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By Town Clerk's Office at 5:19 pm, Feb 09, 2022

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 25, 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, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Patrick Larkin, Director of Operations Mr. Bob Cunha

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

**MEMBER(S) REMOTE:** Business Manager Ms. Nichole Coscia

**GUEST(S) PRESENT:**

**GUEST(S) REMOTE:** Parent and SEPAC Membership Chair Ms. Beth Colburn

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** BHS Teacher and Burlington parent Ms. Joyce Carey, BHS parent Mr. Douglas MacKinnon

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE:** Fox Hill parent Mrs. Keri Malm, Fox Hill parent Mr. Adam Senesi

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm 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: 2340 761 3878 | Password: tuesday

Mr. Murphy took a moment to congratulate Coach Jessica McCarthy and the Girls High School Track Team on their recent win in the MSTCA Div. 3 Track Relay Championship. ([BCAT News Story 1/31/22](#))

### APPROVAL of MINUTES

Motion was made by Mrs. Bond to approve the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes<sup>1</sup> as submitted; seconded by Mrs. Monaco. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Motion was made by Ms. Simon to approve the January 11, 2022 meeting minutes<sup>2</sup> with a change discussed on page 8; seconded by Mrs. Monaco. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes<sup>3</sup> as submitted; seconded by Mr. Foss. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - abstain. Motion carried 4-0-1.

### APPROVAL of WARRANT

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants<sup>4</sup> as submitted; seconded by Mr. Foss. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

<sup>1</sup> August 17, 2021 School Committee Meeting Minutes

<sup>2</sup> January 11, 2022 School Committee Meeting Minutes

<sup>3</sup> January 18, 2022 School Committee Meeting Minutes

<sup>4</sup> Accounts Payable Warrants S27-22, S28-22





with the federal dollars that have come to the state and was able to earmark \$300,000 for the City of Woburn and the Town of Burlington to collaborate. Dr. Conti read the following:

“Not less than \$300,000 shall be expended to the public school systems in the Town of Burlington and the City of Woburn to develop a pilot program in partnership with local primary care practices to deliver primary care health services to low-income children enrolled in public schools in the Town of Burlington and the City of Woburn; provided further that such pilot program shall include the delivery of primary care services while a child is in school provided further that the school, the public school systems in the Town of Burlington and the City of Woburn shall provide an annual report to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing that details the status of the pilot program which shall include but not be limited to the amount of money spent, the number of children served, the types of services provided, the barriers for children to receive such services, and any recommendations for sustaining such a program beyond the pilot program time period.”

Mr. Larkin explained that it comes down to our Equity Statement in supporting student needs. It is difficult to welcome them at registration and tell them to come back when they have proper health documentation. They cannot be in school without a physical and immunizations. We are trying to do more to support these students and their families to get them in school. Mrs. Lamprey works with many of these students and connected with Woburn as they have a lot of similar students who were missing school days because they do not have the basic health care met.

In response to Mrs. Monaco’s questions with regards to when the program will be in place and the plan, Mr. Larkin explained that it will take some time to coordinate efforts with local primary care and other community stakeholders. We are in the exploratory phase of seeing who can work with our students, costs, and services. Mr. Larkin would love our long-term vision to include a clinic located in either Woburn or Burlington Public Schools so that both could access it during the school day or after hours. Mr. Larkin is open to hearing suggestions, thoughts, ideas and connecting with the community to help solve this problem. He explained that we were very fortunate that a Woburn parent (Dr. Altman) reached out to us, who opened his practice after hours in Arlington, to allow us to take a group of students in need about a month ago. He emphasized that there is a lot of work to be done and the money will go a little bit of the way to get us started. In response to Mrs. Monaco’s question with regards to location, Mr. Larkin explained that we would want something local either in Burlington or Woburn as transportation is one of the significant problems that families struggle with. We are reaching out to other communities such as Gloucester and Malden and making connections to see what will work for Burlington and Woburn to meet the needs of students. Ms. Simon is excited to hear about the program and in response to her question with regards to the funds, Dr. Conti explained that the ARPA funds are to be used as seed money to get us started and then we would look into what is sustainable; Ms. Coscia added that the one-time funds are available to be spent through 2027. It is a growing need in our community and we need to make sure it gets addressed. Dr. Conti explained an idea of possibly using some space at the Simon Mall in Burlington and partnering with the Simon Youth Foundation as it is a good location. Dr. Conti noted that one of our challenges in Massachusetts is that our districts are relatively small, but by partnering with neighboring districts, we can create the populations needed to build sustainable programs. In response to the committee’s ideas, Dr. Conti explained that they are open to any suggestion at this time as there is a lot of planning to do in conjunction with the City of Woburn. Mr. Murphy thanked Senator Friedman for her assistance. ([BCAT News Story 1/27/22](#))

### CULTURE + RELATIONSHIPS / THRIVING

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#### A. COVID Update - Ending contact tracing and test and stay

Dr. Conti opened the discussion by re-reading the 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 everyday. This begins with kindness and valuing the humanity of every child or individual.”

