

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 2009**

1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Reported By: Janice Peterson

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7:02 PM

Adjourned: 11:01 PM

Attending: Chair Debra Stockwell, Vice Chair Mary Karmozyn, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Paul Couture, Joan Cote, Raymond Trinque, (Scott Moore arrived at 7:06 PM)

Absent: None

2. Consent Agenda

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. R. Trinque (M), D. Cardon (S) to approve the minutes of the minutes of the February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting. J. Cote expressed concern that her item on Electronic Mailing to the School Committee had been referred to the Policy Sub-Committee instead of being tabled as she had been assured it would be. M. Karmozyn noted the following corrections to page 5: Sick Bank should read "30 days"; P. Couture seconded the motion to forward the budget for 2010 to the Budget Board. VOTE: Approved as amended 6-0-1 (J. Cote recusing due to absence from meeting.)

P. Couture (M), D. Cardon (S) to approve the warrant for expenditures and payrolls for February 2009 in the amount of \$2,337,70.21. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to award the bid for copy machine leases to the low bidder, Blackstone Valley Office Supply. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to open the Student Transportation item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Superintendent Welford reported an additional company, Dattco, had come forward with a substantially lower price than the others when the bid was advertised for the third time; references have been checked extensively; the contract would provide all new buses in the district. In a meeting with the C.O.O., the company indicated they would pursue leasing the Nelson Garage property from First Student so the buses would be housed and registered in Burrillville. The Superintendent noted the School Department will explore the possibility of purchasing the diesel fuel directly (as Smithfield does) which would lower the bid price further because municipalities are not subject to the state and federal taxes the bus companies are. Mr. Wilson introduced Dattco's C.O.O., Cliff Gibson, who reported it is the company's desire to hire all of the current bus drivers. Superintendent Welford clarified the award is for both regular and special transportation with the proviso that if the school department is required to participate in a statewide special education program, it would be able to do so. R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to award a three-year bid award in the amount of \$6,171,071.85 for student transportation to Dattco, New Britain, CT. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), D. Cardon (S) to open the Job Descriptions for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Responding to Committee questions, the Superintendent noted the Title I Family Involvement Coordinator would be housed in a Title I school and would focus on Title I eligible students and families; the Volunteer Parent Coordinator would deal with all school functions at all five schools, if needed. J. Cote and R. Trinque objected to the pay rate and amount of time allowed for the Volunteer Parent Coordinator; the Superintendent suggested the Committee approve the responsibilities of the position and the hours and salary would be revisited prior to filling the positions. R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to table the item. VOTE: Failed 3-4 (Committee Chair Stockwell, M. Karmozyn, P. Couture and D. Cardon opposing.)

M. Karmozyn (M), D. Cardon (S) to approve the responsibilities and duties of the Volunteer Parent Coordinator Job Description. VOTE: Approved 4-3 (R. Trinque, J. Cote and S. Moore opposing.)

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the Job Description for Title I Involvement Coordinator. Responding to J. Cote's question, grant funding budgeted for the current school year is \$4,800. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

D. Cardon (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the Department Head Job Description item. VOTE: Approved 7-0. S. Moore said he was pleased with the recommendation of one less teaching period, suggested a checklist or log be used by the Department Heads, and questioned the term "assume or assign mentoring responsibilities"; Superintendent suggested replacing with "Delegate." D. Cardon (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the Department Leader Job Descriptions as amended. VOTE: Approved 6-1 (R. Trinque opposing).

3. Public Comment

- Rich Goudreau, BHS teacher, commented he was happy to hear the subject of Department Chairs is being addressed, but does not think covering more than one department is prudent.
- Rebecca Flori, SFE teacher, commented on the need for a district-wide initiative on reading, noting that there has no cross-district professional development in elementary reading instruction since 1998.
- Michelle Badessa, Glendale, requested information on the following issues: (1) 6th graders at BMS are required to pay \$5 for a gym lock; at the end of grade 8, they turn in the lock and a check is supposed to be mailed out but it's not received. How has this money been spent over the past five years? (2) Distributed a letter from the Senior Class Advisor received on 2/17/09 and the relevant portion of the Student Handbook to the Committee. Asked what class dues cover, where the surplus goes, why there is a penalty for late payment, and why the principal made an AlertNow call on the subject. The Superintendent indicated he had asked Mr. Boulé to make the call. R. Trinque requested the Superintendent respond to Mrs. Badessa and provide the information to the Committee.

