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By Town Clerk's Office at 9:30 am, Jun 27, 2023

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 7, 2023

TIME: 1:00 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. Christine Monaco, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Ms. Katherine Bond

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Ms. Joyce Carey and Sophomore Students: Emelie Kim, Madison King, Elise Kovbasa, Amelia Nagel, Sonali Patel, Annika Phillip, Karen Clemente and Saniya Sarolkar

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Dr. Rachel Gould, Student Matt Shannon, and other students from Dr. Gould's class

This special session meeting of the Burlington School Committee started at 1:00 pm.

PRESENTATION

BHS Students' Civics Project Presentation – Half Days for Professional Development Proposal

Ms. Joyce Carey, BHS Social Studies teacher, explained that all BHS sophomores are mandated by the State to complete a civics project and thanked the School Committee for taking the time for the students to present this year's project.

The students introduced themselves and explained their project is about whether Burlington should have half days. The students' suggested that this proposal for half days would not be as big of a break as full day PD and would not interrupt academics as much. In addition, the school year is so long, the possibility of reducing it would allow students to get summer jobs sooner, etc. The students stated they sent out surveys to classmates and parents in order to find out how this proposal would impact them. The responses from parents showed that approximately one-half would like half days, as it's easier to obtain child care for a half day as opposed to a full day. Out of the responses submitted, 56.3% were from parents who have elementary school aged children. There were approximately 60-70 student responses which were 75% in favor of changing to half days.

The students' made note of other communities' school year dates, which are as follows:

Lexington school year is from August 20th to June 14th;

Woburn is from September 8th to June 21st;

Belmont is from September 2nd to June 16th with half days every Wednesday;

Bedford is September 5th to June 14th with half days every Wednesday.

It was noted that all secondary schools in MA are required to have 180 days of school and 990 hours and adding 8 half days would not shorten the school year because of the need for 990 minutes.

Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Brooks attended the meeting virtually because he is in France at the D-Day anniversary celebrations. Mr. Brooks stated that he is a former paratrooper and that June 6th is D-Day, which is a special day, so he decided to attend these anniversary celebrations with his brother and friend. Mr. Brooks noted they have been staying in the general area of Paris where Sainte-Mere-Eglise Church is located.

The School Committee thanked the sophomore students for sharing their project and congratulated them on doing a great job.

This special session meeting concluded at 1:34 p.m.

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 6/26/23

Date Approved: 6/26/23