Mr. Larkin reviewed the new COVID protocols from Governor Baker’s and DESE Commissioner Riley’s press conference on Tuesday, January 18th. We are happy that the protocols are lightening up; we’re able to stop contact tracing at this point and keep kids in school. It’s almost like the “old days”; if your child is sick, please keep them at home.

#### At-Home Testing Policy

So far, we have had about 250 staff members opt-in and take home kits will be distributed this week for staff to start testing on Monday, January 31st. For families, we have had about 400 families opt-in and take home kits will be distributed next week for testing to start on Monday, February 7th. ([BCAT News Story 1/26/22](#))



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they don't have the funding and there is another community with a greater need based on their rubric, the high school project will not get approved. MSBA emphasized for us to stay in the grant program for the Fox Hill project. Mr. Murphy agreed with Dr. Conti; he explained that they did not give any indication that the high school approval was right around the corner and if we walk away from the Fox Hill grant now, there is no guarantee that we're going to get the high school and we would be without MSBA support for either project. Mr. Murphy feels it would be wise for us to stay with the grant program for now and continue through our current Eligibility Phase; MSBA voted to extend us 30 days beyond the 270 date which brings us into March. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question, Mr. Cunha explained that the 30 day extension will allow us the time needed to review the enrollment data and have Warrant Article #11 on February's Town Meeting agenda to present to the MSBA board meeting in March. We will not have an answer on the high school project until April they estimated. Ms. Simon clarified that the Fox Hill Building Committee and School Committee voted to withdraw Article #12 and explained that the \$1.5 million request on Warrant Article #11 allows us to move to the next phase with MSBA and the Fox Hill project. Ms. Simon noted that local engineer, Mr. Ernie Zabalotny, better described this request as a preliminary design and engineering cost study. If the money does not all get spent, Mr. Cunha explained that this is a multi-year process; the OPM (Owner's Project Manager) that will go to bid and we ultimately hire will stay on through the completion of the project. Any fees not spent during the feasibility study can be rolled into future expenses through the MSBA process. While Mrs. Monaco agrees with the direction that Dr. Conti and Mr. Murphy are going in, she remains concerned about the MSBA enrollment projection.

### C. BSAA Stipend Cleanup

Dr. Conti discussed the stipends for the BSAA (Burlington Schools Administrators Association) Home Schooling Coordinator (\$1,250.00) and Scheduling Coordinator (\$5,000.00). These stipends were approved for one year during the December 11, 2019 School Committee meeting. These stipends were supposed to be addressed again at a later meeting; we made an adjustment to the contract, but never had the second meeting. Dr. Conti confirmed for Ms. Simon that these two stipends are ongoing in the contract.

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the BSAA Home Schooling Coordinator and Scheduling Coordinator stipends as discussed; seconded by Mrs. Bond. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### Other Discussion:

In response to Mrs. Monaco's question with regards to prom, Dr. Conti explained that Mr. Sullivan had shared with parents that a prom is scheduled at the Danversport Yacht Club for Juniors and Seniors. Students will be bound by the Covid mitigations of either the Town of Danvers or the yacht club itself. If things change and there are limitations on the number of people who could gather, Mr. Sullivan said they would prioritize Seniors.

In response to Mrs. Monaco's request for an overview of curriculum (specifically social studies at the elementary level), Mr. Larkin explained that coaches are modeling lessons that fall within the curriculum frameworks. If there is a specific question or concern about a lesson, he encourages parents to call the teacher or school principal for further discussion. He further explained that equity work is built into every curriculum area. Dr. Conti echoed Mr. Larkin explaining that parents can talk to their child's teacher; we trust our teachers to create a curriculum that's aligned with the standards and built on the foundation of equity.

### ADJOURNMENT

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Motion was made by Mrs. Bond to adjourn at 8:40 pm; seconded by Mr. Foss.  
Mrs. Monaco - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Murphy - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

### SUBMITTED

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Respectfully,



Kristen Downie  
Recording Secretary

Date Submitted: 2/8/22

Date Approved: 2/8/22