4. Move to Executive Session

At 7:51 PM, Committee Chair Stockwell (M), D. Cardon (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining. The Committee was polled. VOTE: Approved 6-1 (R. Trinque opposing.)

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:59 PM. Committee Chair Stockwell announced no votes were taken in Executive Session.

D. Cardon (M), R. Trinque (S) to move to Item 11A, Approval of AFSCME Contract. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

Approval of AFSCME Contract

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Committee Chair Stockwell (M), P. Couture (S) to approve the agreement between the Burrillville School Committee and AFSCME Local 2231, from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. VOTE: Approved 6-0-1 (R. Trinque recusing from the vote).

Committee Chair Stockwell stated, for the record:

"A member of this body communicated to a member of the Burrillville Town Council conditions of the tentative agreement between the Burrillville School Committee and AFSCME at a function in town and parts of the agreement were made public at a Town Council meeting on March 4, 2009 by the Town Council member before this body discussed or voted on this agreement. Please be advised that parts of this agreement were released by a School Committee member who was not a member of the negotiating team and who was not the appointed spokesperson being myself or Senator John Tassoni."

5. Personnel

M. Karmozyn (M), D. Cardon (S) to appoint the following: Thomas Capparella*, Head Tennis, \$1,735; Kolby Goryl*, Assistant Tennis, Volunteer; Jeff Moore*, Golf, \$1,000. (* pending receipt of appropriate paperwork.) VOTE: Approved 7-0.

Transfer

D. Cardon (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the temporary transfer of Vincent O'Rourke from 2nd Shift Custodian, ATL, to 1st Shift Custodian, SFE, effective 3/11/09. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

Retirement

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to accept, with regret, the retirement of Judith McLaren, Gr. 2, W. L. Callahan, no earlier than 4/1/09 and no later than the end of the 2008-09 school year. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

Coaching Appointments

D. Cardon (M), S. Moore (S) to appoint Charles Takita*, Girls' Outdoor Track Advisor, Volunteer. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

6. Old Business

A. FY09 Budget Update

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Superintendent Welford explained the rationale for the recommended line item transfers and noted the overtime line item was due to both the lead paint removal at Levy and snowplowing. Committee Chair Stockwell (M), R. Trinke (S) to approve the transfer of \$52,780 from the heating oil line item to the following: \$10,000 – Snow Removal, \$20,000 Building Repair, \$2,780 Software, \$15,000 Supplies and \$5,000 – Maintenance/Custodial Overtime. M. Karmozyn asked if we are required to keep SFE and BMS cleared of snow at all times since they are designated emergency shelters; the Superintendent indicated he believe it was. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

A point of order, R. Trinke stated the information packet provided to the Committee is public information unless it is stamped "Confidential". Committee Chair Stockwell clarified that the information in question had been part of a confidential memo.

B. Ratification of 2020 Budget

R. Trinke (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. The Superintendent called attention to the updated budget (dated 3/10/09) reflects new costs of the new bus transportation contract. D. Cardon (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to ratify the 2010 budget as presented last month (dated 3/3/09) and a copy of the updated budget (dated 3/10/09) be sent to the Budget Board. Superintendent Welford suggested the Committee adopt the amended budget and forward it to the Budget Board. D. Cardon accepted as a friendly amendment. VOTE: Approved 6-1 (R. Trinke opposing). Responding to R. Trinke, the Superintendent stated the updated budget reflects the new transportation costs and bringing back the Student Assistance program; the new figure is \$33,000 under the tax cap.

C. School Organization Study Committee

D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to open discussion on the item. VOTE: Approved 7-0. R. Trinke commented that the inclusion of one support staff member is a start. J. Cote suggested including representation from the high school. D. Cardon suggested having a core committee bring findings to the full committee, rather than having one large group. R. Trinke (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve as presented. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

D. Special Education Staffing Policy – 2nd Reading

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to approve of and dispense with the second reading of the Policy Related to Personnel Management (*Special Education Staffing.*) VOTE: Approved 7-0.

