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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, April 26, 2022

TIME: 7:00 pm

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

ATTENDEES

MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Chair Mrs. Katherine Bond, Vice Chair Mr. Carl Foss, Mrs. Christine Monaco, Ms. Martha Simon, Mrs. Melissa Massardo, 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: MSMS Principal Ms. Cari Perchase, MSMS Latin Teacher Mr. John Walsh, BHS Computer Science Teacher Ms. Shereen Tyrell, Student Information Office Director Mrs. Robyn Miliano

GUEST(S) REMOTE: Ways & Means Member Mr. Roger Riggs

PUBLIC PRESENT:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REMOTE: BEA Member Ms. Diana Marcus

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bond called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm 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. WebEx Meeting Number: 2344 467 5996 | Password: Tuesday

APPROVAL of WARRANT

Motion was made by Mrs. Monaco to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant¹ as submitted; seconded by Mr. Foss. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Massardo - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION / REPORTS

A. Subcommittee

Mr. Foss announced that there will be a town wide DEI subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, April 27 @ 6:00 pm. It will be a virtual meeting and all are welcome. Meeting agenda may be found on the town website.

B. Ways & Means

Dr. Conti and Mr. Riggs reviewed upcoming meeting dates:

- Special Session - Ways & Means School Subcommittee
May 3, 5:30 - 6:30 pm in the School Committee Room/WebEx
- Special Session - Capital Budget Meeting
May 3, 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room
- Special Session - Ways & Means Meeting
May 4, 7:00 pm - Town Hall Main Conference Room/WebEx
- Town Meeting
May 9, 7:30 pm

FY23 BUDGET

A. Public Hearing

Dr. Conti opened the discussion by answering questions from school committee members ahead of the public hearing. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question with regards to what is staying in the budget and what is being removed since the budget was over guideline, Dr. Conti responded that we are keeping approximately \$420,000 in for new salaries; the vote will be for the dollar amount and then we will work within the guidelines for that amount.

¹ Accounts Payable Warrant S41-22

hardware and software or to act in any other manner in relation thereto.

Mr. Cunha explained that many schools in Massachusetts have a visitor control access system; [SchoolPass](#) is a popular one. A kiosk would be at each school building to scan or enter visitor information and print a label with a visitor photo.

Mr. Foss moved to approve warrant article 7-23 Visitor Control Access System in the amount of \$25,000; seconded by Ms. Simon. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Massardo - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

In response to Ms. Simon's inquiry, Mr. Cunha explained that we are continuing to replace the water bubblers from two open warrant articles. We had shut the bubblers down for a period of time during the pandemic and there has been a backlog of ordering. In response to Mrs. Monaco's question on the filters, Mr. Cunha explained that the current filters do not filter PFAS. The town is working on their full system to filter PFAS throughout our water treatment plants which would then feed our schools.

LEARNING

A. National Latin Exam

Ms. Cari Purchase thanked and introduced Mr. John Walsh to discuss the National Latin Exam and winners³. Mr. Walsh recognized the hard work of his students and explained that the National Latin Exam is a 40 question multiple choice test that tests the students knowledge on vocabulary, grammar, Roman history and culture, and reading comprehension. The Exam is given annually to Latin students across the United States and around the world.

Mr. Walsh congratulated and named the eighth grade students and their awards (30 out of 40 points):

Silver Medals and Maxima Cum Laude Awards:

- Aarushi Dayma - 37
- Chris Peckham - 37
- Cole Waisnor - 36
- Sloane Wilson - 36
- Dan Agati - 35
- Afsa Khalifa - 35

Magna Cum Laude Awards:

- Douglas Brindle - 33
- Logan DaGraca - 33
- Leo Emerson - 33
- Ava Preston - 33

Cum Laude Awards:

- Chase Jackman - 32
- Nora Ahmed - 31
- Tuyen Nguyen - 31

So-Close-They-Can-Almost-Taste-It Awards:

- Brenton Chu - 30
- Andy Maniscalco - 30
- Kayla Mackie - 30
- James Sarkissian - 30

Mr. Walsh also congratulated BHS students on their scores and they are listed on the [BHS world language department blog](#). Dr. Conti thanked Mr. Walsh and particularly likes the collaboration between the middle and high school with Mr. Stringer to keep the kids interested. The school committee offered congratulations to students.

