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BURLINGTON

■■■■■■■■■■ PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

TIME: 7:00 pm

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

ATTENDEES

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chairman Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr., Vice Chair Mrs. Katherine Bond, Mr. Carl Foss, Mrs. Christine Monaco, Ms. Martha Simon, Superintendent Dr. Eric Conti, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha

MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

MEMBER(S) REMOTE: Assistant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Larkin, Business Manager Ms. Nichole Coscia

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

GUEST(S) REMOTE: Ways & Means Committee Member Mr. Roger Riggs, Student Representative Brooke Hovasse, Burlington High School Principal Mr. Mark Sullivan, Student Services Coordinator Mr. Joe Attubato, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Mr. Ray Porch, Nurse Leader Mrs. Barbara Conley

PUBLIC PRESENT:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE: Fox Hill Teacher Mr. Bill Lisano, Francis Wyman Special Education Teacher Ms. Susan Shultz, Memorial Teacher Ms. Marykathryn Conceison, Pine Glen Teacher Mrs. Amanda Hanafin, Memorial Teacher Ms. Valerie Burns, Francis Wyman Reading Specialist Mrs. Donna Murphy, Burlington High School Teacher Ms. Julia Carey

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Murphy opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and he and Dr. Conti offered condolences to the families of Anthony (Tony) DeSimone and Arthur (Art) Fallon. The meeting was called to order and Mr. Murphy read the following statement: In person attendance limited to 18 people. Masks are required and attendees will need to practice social distancing. The public can 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. WebEx Meeting Number: 2339 936 2240 | Password: Tuesday

APPROVAL of MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes¹ as submitted; moved by Mrs. Monaco seconded by Mrs. Bond. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

APPROVAL of WARRANT

Motion was made by Mr. Murphy to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants² as submitted; moved by Mrs. Bond seconded by Mr. Foss. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - abstain, Mr. Murphy - abstain. Motion carried 3-0-2.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Parent and Fox Hill Teacher, Mr. Bill Lisano, participated virtually through WebEx to support the BEA (Burlington Educators' Association) bargaining team's continued insistence on maintaining flex time language for the elementary educators expressing they already go above and beyond the flex time working long hours before and after contracted school hours. He supports the bargaining team's continued demand for the reduction of the 187 day calendar and for the calendar to include early release days for professional development and teacher collaboration time. He supports the bargaining team's refusal to extend the school day by 15 minutes which is roughly six full school days added to the school calendar. He strongly supports the bargaining team's continued efforts in demanding a contract that respects educators and encourages the school committee bargaining team to respectfully engage in bargaining discussions with the BEA for future working conditions and student learning conditions.

Parent and Francis Wyman Special Education Teacher, Ms. Susan Shultz, participated virtually through WebEx expressing concern about the decline in teacher morale and lack of respect that people show for their profession and dedication both online and in person. She explained that the staff of Burlington Public Schools deserves respect; they are working without a contract

¹ December 14, 2021 School Committee Meeting Minutes

² Accounts Payable Warrants S18-22, S19-22, S20-22, S21-22, NO S22-22, S23-22, S24-22, S25-22, S26-22

and have given it their all under the circumstances and often at the expense of their own finances, emotions, safety and more. She strongly feels they deserve a fair contract in order to maintain the highly qualified teachers currently on staff and to recruit quality teachers in the future. She encourages the community to demonstrate appreciation for the teachers and nurses by urging the school committee to make a commitment to getting a fair contract signed.

Memorial Teacher, Ms. Marykathryn Conceison, participated virtually through WebEx to support the BEA bargaining team's effort to negotiate a fair contract that shows respect for the time and dedication Burlington educators put in every single day. She explained that flex time is a time where teachers have professional discretion over when and how they use part of the non-student-facing contracted hours. She explained that the success of the educational system has relied on teachers working well beyond contracted hours and provided specific examples of ways Burlington teachers are successfully serving students and families. Children deserve learning conditions where they are physically and emotionally safe and where they are heard and respected so they can learn. Teachers need to be heard and respected and have what is needed to be able to teach. She thanked the community for continued support and asked that they reach out to the school committee in support of the BEA's stand for a fair contract.

