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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

ATTENDEES

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chair, Ms. Martha Simon, Ms. Chris Monaco, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Chen, Finance Director Ms. Nichole Coscia, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha, and BHS Student Representative Mr. Matt Shannon

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Vice Chair Ms. Melissa Massardo, Mr. Jeremy Brooks

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Ms. Katherine Bond

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Ways and Means Committee members - Mr. Steve Morin, Mr. John Iler and Mr. Roger Riggs

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Parent Ms. Meghan Nawoichik and BECC teacher Ms. Lisa Bottiglio

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE: Parent Ms. Jaimee Greitzer

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): 2331 069 2674 | 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. Monaco made a motion to approve the warrant as submitted; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

Motion Carried 4:00 by a Roll Call Vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Student Report

Mr. Shannon reported that the Italian exchange students who were in Northern Italy for ten days arrived back safely two days ago. Their trip was amazing and they are very grateful for the opportunity. The Athletic Boosters are running a fundraiser with the BHS Varsity Athletics so at every game there will be a donation bin for non-perishable foods that will go to the Burlington Food Pantry. Mr. Shannon noted that this Friday, the Burlington Girls' Volleyball team is running their Strike-Out-Cancer fundraiser and all proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Subcommittee Reports

None.

Ways and Means Report

Mr. Morin stated the report will be later in the meeting during the Fox Hill School Building discussion.

Other Announcements

Dr. Chen stated there was a meeting earlier this evening at Francis Wyman and she gave an overall description of the SEL curriculum and what Wayfinder is all about, which was a good way to explain the CASEL Model of social-emotional learning. Dr. Chen informed the committee that Literacy Night will be held at the Francis Wyman auditorium on Monday, November 6, 2023 from 6 – 7 p.m., and will discuss the Elementary Reading Program for grades Pre-K through 5.

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Ms. Jaimee Greitzer stated that as a Burlington mom she has always been very proud to send her children to the BPS because she has always felt very safe. Ms. Greitzer wanted to make people aware of the gravity of what happened on Saturday in Israel. The Jewish people of Burlington have connections to the people suffering in Israel and the children know something is going on. Ms. Greitzer stated she would have expected an email from Dr. Conti acknowledging what was happening and the resources our children can access while they are going through this scary time in their lives. Even at Pine Glen, there has been nothing from the principal or guidance counselors. Ms. Greitzer questioned what the district is going to do to help the children feel safe again.

Dr. Conti apologized for not putting something out and explained that our first response on this was actually to focus on safety first. There have been members of the communities who reached out to offer resources for the students who are troubled. Dr. Conti understands he is late getting something out regarding resources to families and stated the initial response was to discuss what the safety protocols would be first.

Ms. Simon agreed that our first priorities should be to make sure the students feel safe and thanked Ms. Greitzer for raising this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Monaco to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

Motion Carried 4:0:0.

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 10/24/23

Date Approved: 10/24/23