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BURLINGTON

■■■■■■■■■■ PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 24, 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, Vice Chair Ms. Melissa Massardo, Ms. Chris Monaco, Ms. Katherine Bond, Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Chen, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha, and BHS Student Representative Mr. Matt Shannon

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Finance Director Ms. Nichole Coscia

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Ways and Means Committee Mr. Steve Morin, Science Teacher Mr. Sean Musselman and Director of Student Information Ms. Robin Miliano

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Katier Kapadia, Sauna Zakaria, Abu Munger, Sunniya Saleem, Eslah Lamamedi, Jmane Burman, Sonia Haleem, Maimoona Shaikh, Rahil Shaikh, Giovanni Doiron, Sarfraz Shaikh, Arif Shaikh, Marwa El-Sabbahy, Karim Fikry, Arif Oriyn, Ali Rabbani, Synthia Ameena Zohan, Obaid Zazai, Gabi M. Islam, Imam Shakeel Rahman, Muhammed Mahmoud, Muzix Tai, Mohammed Asaad, Khalid Atlarkhan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Imam Shakeel Rahman and Marwa El-Sabbahy

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): 2345 620 1698 | 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. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye.

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 10/10/23; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

Motion Carried 4:0:1.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Several members of the community introduced themselves and shared their thoughts relative to the issues in the middle east and concerns for the Burlington children. It was noted that the letter sent out from the school district made some of the Muslim parents feel marginalized and unheard and it is important for all to feel united.

Dr. Conti thanked all those who spoke and those in attendance, as well as those who wrote to him directly. Dr. Conti stated he welcomes their feedback and assured to all that neither, Islamic phobia or anti-Semitism will be tolerated in the Burlington school district.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Student Report

Mr. Shannon stated he appreciated those who spoke during Public Participation. Mr. Shannon reported that the DECA students went to a leadership conference at Bentley University where the students attended workshops to learn how to be better leaders in the community and in the school; Model UN is sending students to UMass Lowell for their first interscholastic conference; the English Department is holding a flex block to talk about media issues and how to take English ideas into the media; the South Asian Student Association is holding a Garba Night on Friday, October 27th from 6 - 10 p.m., at the MSMS; and the seniors are coming to the end of their early admission college applications.

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Subcommittee Reports

There were no reports at this time.

Ways and Means Report

Mr. Morin had no report at this time.

Other Announcements

None.

LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING

MSMS Student Handbook

Dr. Conti stated that Ms. Purchase made updates to the MSMS Student Handbook. These adjustments are those that were mandated by the state regarding the Code of Conduct. Dr. Conti recommends the committee approve the updates to the MSMS Student Handbook.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve the updates to the MSMS Student Handbook, seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

Taken out of order

Journey to C.A.R.E.S.

Dr. Chen presented Journey to C.A.R.E.S. explaining all the accomplishments that were made during the past month. Dr. Chen noted that ParentSquare now has over 2,000 users; there is another vaccination clinic scheduled for November 13, 2023 at Francis Wyman; the new playground at Francis Wyman should be completed by 10/22/23, as well as the intercom system at Francis Wyman; and there have been additional cameras installed at MSMS.

Students for Environmental Action Club - Composting

Ms. Keira Riley and Ms. Shefali Bakre, seniors in the Students for Environmental Action Club, presented their project on composting at BHS.

Dr. Conti thanked the students for their presentation and confirmed that January is a good time for the students to start composting, with their composting project to educate students about composting will begin sooner. Dr. Conti noted there is a balance in the cafeteria revolving account that can be used for composting since it is considered a food service expense.

Mr. Cunha stated he obtained pricing from Black Earth and compared to other composting companies their pricing is more economical because it is in the Burlington area. Mr. Cunha explained how the composting efforts would work and confirmed he will research available grants relative to composting.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to begin the composting project as presented by the students using the Cafeteria Revolving Account; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

MCAS Statement

Dr. Conti explained the difference between a norm referenced test and a criterion referenced test. Dr. Conti stated the MCAS is a criterion referenced test and shows the state that Burlington implements state standards.

Dr. Chen reviewed the results of the MCAS and discussed how the data is compiled. Dr. Chen explained that there are two areas that are looked at; one is the achievement data and other one is the student growth data. Dr. Chen continued with her presentation explaining the MCAS data and how it relates to Burlington.

Discussion ensued.

MASC Policies Section K – 2nd Reading

Dr. Conti stated this is the 2nd reading of the Policies Section K and reviewed the suggested changes.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to approve Policies Section K, with the changes described; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

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Motion Carried 5:0:0.

MASC Policies Section L – 2nd Reading

Dr. Conti stated this is the 2nd reading of the Policies Section L. Dr. Conti noted that Section L is only MASC policies; Burlington has no Section L. There is only one policy, which is File #LB, that Burlington may want to add its membership to the LABBBW Collaborative.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to adopt MASC Section L, adding Burlington as a member of LABBBW Collaborative in File #LB; seconded by Ms. Bond.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

Dr. Conti stated that Policies Section E, File #EEAG, was previously eliminated because it is a policy relative to employees driving students in their cars and because Burlington was going to purchasing their own vans, this policy was not needed at the time of review.

Mr. Cunha explained that the van order has been cancelled by Ford. He will look into other options but for now, Burlington has no order to purchase its own vehicles.

Dr. Conti suggested that a vote be taken to put File #EEAG back into the Policies Section E.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to put File #EEAG back into Policies Section E; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0.

FACILITIES / FINANCE

Fox Hill School Building Committee

Dr. Conti stated the meeting on October 23, 2023, was an update on sustainability possibilities and potential reimbursements from the state programs; as well as design and site location possibilities. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

BHS Update

Ms. Bond stated the OPM RFS submissions have been ranked and interviews for the top three firms, -Dore & Whittier, Colliers, and Left Field, will begin at the next BHS SBC meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for November 2, 2023. No time is confirmed at this point.

Pine Glen

Mr. Cunha stated he is exploring new options for air conditioning at Pine Glen.

Ms. Simon stated there is a MASC Joint Conference in November and they will be holding a Delegate Assembly. Since Ms. Simon is the only School Committee member attending the conference this year, she would like to be the voting delegate at the Assembly.

Ms. Monaco made a motion to appoint Ms. Simon as the voting delegate at the MASC Joint Conference Delegate Assembly; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0

There is an Executive Session on the agenda for this evening and Dr. Conti determined it was not needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Bond to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Massardo

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

Motion Carried 5:0:0

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 11/14/23
Date Approved: 11/14/23