Pine Glen Teacher, Mrs. Amanda Hanafin, participated virtually through WebEx to support the BEA bargaining team and encourage the school committee to respectfully negotiate for a fair and equitable contract. She further explained flex time; Burlington teachers are contractually obligated to work 65 minutes outside of the student school day at the elementary level (aside from the 15 minutes before and after the student start and end time) and have flexibility with how they use that time. She is concerned about the elimination of flex time in their contract as she feels they will lose their professional discretion in how they see fit to use their time to best serve students. They are not asking for more time, just to keep the time they currently have built in the contract at the elementary level.

Memorial Teacher, Ms. Valerie Burns, participated virtually through WebEx to express how proud she is to work with talented and committed teachers who go above and beyond for their students. They are doing all that is asked of them no matter how many hours it takes; last year, students were taught remotely, hybrid, and in-person and they made sure it was as fun and engaging as possible. Teachers are facing exhaustion, burnout, and mental health issues as they struggle to keep going to fulfill student needs. Flex time is important to collaborate/consult with guidance, special education, or ELL for student needs and prepare for the next day's instruction. Everyday she sees teachers supporting students and making them feel valued and safe. She wants to see teachers supported and valued and is encouraging the school committee to continue to listen to the BEA bargaining team for a fair contract.

Francis Wyman Reading Specialist, Mrs. Donna Murphy, participated virtually through WebEx and explained that she has been on prior BEA negotiation teams and most recently in March 2020 when the world changed. She expressed her frustration with the agreement that was settled at that time noting teachers were made to feel like they were being unreasonable even though some issues were still unresolved. With over 35 years of teaching experience and certifications, she is made to feel ashamed for being at the top end of the salary scale and asking for a fair contract.

Burlington High School Teacher, Ms. Julia Carey, participated virtually through WebEx to express her frustration with the three minute limit on public participation and thought a common courtesy of an extension should be allowed.

In closing public participation, Ms. Simon commented that it is difficult to negotiate with teachers unions as it is their job to support the teachers and support the town, students and families; and those interests don't always align. Emotions and stakes are higher because of the pandemic we're living through; it's been a long time and it's not over. We will continue to negotiate in good faith with the bargaining team.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

A. Subcommittee SEPAC

Mrs. Monaco provided an update on behalf of SEPAC. They are holding the next caregiver chat on January 24th at 6:30 pm. It is for caregivers of children with special needs to talk about anything and everything. WebEx meeting link may be found on their [website](#) or on their Facebook page [@burlingtonsepac](#).

Transportation

Mrs. Bond provided an update from the December meeting. They discussed many items in regards to reducing the amount of cars in town including a parent ridesharing app for afterschool activities to help get children to and from activities they would not normally be able to participate in. Drivers would need to be CORI'd. Discussions will continue so everyone feels safe but we do want to support students and parents for afterschool enrichment activities.

The English Department will use the following proposed rubric for assessments:

Exceeding Expectations	A- (90%)	A (93%)	A+ (97%)	100%
Meeting Expectations	B- (80%)	B (83%)	B+ (88%)	
Approaching Expectations	C- (70%)	C (73%)	C+ (77%)	
Not Yet	D- (60%)	D (63%)	D+ (67%)	
Insufficient Evidence	F (50%)	No Submission (0%)		

Mr. Attubato explained that the Intern Program that is offered to seniors in their 4th quarter will remain the same as in years past; there was just some verbiage changed in the program of studies. The Dual Enrollment classes are a great program for both teachers and students. For teachers, staff get dual certification meaning they are high school teachers and adjunct professors at Middlesex Community College. For students, they can take the course for both high school and college credit. The cost per credit is \$92. Classes include: Psychology, Computer Science, Latin, and two new classes (US Government and AP Spanish). Mr. Attubato provided an update on MCAS Graduation Requirements. For current seniors, DESE has allowed the class to use MCAS approved appropriate courses which means they don't need to take and pass a test, they just need to be in an appropriate course. Current juniors do not need to take a science MCAS; they do need to take an approved MCAS science course. Juniors do need to take the MCAS english and math tests. Then for sophomores and beyond, it is pre-COVID, so they will need to take math, english, and science MCAS tests.