7. Superintendent's Report

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to open the Superintendent' Report for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. The Superintendent called highlighted the following:

- Enrollments have been relatively consistent over the past two months throughout the district.
- Crosswalking the curricula at the High School: Math is completed; English is almost complete; Science will be the next area addressed. The principal will now submit samples to the state to determine if the work meets their standards.
- The asbestos abatement at Levy is completed; the custodians are commended for working around the affected area and putting things back in order in a limited timeframe.
- Called attention to correspondence indicating Burrillville's additional allocation of Title I and IDEA funds (on paper) under the stimulus package over two years is \$934,000. Concern the Governor will reduce aid by that amount. RI is the only state that does not have a funding formula for education. R. Trinque suggested contacting legislators.
- Commended Ashley Joly, BHS student, for being selected to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine; will request financial support at next month's meeting and send a letter on behalf of the School Committee.
- Commended Nathan Desautels, BHS student, for receiving a state level Certificate for Excellence from the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program. Request a letter be sent on behalf of the Committee.

In reference to #6 of the Superintendent's Report, R. Trinque said he wished to be removed from the list to receive all postings. M. Karmozyn requested, with Committee approval, having the Superintendent send a letter of appreciation to Alan Shawn Feinstein for his continued generosity to the schools on behalf of the School Committee and district. J. Cote commented she does not think it's appropriate to receive job postings and considers it micro-managing: [M. Karmozyn disagreed saying it's a point of information and there is no involvement other than spots that are potentially open.](#) —M. Karmozyn (M), R. Trinque (S) to receive and file the Superintendent's Report. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

8. Administrators' Reports

P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to receive and file the Administrators' Reports. VOTE: Approved 4-3 (J. Cote, S. Moore, and R. Trinque opposing). J. Cote stated that since the administrators were present it would be a good opportunity to ask questions. M. Karmozyn indicated the motion to receive and file was due to the scheduled presentations and length of the meeting and thanked the administrators for their reports. Point of clarification – R. Trinque notes the vote to receive and file and yet a member makes a comment; M. Karmozyn withdraws her comment.

9. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

The Policy Sub-Committee scheduled their next meeting for Wednesday, April 22nd, at 6:00 PM in the Administration Office; the meeting will be posted.

10. Correspondence/Communications

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to receive and file correspondence from Christine Fasano and the Superintendent's response. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

R. Trinque (M), P. Couture (S) to receive and file correspondence from NRIC for the Annual Meeting. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Committee Chair Stockwell, S. Moore, R. Trinque, M. Karmozyn, and J. Cote indicated they would attend the March 18th meeting.

Superintendent Welford reported Isabella Lee had submitted her Curriculum Coordinator's report but was not in attendance due to having broken her leg.

11. New Business

B. NECAP Report Presentation

R. Trinque (M), D. Cardon (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0. Principals from Steere Farm, Callahan, Middle School and High School presented an overview of NECAP testing and compared results over the past three years (two at the high school level). R. Trinque suggested using staff to provide professional development. S. Moore commented that the more students write, the better they write. Superintendent Welford noted the problem with an annual assessment is it's administered in the fall and results come in the spring when they're of little use; the NWEA testing that was implemented this year allows for assessment in the fall, a midyear snapshot, and testing again in the spring which will enable teachers to track students throughout the year, ("Did they grow a year in a year?") This information can guide instruction for flexible grouping of students. Delaware is preparing to adopt NWEA as the state's assessment instrument next year. No action required.

C. Website Demonstration

P. Barrette explained the current district website is difficult to update, does not meet current ADA requirements, and requires a specific software program. Goals of the new website are (1) meet ADA requirements, (2) farm out the responsibility of content creation, (3) eliminate the need for special software. The proposed site would employ a content management system whereby several individuals can update pages and revisions are tracked in a database. Mr. Barrette noted the proposed website appears streamlined, is easy to navigate, has information grouped (e.g., schools, information for parents), and has a "search" feature. Mr. Barrette demonstrated the ease with which a person authorized to update the website can post information, explained the use of blogs to disseminate information, and cautioned publishing staff e-mail addresses because they are often harvested for spreading "spam". The Superintendent indicated another goal is to provide paperless announcements for parents. No action required.

D. Report of Reading Consultants

The Superintendent called attention to page 3 of the report, highlighting the committee to research a phonics program/pilot. No action required.

12. Committee Comments Regarding Agenda Items

None

13. Move To Executive Session

At 10:10 PM, Committee Chair Stockwell (M), D. Cardon (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2), Personnel and Collective Bargaining. The Committee was polled. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

14. Reconvene in Open Session

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 10:58 PM. Committee Chair Stockwell announced one vote was taken in Executive Session: to deny Grievance 434-NS was approved 7-0.

R. Trinque (M), S. Moore (S) to accept Superintendent Welford's request to send a letter of termination to an employee. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

15. Adjournment

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 PM.

Clerk of the Committee