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BURLINGTON

■■■■■■■■■■ PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Monday, June 26, 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, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lisa Chen, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Finance Director Ms. Nichole Coscia

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Ways and Means Mr. Steve Morin, Director of Special Education Ms. Christina Ciccolini, Director of Mental Health Ms. Christine Conceison, Director of English Learner Education Ms. Kerri Lamprey, Ms. Donna DiNisco from DiNisco Designs, Inc., Mr. Steve Brown from Dore & Whittier Architects

GUEST(S) REMOTE: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: Resident Ms. Jami Weber, Resident Mr. David Woodilla, Resident & TMM Mr. Chris Campbell, Resident Mr. Tim Weber

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Resident Ms. Jami Weber, Resident & TMM Mr. Chris Campbell

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE: Resident Ms. Melissa Uriani, Resident Ms. Deirdre Heisler, Resident Ms. Katrina Boschetti

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): 2335 686 9769 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 MINUTES

Ms. Bond made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 6/7/23; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

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

Ms. Bond made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 6/13/23; seconded by Ms. Massardo.

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

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident Ms. Jami Weber, Resident & TMM Mr. Christopher Campbell, Resident Ms. Melissa Uriani, Resident Ms. Deirdre Heisler, and Resident Ms. Katrina Boschetti individually addressed the School Committee with their respective concerns.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

Subcommittee Reports

Fox Hill School Building Committee Update

Dr. Conti explained that the Fox Hill School Building Committee is not selecting a school configuration at this point and this is part of the study process, which is mandatory by the MSBA in order to obtain state funding.

Ms. Simon clarified that none of the options have been chosen, yet. This evening is not about choosing an option, it is looking at the educational programs. There are two educational programs and one of the options is the single school enrollment of 325 and the other is for a combined enrollment of 640. Ms. Simon stated that we must send these educational programs and the space summaries to the MSBA in order for them to approve, or not approve, any option.

Ms. Donna DiNisco stated this is the first process as we start evaluating the two enrollment options, as required by MSBA. The first step in the study is to fully understand the educational programs and the space requirements needed to support these programs. Ms. DiNisco confirmed there is no decision, as yet, this is just a requirement because the contract with the MSBA is a dual enrollment contract. At the end of the preferred schematic report, which is at the end of the study in late December, only one of these refined enrollments will be

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submitted and that will be based upon the evaluation of the process. No formal vote needs to occur this evening, just an approval or support of the educational programs.

Mr. Brown confirmed that part of the feasibility study agreement is to go through this process.

Ms. Monaco moved to approve the educational program and space summary for the enrollment of 325; Ms. Bond seconded. Ms. Monaco – aye; Ms. Massardo – aye; Mr. Brooks – aye; Ms. Bond – aye; Ms. Simon – aye. Motion passed 5:0:0 by a Roll Call vote.

Ms. Monaco stated she has concerns about going forward with the enrollment of 640 and read from the minutes of May 25, 2021, on the topic of the Fox Hill Building Project. During that meeting a formal vote was taken and all School Committee members voted to eliminate the consolidation option as we move forward with MSBA and go forward with the Fox Hill School project. Ms. Monaco stated that this vote was passed 5:0:0; all School Committee members voted to keep four separate schools.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Massardo made a motion to approve the educational program and space summary for the enrollment of 640; seconded by Mr. Brooks. Ms. Monaco – nay; Ms. Massardo – aye; Mr. Brooks – aye; Ms. Bond – nay; Ms. Simon – aye. Motion passed 3:2:0 by a Roll Call vote.

Ways & Means

Mr. Morin has no report at this time.

Transportation

Ms. Massardo stated that the Fox Hill School was awarded a Signs and Lines Award for 2023, which is a bronze level award.

Ms. Massardo updated the committee that she has recruited a few other parents to join her in a task force to work on the traffic issues. The task force will also include the Burlington Police Department and the Fox Hill School Principal.

Announcements

Ms. Simon reported that the Girls' Softball team won the Division 2 State Softball Championship, and it is also their 13th Middlesex League championship – congratulations! Ms. Simon also reported that BHS won the Middlesex Leagues in 7 out of 9 sports teams this spring. BHS got to the round of 16 with Boys' Lacrosse; to the round of 8 with Girls' Lacrosse; the Outdoor Boys' Track is Division 4 State champions; and the Girl's Track is a finalist in Division 4. Ms. Simon stated the BHS teams had a great Spring season and have done very well is pleased she had the opportunity to attend Volleyball, Softball and Unified Basketball games this year. Ms. Simon appreciates that the Town supports our budget so we can provide these activities for the Burlington students.

LEARNING, EQUITY, THRIVING

School Committee Meeting Dates Changes

Dr. Conti reported that the April meeting dates were adjusted and the final meeting dates are now April 9th and April 30th.

MASC Policies Section E & F – 1st Reading

Dr. Conti reviewed Policies Section E & F and further discussion will take place at the next meeting, as a second reading.

Superintendent Evaluation

Ms. Simon reminded the School Committee that they have three mandates: setting policies; voting on the budget; hiring and evaluating the superintendent.