Dr. Conti recalled for school committee members that last year Shereen Tyrrell discussed the National Science Foundation grant she had written and achieved on behalf of Burlington High School for the computer science classes and confirmed with Mr. Sullivan that the new Data Visualization class is part of that grant. Ms. Simon was appreciative to the school administration for modifying and adjusting classes not only required by the state but also based on student interests and trying new things. In reviewing the program of studies, Ms. Simon commented that it reminded her that the Student Handbook for the high school will also be reviewed later in the year. Updates were made last year, but there are still some school committee policies that we need to take a closer look at under the categories of bullying and sexual harassment.

EQUITY

A. Equity Audit - Update

Mr. Ray Porch discussed how we have secured the firm and we are in the final stages of scheduling. The audit process will begin at the end of this month. He is excited to work with this firm as they are educators who have a wealth of experience at every level in conducting these types of examinations. Once the timeline is finalized, he will be reaching out to community focus groups to initiate conversations. In terms of our DEI student advisory group, we have one more information session planned, and they have all been well attended. Mr. Porch expressed how he and Mr. Larkin are thrilled to work with this group of students who pay close attention to everything that's happening around them and who bring exceptional leadership to the table. They are close to finalizing the committee of students who will represent the students of Burlington in the DEI work in leadership roles.

B. Let's Talk About It - Update

Mr. Ray Porch announced that the next Let's Talk About It session is tomorrow night, January 12 at 7:00 pm and invited all to attend as a place to have constructive conversation and try to problem solve in a coordinated effort. Link to register is on the [district website](#).

CULTURE + RELATIONSHIPS / THRIVING

A. COVID Update - Possible mitigation and protocol changes

Dr. Conti opened by thanking our Nurse Leader, Mrs. Barbara Conley and nursing staff as well as Director of Public Health, Mrs. Susan Lumenello as it has been a challenging couple of weeks. We will be modifying some of the protocols that we are currently using now because some of the protocols were designed for a different variant in a different time and are not necessarily effective or sustainable. He reviewed two key terms that are often confused:

- **Isolation** - Refers to someone who has been confirmed to have COVID
- **Quarantine** - Refers to someone who is a close contact of someone who has been confirmed to have COVID

FACTS: We returned to school on Tuesday, January 4th and had school on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday with a snow day on Friday, January 7th. For the week of January 3rd student absences were 519, 540, and 599 respectively; staff absences were 55, 79, and 86. For Monday and Tuesday this week, student absences were 472 and 490 respectively; staff absences were 52 and 50. For positive COVID cases the week of January 3rd, we had 190 cases and 60 of those were staff. For positive COVID cases so far for the week of January 10th, we have 95 cases and 19 staff.

Definition of Fully Vaccinated: Dr. Conti explained that there are two definitions of fully vaccinated. DESE's definition of fully vaccinated does not include a booster; CDC's definition of fully vaccinated does include a booster within 6 months of your 2nd shot. We believe in the near future, the two definitions will come together, but at this time when DESE says fully vaccinated, it is different from CDC.

Dr. Conti noted there are two DESE guidelines that are out of our control:

1. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is not allowing remote learning as an option.
2. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has extended its mandate that masks be worn in schools through **February 28, 2022**.

Test & Stay and Contact Tracing: Dr. Conti reviewed the modifications to the Test & Stay program. Test & Stay is linked to contact tracing. Contact tracing works with a limited number of cases to contact trace. When there are 190 new cases, contact tracing is impossible to do accurately; and therefore, the test and stay program becomes problematic. We want to modify the two, not eliminate, to make them more manageable. In working with the Board of Health, they felt that the test and stay was initiated too soon and may have contributed to an increased number of positive cases. Test & Stay will be initiated on Day 6, and we will also begin contact trace at 3 feet which should reduce the number of close contacts to make the Test & Stay program more viable. Dr. Conti reviewed key points in the following K-12 Burlington Protocols as determined by the CDC and DESE Guidance which is posted on the [district website](#) and will be in effect on **January 12th**:

Scenario	Column 1 My Child is Vaccinated	Column 2 My Child is Unvaccinated
	My Child is Vaccinated - Current DESE definition fully vaccinated is defined as two-weeks following the completion of the Pfizer or Moderna series or two-weeks following a single dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.	My Child Unvaccinated - Does not meet the current DESE definition for fully vaccinated in Column 1.
My child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher or meets the criteria for COVID testing.	Stays home from school until fever free without fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours and a negative COVID test.	Stays home from school until fever free without fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours and a negative COVID test.
My child goes to school feeling well and does not feel well during the day.*	Rapid tested if consent is on file and dismissed. If positive, isolation for 5 days and return to school on day 6 followed by 5 days of strict masking as long as symptoms have significantly improved. Note: If a student can't adhere to strict masking for 5 days then they should stay home for 10 days.	Rapid tested if consent is on file and dismissed. If positive, isolation for 5 days and return to school on day 6 followed by 5 days of strict masking as long as symptoms have significantly improved. Note: If a student can't adhere to strict masking for 5 days then they should stay home for 10 days.
A student in my child's class tests positive.	In Burlington Public Schools classrooms, we are spacing students at least three feet apart which is the distance that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education indicates is necessary for an individual to not be considered a close contact. However, because the current transmission rate is so high, we caution all individuals in a classroom where there was a positive individual to watch for symptoms.	In Burlington Public Schools classrooms, we are spacing students at least three feet apart which is the distance that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education indicates is necessary for an individual to not be considered a close contact. However, because the current transmission rate is so high, we caution all individuals in a classroom where there was a positive individual to watch for symptoms.
<i>Chart continued on page 6</i>		

Scenario	Column 1 My Child is Vaccinated	Column 2 My Child is Unvaccinated
A student in my child's class does not feel well and my child is determined to be a close contact.	Continue to come to school and continue the daily symptom checker	If determined to be a close contact, students are placed in quarantine for 5 days, students can test on Day 6 at school (with consent) at home, or at a medical facility. Positive initiates isolation. Negative, return to school.
Someone in my home is positive for COVID.	If there are no symptoms, students can attend school in a mask.	Student stays home in quarantine. This student's quarantine period does not start until the isolation period ends for the positive member of the household. Quarantine is five days followed by 5 days of strict masking. Students test on Day 6 at school (with consent) at home, or at a medical facility. Positive, begins isolation. Negative, return to school.
My child has a mild symptom - like nasal congestion - fits in the one symptom category.	Student attends school in a mask and is tested for COVID if consent is on file. If there is no consent, then the student would need to go home for 5 days and could return to school on day 6 followed by 5 days of strict masking as long as symptoms have resolved. Note: If a student can't adhere to strict masking for 5 days or is not eligible to be vaccinated (BECC), then they would stay home for 10 days.	Student attends school in a mask and is tested for COVID if consent is on file. If there is no consent, then the student would need to go home for 5 days and could return to school on day 6 followed by 5 days of strict masking as long as symptoms have resolved. Note: If a student can't adhere to strict masking for 5 days or is not eligible to be vaccinated (BECC), then they would stay home for 10 days.
My child has a sore throat - fits into the one symptom category that requires staying home.	Student stays home. Test for Strep throat and COVID.	Student stays home. Test for Strep throat and COVID.

If families have other specific situations that they think should be included in the chart or if they have questions on these scenarios, please send them to covidconcerns@bpsk12.org.

*Protocol Changes

- Positive BECC students should isolate for 10 days.
- Test and Stay can be utilized for quarantined students after Day 5. If negative, return to school with no additional days of testing - If positive, isolate for 5 days with a return with strict mask wearing on Day 6. Without strict mask wearing the student will need to remain out of school for another 5 days for a total of 10 days.
- Fully vaccinated staff can return on Day 6 of isolation if fever free and symptoms have significantly improved.

