if necessary.  
[See BCAT News Story - July 13, 2021](#)

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the rainy day location use of the MSMS Gym for the National Ataxia Foundation Walk on Saturday, August 21st; seconded by Mr. Foss.  
Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye. Motion carried 4-0-0.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

### INFORMATION / REPORTS

#### A. Subcommittee

Ms. Simon commented on the two recent subcommittees approved by the Board of Selectmen: Transportation and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion ([See BCAT News Story - July 14, 2021](#)). Both subcommittees will include one School Committee member. Plan to discuss/vote at the August School Committee meeting.

#### B. Ways & Means

Mr. Riggs did not have any update at this time. Dr. Conti informed Mr. Riggs that a financial update has not yet been completed as we have not finished closing out the school year. Details will be shared in a few weeks.

### CORONAVIRUS UPDATE from the Superintendent

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Dr. Conti explained that more communication will be forthcoming to families before the start of the school year. As of today's meeting, we are expecting and planning for a full return. Awaiting guidance Mass Dept. of Public Health and will then align with our local Board of Health. CDC is recommending that elementary students wear masks indoors, but the Mass Dept. of Public Health has not taken a position on that.

#### A. Elementary Enrollment

As Dr. Conti mentioned at the last meeting, we are watching elementary class enrollment closely; particularly grade 1. The current grade 1 enrollment at Fox Hill is 84 and at Pine Glen is 36. To keep classroom sizes to the preferred 17-18 students/class in lower grades, we are working with Principal Rosenblatt and Principal Lyons to create 5 classrooms at Fox Hill and 2 classrooms at Pine Glen. We would transfer a grade 1 Pine Glen teacher to teach at Fox Hill for the 21-22 school year. Space is limited at Fox Hill, but we are making the 5th classroom a priority which may mean displacing a specialist classroom. We will continue to watch registrations and balance out the classes as best we can. In response to Ms. Simon's request, Dr. Conti will provide an enrollment update for the middle and high school at the next meeting.

#### B. School Buildings / Facilities

Mr. Cunha opened by thanking the custodial and clerical staff for all their hard work.

##### Update on new warrant articles:

- **Field:** Have met with the designer for the initial kickoff meeting. Need to complete the design specs, complete drawings, and then put out to bid. This is a large project and entails a lot of work. Take time to review the bids and specs carefully to get a quality field at the price we need to benefit the town. Anticipating to begin construction in April or early spring 2022.
- **Weatherization:** Waiting on competitive grant information. Planning for a meeting in August with DPW and Rise Engineering to discuss next steps.
- **Sanitary Dispensers:** Have had discussions with vendors to source the products and purchases have not been made. Delivery and installation have not been scheduled, but are planning for the start of school.
- **Francis Wyman Intercom:** No purchase and no agreement has been made. Have had initial conversations with the engineers to build the design specs to ready for bid. This is a large and timely project. When the time comes, we will need to coordinate and work around the school schedule.

##### Other Projects:

- **Pine Glen Playground:** Two year warrant article that was put on hold due to COVID. Looking to install rubber surface matting along with the existing mulch this summer. Rubber will be installed from the entrance in as well as to and from the structures and under and around the structures.
- **Office Construction** which may include a fresh coat of paint or new carpeting in older spaces: Fox Hill Copy Room, Two offices in Central Office, Office in LABBB, Office in Support Services, and adding Air conditioners in the Fox Hill portables for LABBB summer program
- **Francis Wyman Bathrooms:** Continued work on existing bathrooms from previous years warrant article. Completed 8 bathrooms already and looking to complete 2-4 more.
- **Bubblers:** Two new bubblers were just installed; one in BHS Gym and one in Francis Wyman cafeteria. Delay from vendors (3-6 months for delivery). New filters will be installed before the start of school.
- **Cameras:** New cameras were installed on the exterior of Memorial and Marshall Simonds Middle School. Working on new exterior camera installations at BHS.

##### Other Comments:

- Dr. Conti commented that the elementary summer school program at Memorial this summer is twice as big as in past years (approximately 380 students). All classrooms are being utilized.
- Mrs. Monaco would like to have the school committee room repainted with a brighter color paint.

#### C. Fox Hill Project

Mr. Cunha provided a status update. This is a long term 5-7 year project. The first two deadlines have been met and submitted: ICC (Initial Compliant Certification) and SBC (School Building Committee). The next deadlines to meet are the Enrollment Capacity Request (before August 6th), and the Educational Profile and Online Enrollment Questionnaires (both before August 30th). Dr. Conti has spoken with Town Manager Paul Sagarino. There are member(s) of the select board who would like to be a part of the SBC. In response to Ms. Simon's questions, Dr. Conti will inform the committee which select board member(s) will be added and will plan to possibly hold a first meeting in August. Mr. Cunha will contact the MSBA (Mass School Building Authority) for a first meeting suggestion.