B. Innovation Pathways Grant

Dr. Conti introduced Ms. Tyrell, BHS computer science teacher who discussed and presented the Computer Science Pathway⁴. She explained that one of the things they try to do with Innovation Pathways is to emphasize to the kids that technology is a tool. It's about communicating, creating, and collaborating. Ms. Tyrell continued to explain the three National Science Foundation grant funded programs that we're involved in:

³ NLE Awards - 2022

⁴ CS Pathway Google Presentation

FACILITIES / FINANCE

A. Fox Hill School Building Committee - Standing Agenda Item

Dr. Conti discussed that there is a MSBA Board Meeting at 10:00 am on April 27th. With the school committee's permission, Dr. Conti will speak on behalf of the Town of Burlington at the meeting. Later in the same day at 1:00 pm, there is a Feasibility Orientation meeting which will review the MSBA procedures moving forward. If all goes well at the MSBA Board Meeting and after the Town Meeting, we can schedule a School Building Committee Meeting to go over the next phase. Dr. Conti and/or Mr. Cunha will forward Mrs. Massardo a link to the meeting to pre-register to be able to attend. In response to Ms. Simon's request, Dr. Conti will reach out to MSBA Project Coordinator Ms. Brittany Gomes as to how to appoint Mrs. Massardo to the School Building Committee and re-appoint a new Chair.

B. BHS Update - Standing Agenda Item

Mr. Cunha discussed the possibility of forming a School Building Committee for the High School as well as with the School Committee's support to submit a Statement of Interest for 2023. Mr. Cunha attended the Select Board's meeting last night (April 25th) and they voted on the resolution. Dr. Conti read the following:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 26, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Burlington, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 19, 2022 for the Burlington High School located at 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts 01803 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future; Priority #5, Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and Priority #7, Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements. The Specific project will update classrooms and replace science labs to be a more effective learning environment, replace aged out heating and ventilation / cooling equipment that is original construction (1971), replace interior building components (lockers, lighting, fire alarm, etc.), and provide updated security improvements which will extend the life of the existing facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion was made by Ms. Simon to support the resolution as read by Dr. Conti; seconded by Mrs. Massardo. Mrs. Monaco - aye, Ms. Simon - aye, Mr. Foss - aye, Mrs. Massardo - aye, Mrs. Bond - aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Mr. Cunha will submit the resolution as read and voted on public record by April 30th.

Ms. Simon requested that, at a future meeting, a proposal be made to establish a School Building Committee for the high school project.

C. Safe Routes to School Update

Mr. Cunha reported no new updates, but he has been in communication with Ms. Judy Crocker to finalize dates for arrival and dismissal observations at Memorial and Marshall Simonds. He has also discussed a time frame to send a transportation survey out to families with Ms. Crocker.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Rezoning Avalon Apartments

Dr. Conti discussed the rebalancing of the elementary attendance zones. There was a parent meeting held on Thursday, April 13th at the middle school where both Mr. Rosenblatt and Mr. Lyons were in attendance. Our objective is to have Fox Hill return to a four homeroom school (K-5) and Pine Glen to return to a three homeroom school (K-5). Dr. Conti and Mrs. Miliano explained the enrollment⁵ at both Fox Hill and Pine Glen. The chart provided information on homeroom sizes at all grade levels at both schools; moving students from the Avalon apartment complex from Fox Hill to Pine Glen. Dr. Conti feels that this move will allow us to not make any other changes until the new Fox Hill is built when we would really need to look at all four elementary schools and look at our elementary programming town wide. Dr. Conti explained that current fourth graders at Fox Hill would be allowed to remain for fifth grade to finish their elementary career at Fox Hill with the

⁵ FH-PG Comparisons 4/25/2022