Counting the days in isolation or quarantine: The day you begin developing symptoms or test positive (whichever comes first) is technically not included in the five-day isolation period. It is Day 0. The same is true for a close contact in reference to the day they were in contact with someone who is positive with COVID. That day is Day 0. **Example:** I was exposed or tested positive on January 1st. My Day 1 is Jan 2 and my Day 6 is Jan 7th.

Rapid Antigen Test Kits: Dr. Conti explained that we want to utilize more testing and if we are going to require testing, we need to provide that testing to staff and families. The state has allowed districts to purchase tests using the state bid; however, we would have to purchase one pallet of tests (which is about 9,000) and the cost would be roughly \$90,000. He further explained that we would likely see more tests readily available from the state in the not too far future; but if we were to purchase a pallet, it would bridge the gap until the state is able to provide. See discussion on page 7.

CDC Guidelines: Mr. Larkin clarified that we are going by CDC guidelines. The CDC guidelines equate quarantine with a close contact. A quarantined individual can come back on day 6 and the CDC recommends (but does not require) a test. We are going to provide that test in school. If the student tests positive, we will keep them out for the full 10 days. For isolation with a positive Covid case, the CDC says out for 5 days and return on day 6; and they currently do not recommend a test.

Discussion: Mrs. Monaco received several questions from parents, but many were answered in the chart provided and posted on the [district website](#). In response to anyone who has had Covid recently, Nurse Leader Mrs. Barbara Conley replied that currently they would not have to be retested for 90 days. Mr. Larkin confirmed that we will continue to notify close contacts by email; close contacts by DESE definition is 3 feet or under and we will err on the side of caution if there is some uncertainty. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question about emails sent to classes for notification of positive cases, Mr. Larkin was informed by Susan Lumenello today that everyone, at this point, should consider themselves a close contact (depending on vaccination status) as there are many cases that are unreported. Mr. Foss commented that after reviewing the information a couple times and having the chart, it all makes sense and agrees that the current situation is unsustainable. In response to Mr. Foss's clarification about Test & Stay, Dr. Conti explained that we are delaying Test & Stay until Day 6 because the student, at that point, would either have developed symptoms or not have any symptoms. We felt we were sending students back to class too soon who could potentially still be shedding the virus. With it being very difficult to get test kits, Mr. Foss is in support of the idea to buy a pallet full of tests to make them available to families. He feels it would go a long way to encourage testing at home to lessen the burden at schools. In response to Ms. Simon's suggestion for parent volunteers in some capacity, Dr. Conti said it will be discussed; the next couple weeks will be challenging, but hopefully we will start to see a decline. Dr. Conti reiterated that we are using the DESE guideline for close contacts as well as the definition of fully vaccinated.

Dr. Conti explained that because we don't feel like we can ask all families equitably to home test, we feel at some point, we have to provide the tests. Mr. Cunha has reached out to the companies that were on the state procurement list and commented one company looked promising with the quickest response and availability; minimum purchase is one pallet which is 4,640 boxes or 9,280 tests (2 tests per box) for roughly \$81,600. Dr. Conti knows it is a lot of money, but feels it is a tool we need in the short term to help manage the bridge and support families. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question about family and staff distribution, Mr. Cunha responded that each student would receive 2.54 tests; if handed out to students and staff, each would receive 1.9. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question with regards to leftover COVID money to use for purchasing kits, Dr. Conti explained that money has been allocated and we would need to rewrite the grant if we wanted to use the funds for the kits. Ms. Simon supports the idea of getting the tests, and if it's not in the budget, try to find a way to fund it either as a school district or town wide. Mr. Riggs and Mr. Murphy concur with Mrs. Monaco to try to see if CARES Act monies could be used first for the kits before trying to request through the budget as that will require more discussion. Mrs. Bond agreed with a point Ms. Simon brought up and asked Mr. Cunha if there was a way to negotiate a delivery date as part of the purchase; the kits may not be useful to us if we cannot get them in a timely manner. In response, Mr. Cunha replied that it was first come, first serve; he could not make any guarantees on how long stock would last or how long it would take to arrive, but a minimum order was required as part of the state bid price. Mrs. Monaco commented that the governor held a press conference and spoke about how many tests would be coming to the state (24 million) and making schools a priority. Dr. Conti agrees, but does not feel we will get the tests from the state in time to help bridge the gap. We are not anxious to spend the money, but having tests available to send home for students and staff makes sense. While Dr. Conti does not see anyone on the committee against the purchase and is not requesting a vote, he does not want anyone to act surprised down the road if problems arise.