Dr. Conti invited Ms. Christina Ciccolini, Ms. Christine Conceison, and Ms. Kerri Lamprey to make their presentations on the Equity work across the district. Dr. Conti stated that the strategic objectives in these areas are learning, equity and thriving and the theme in the statement is kindness and caring and working on equity in every school building.

Director of Special Education Ms. Christina Ciccolini, Director of Mental Health Ms. Christine Conceison, and Director of English Learner Education Ms. Kerri Lamprey, all made their presentations to the committee, which is part of the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Ms. Simon explained the Superintendent's evaluation process and read the cumulative evaluation, a summary of all five School Committee members' evaluations. She included some comments from each individual evaluation. Summarizing, Ms. Simon noted that all Dr. Conti's goals were met, his overall rating was proficient and read the following individual scores:

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- Instructional leadership overall rating was Proficient;
- Management and operations overall rating was Exemplary;
- Family and community engagement overall rating was Proficient;
- Family culture overall rating was Proficient.

FACILITIES / FINANCE

BHS Update

Dr. Conti stated the RFP for an Owner's Project Manager for the feasibility study will go out late summer or early fall.

Mr. Cunha confirmed that he followed the MSBA template to create a BHS Building Committee and will have his suggestions for the committee at the next meeting on July 18th. At that time, the committee will formally vote on the proposed committee.

Fox Hill Building Committee

Ms. Massardo stated the next meeting is on Wednesday, 6/28/23, and there will be financials discussed. There is a community meeting on July 11, 2023, which is virtual only. A meeting for September is planned and will be a Town Hall Forum style in the BHS auditorium. Ms. Massardo stated notifications will go out via Reach My Teach, it will be posted on Fox Hill Building Committee website, posted on the town website, flyers will be sent to all the childcare centers in Burlington, the Library, and will also include a reverse 911 notification.

Pine Glen

Mr. Cunha had no report at this time.

Summer Project Updates

Mr. Cunha noted that this is the time of year when all the warrant articles get appropriated. Mr. Cunha stated the summer crews started today and summarized the summer projects:

- Expansion of offices in the lower Library at the BHS to accommodate three offices;
- Cleaning the classrooms, in which the custodial staff have already started;
- Numerous bathrooms in several buildings need work, especially BECC;
- The large air conditioning unit at the middle school still needs repair.

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 9:59 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Brooks.

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

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

RETURN from Executive Session

The School Committee returned to Public Session at 10:34 p.m.

Superintendent's Contract

Chair Simon requested a motion to approve the Superintendent's Contract, as negotiated during Executive Session.

Ms. Monaco moved to renew the Superintendent's Contract by adding a 3% increase, an addition contract year and a one-time bonus in 2023; motion 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Massardo to adjourn at 10:40 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Monaco.

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

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

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 7/18/23

Date Approved: 7/18/23



RECEIVED

By Town Clerk's Office at 9:16 am, Sep 13, 2023

TOWN OF BURLINGTON

Executive Session of June 26, 2023 called to order at 10:01 p.m., by Chair, Ms. Martha Simon.

Chair Simon read the following: Executive Session: M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a), 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 Chair so declares - BEA Union contract.

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

Present Remotely: Mr. Jeremy Brooks, Ms. Nichole Coscia.

BEA Contract

Dr. Conti explained that this item is on the agenda because of the longevity discussions for the twelve BEA union employees, although there is no resolution, yet.

Ms. Coscia stated that if there is a limit on longevity in a certain amount, then those longevity amounts become un-pensionable per the Massachusetts State Retirement Board.

Dr. Conti will ask Mr. Klein for written language relative to longevity becoming un-pensionable.

Discussion ensued.

Cafeteria Managers

Dr. Conti stated the cafeteria managers have been informed that the State is becoming more involved with who can manage food service as it relates to licensing, etc. As a result, the contract for food service management will have to be re-bid following the state regulations. The cafeteria managers do not want to go through another transition and, as an appreciation, Dr. Conti would like them to receive a one-time bonus of \$500 each and recommended the School Committee approve that expenditure.

Ms. Monaco moved to approve a one-time bonus of \$500 for each cafeteria manager, as long as they were employed as of June 30, 2023; Ms. Massardo seconded this motion.

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

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

Superintendent Contract

Dr. Conti requested a 3% cost of living raise and an additional year added to his contract to extend the date to 8/17/29.

There was consensus for both, a 3% increase for FY'24 and an additional year in the Superintendent's contract, making his full extension six years with a date of 8/17/29.

Ms. Simon reminded the committee that Dr. Conti has done several jobs during this past year and suggested giving Dr. Conti a one-time bonus.

There was consensus to give Dr. Conti a one-time bonus, as specified.

Ms. Monaco moved to renew the Superintendent's Contract by adding a 3% increase, an additional year to his contract to extend the date to 8/17/29, and giving him a one-time bonus in 2023; motion 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.

Ms. Monaco made a motion in 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 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully,
Marianne Fabbri

Date Submitted: 9/12/23

Date Approved: 9/12/23