FACILITIES / FINANCE

A. Burlington High School - Standing Agenda Item

Mr. Cunha reported that he met with the company over the holiday break and will be meeting again this week to aggressively push for the financial information we need to move forward and make decisions. Ms. Simon expressed her frustration with the delay in receiving the information as they have been working on this report since May 2021.

B. Fox Hill School Building Committee - Standing Agenda Item

Dr. Conti, Mr. Cunha, and Mr. Murphy met with MSBA last Thursday to discuss the questions the Fox Hill School Building Committee had raised. The answers were not necessarily what was hoped for and Dr. Conti asked Mr. Murphy to share some feedback:

- They have set their room sizes at 23 students per classroom (which is higher than our common practice)
- Their enrollment projections show significant decrease in Burlington student population over the next 10 years
- Because of the enrollment projection, they feel we have too many elementary schools in town and would agree to participate with us in the construction of a new 480 student school which would replace both Fox Hill and Pine Glen
- If we are to take them up on that offer, we're essentially eliminating two old and overcrowded schools and would need to redistrict to fit elementary age students into 3 buildings

Dr. Conti reviewed the consolidated model provided by the MSBA that would take place in 7-8 years. They would close Pine Glen and would increase Francis Wyman population from 518 to 635 students, the new Fox Hill would be 480 students, and Memorial population would increase from 410 to 480 students. Rebuilding Fox Hill with MSBA as a partner with their current grant process would mean changing the entire elementary configuration. Dr. Conti commented that although there is nothing inherently wrong with the MSBA model, it just may not be for our community. This is the appropriate time in the process to talk about enrollment. Dr. Conti confirmed with Mr. Cunha that their board meeting was delayed; there's one in March and one in April and we could ask for an extension if we need to involve other committees.

In response to Mrs. Bond's question about miscommunication or discrepancies, Mr. Cunha confirmed that we double checked and no discrepancies were found in the information we provided to them for enrollment and number of classrooms. Mr. Cunha explained that future conversations would include the use of that space or additional spaces for different programming. To help clarify some confusion with how MSBA counts classrooms and classroom space for other programs, Mr. Cunha explained that the number of K-5 classrooms that we have enrolled is the number that is reported and MSBA has on file. Other classroom space for other programs is also noted to MSBA, but not included in the classroom count. Dr. Conti explained that we have roughly 97 elementary homerooms across our 4 elementary schools and in the MSBA model they're proposing, we should have 78 so that would be 19 fewer homerooms if all the kids were evenly distributed.

The school committee is proposing two warrant articles: (1) a warrant article that keeps us in the grant program with language required by the MSBA and then (2) a warrant article that allows us to continue to make progress on Fox Hill without the MSBA. While a vote is not necessary tonight, the next school building committee is January 18th and Town Meeting will be held on January 24th. Having been through the process before with Memorial and Marshall Simonds, Mrs. Monaco feels their process and modeling has changed and may not work with Burlington. She made it clear that the board has already voted unanimously to maintain 4 elementary schools. Mr. Murphy added that if we were to choose to forgo the MSBA partnership for the elementary level, that it does not preclude us from going back and trying to get support for the high school project. Ms. Simon is frustrated with the MSBA process so far as it seems like they are going to tell us how to run the district and change the values and priorities that we've set. She and others do not have confidence that their enrollment projections are correct as they were incorrect for Memorial.

Dr. Conti explained that MSBA makes a clear distinction of the definition of enrollment so they will build space for programming, but their definition of enrollment is how many classrooms we need for the core program. Dr. Conti reminded us that what they will ask Town Meeting to vote on is the total cost of the project, not just the town's contribution. Using Mr. Murphy's figure of \$40,000,000 to build a new school, Dr. Conti explained the town would have to approve expending \$40,000,000 and then the state will come in and reimburse. They have processes in place to protect the state from overbuilding. Dr. Conti suggested holding a special school committee meeting next Tuesday after the building committee meeting to review and discuss the warrant articles before Town Meeting. Ms. Simon does not want people to think that we are turning down free money; it's money that comes with lots of strings attached and involves changing our entire educational system in Burlington. Mr. Murphy explained that what we have on the table are two alternate possibilities depending on what route we wind up going. Like any warrant article, Town Meeting approves a warrant article, but the money is not spent if the purpose of the warrant article doesn't come to fruition. Mr. Murphy agrees with everything that has been said; and maybe we will have to walk away from the MSBA money on this project, but he does not feel comfortable doing so until he gets some feedback and input from the town's financial team. This may be a bigger hit than they had budgeted for, and he wants to make sure we can handle it.

Another factor, Dr. Conti noted and confirmed with Mr. Cunha, is that we have an active SOI (Statement of Interest) for Burlington High School submitted and the plan to notify us whether we're approved or not is in April possibly before May's Town Meeting. We clearly have a need for both Fox Hill and the High School and we do not want to forget about Pine Glen. The feedback Dr. Conti has received from MSBA with regards to the high school is that it is a very good project, and it is more than a repair. Given the cost to build a new high school, they would actually renovate. Ms. Simon requested that when there is a meeting with the budget people on the town side to discuss both the high school and the Fox Hill project.

In response to Mrs. Monaco's question with regards to the benefit of a postponement, Dr. Conti explained that we may know the status of the high school project by that time. He also noted that MSBA rarely approves two projects in the same community. The extension of time will give us a chance to have more conversations. Dr. Conti reiterated that no one is questioning the need for a new Fox Hill, it is about the pathway to get there. Mr. Cunha explained that our feasibility window is 270 days and on February 22nd is when our window ends. If we don't decide to accept or approve or negotiate with their enrollment numbers, we will need to apply for an extension in order to keep that process going.

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C. School Lunch Update - Update

Dr. Conti thanked the cafeteria workers as well as teachers and administration for being so flexible as we've moved elementary students back in the classrooms to eat and have made some adjustments at the middle school as well. Ms. Coscia confirmed for Dr. Conti that the federal government has expanded the reimbursements for school lunches; reimbursements have been higher than typical in the past few months.

D. May Town Meeting Warrant Articles - Approval

Dr. Conti requested that the School Committee postpone the vote on the warrant articles until after the Fox Hill School Building Committee next Tuesday, January 18th.

- Warrant Article 11⁴ - Fox Hill Feasibility Study MSBA the sum of \$1,500,000.00
- Warrant Article 12⁵ - Fox Hill Feasibility Study Non MSBA the sum TBD

E. Budget Calendar - Approval

Ms. Coscia reviewed the FY23 Budget Calendar⁶ with the School Committee. She explained that one special meeting was added on March 15th but still allows for four meetings to hear each department's presentation and then one additional meeting on April 26th for capital articles.

F. Revolving Account - Update

Ms. Coscia explained that there are no accounts currently in deficit on the Revolving Accounts Summary⁷. In response to Ms. Simon's questions on how the school lunch funds are reimbursed, Ms. Coscia has asked some of those to the State and she will have more information for the committee next month. Mr. Riggs commented that it was great to see the school lunch budget in the black. In response to Mr. Riggs's questions on expenditures, in particular for building rentals, Ms. Coscia explained that since we haven't been renting the buildings out as much, the majority of what is reported is from the summer custodial staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Murphy to adjourn at 10:17 pm; moved by Mr. Foss seconded by Mrs. Bond. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

SUBMITTED

Respectfully,



Kristen Downie
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 1/25/22
Date Approved: 1/25/22

⁴ Warrant Article 11 - Fox Hill Feasibility Study MSBA the sum of \$1,500,000.00 with backup from MSBA's prior projects

⁵ Warrant Article 12 - Fox Hill Feasibility Study Non MSBA the sum TBD with backup from MSBA's prior projects

⁶ BPS School Committee FY23 Budget Calendar

⁷ FY22 Revolving Fund Summary 12/31/2021