

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2008**

1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Reported By: Janice Peterson

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7:00 PM

Adjourned: 9:42 PM

Attending: Vice Chair Raymond Trinque, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Joan Cote, Paul Couture

Absent: Committee Chair Mary Karmozyn (Excused), Peter Lambert (Excused), Scott Moore (Excused), Student Representative Keith Chamberland (Excused)

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice Chair Trinque requested the audience remain standing for a moment of silence in remembrance of George Binns, father of Town Council President Nancy Binns.

2. Consent Agenda

J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S), to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. J. Cote requested the following corrections to the minutes: 12/11/07 Regular Meeting, page 3, Administrators' Reports, "...commended Susan Moore"; 12/11/07 Executive Session, page 1, "Colonel Gannon". 12/11/07 Regular Meeting, page 1, first paragraph, D. Cardon requested inserting, "Because of Committee comments/questions, the Chair clarified that bids..."

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to approve the Consent Agenda with the amended minutes.

J. Cote asked if there is a way to separate out the rink expenses on the warrant; R. Kimatian will include the totals page beginning next month. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Personnel

Appointments

D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to appoint Lisa Simpson, Job Coach, BHS, effective 1/9/08, at the rate of \$14/hr. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to appoint the following coaches for the 2007-08 year: Larry Guglietta, Asst. Wrestling Coach, BMS, Volunteer; David Farrell, Asst. Boys' Hockey Coach, BHS, Volunteer. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Retirement

J. Cote (M), D. Cardon (S), to accept the retirement of Frances Gordon, Media Specialist, BHS, effective 2/29/08, with regret and gratitude for her years of service. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Resignation

D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to accept the resignation of Kim Ayotte, Language Arts, BMS, effective 12/4/07. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

5. Old Business

A. FY08 Budget Update

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. The Superintendent reported the District is still solvent. No action required.

B. Munis Update

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to open discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford reported he has had a long, detailed, discussions with the Town Manager; they are in the process of transferring the data to the new system; users from both the Town and School Department should be practicing/training on the new system. The infrastructure is in place; some adjustments (e.g., printers) still need to be made, but Mr. Wood has assured a cutover to the new system no later than the end of February. An item to rescind a vote on the purchase of a Munis system will be put on the February agenda.

C. Budget Schedule

J. Cote noted that the schedule provided included information besides budget meetings. Superintendent Welford highlighted the budget items and assured the members that the January 14 meeting with the Town Council is strictly informational. A meeting with administrators (in place of a Saturday meeting) is scheduled for January 30th at 6:00, tentative approval of budget work to date will be put on the February agenda; presentation to Budget Board is scheduled for February 14th. It is expected that the Budget Subcommittee will continue to meet following the 2/14 presentation. Administrators meet weekly. D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to receive and file the schedule. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

D. Food Service Audit

J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. The Superintendent called attention to information included in his report regarding the Food Service Audit and highlighted the Mary Jo Cutler's credentials. In response to Committee questions Superintendent Welford reported that Cutler Associates is a contracted service; public input is not being sought because the review is concentrating on operational procedures, hygiene, and management; consultants brought in by Cutler Associates are included in the proposal; the contract will read "not to exceed \$5,000". No action required.

E. Rink Financial Report

R. Kimatian reported the rink is expected to run a \$74,000 deficit this year; revenues used to pay off a Town loan in past years are now depleted. The School Department will reflect the shortfall as an account receivable from the rink. In response to questions, the Superintendent reported approximately six applications for Rink Manager have been received; he is planning to contact Jim Moran (Personnel Board) and hopes to review applications within the next few weeks. A list of employees with schedules will be provided next month. Contract for the snack bar is in place; Department of Health will be inspecting tomorrow. No bids were received for the Pro Shop; interested parties will be solicited. The snow plowing contractor is usually responsible for clearing the walkway to the rink; Bill Lima will monitor the situation. No action required.

6. Superintendent's Report

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford reported on testimony before the Board of Regents regarding collective bargaining; attendees are frustrated by the situation, not angry. Among suggestions brought forward were binding arbitration for financial items; Tim Duffy strongly opposes the idea. Responding to J. Cote, the Superintendent indicated the next step would be developing an action plan; on the next agenda are increasing certification fees and the process of applying, looking at graduation requirements. The State is proposing to develop an RFP for statewide transportation of special education and non-public school students beginning in September 2008; local aid would be reduced. Enrollments are holding stable; grades 2 and 4 at WLC and grade 5 at SFE are close to capacity; may need to add another half-day session in preschool. P. Couture (M), J. Cote (S) to receive and file the Superintendent's Report. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

7. Administrators' Reports

D. Cardon (M), J. Cote (S) to open the Administrators' Reports for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. P. Couture and J. Cote congratulated Chuck Boucher for receiving a \$15,000 grant (2nd year). D. Cardon commended the teaching staff for encouraging learning and caring for each other and those in need and commented on the "chocolate bandit" at SFE. J. Cote commended Bill Lima for his report and the work he has been doing at the rink; the ATL nutrition newsletter, \$8,000 received from Feinstein at SFE, the BMS school newspaper. Responding to questions, P. Barrette

reported there is no charge for disposal/recycling though Green Tech Assets; another “sweep” will be done in late spring. R. Trinique commented on useful information contained in the conference follow-ups, commended all schools that have brought money into the district in the past few months, and requested L. Sullivan read her \$10,000 poem. Responding to J. Cote, the Superintendent reported that, according to R. Boulé, exit interviews are conducted by one of the three administrators when a student withdraws from school. D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to receive and file the Administrators’ Reports. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

8. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

None

9. Correspondence/Communications

None

10. New Business

A. District/High School Classification

P. Couture (M), D. Cardon (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford distributed correspondence from RIDE and provided background information on the topic. This year high schools are changing from NSRE testing (administered last spring) to NECAP testing (administered in the fall); NSRE results were reported last week. There are as many as 37 different indicators at the high school level to be measured against: two are overall school level performance in English/Language Arts and Mathematics; there are sub-group performance in English/Language Arts and Mathematics; there are also 8 different sub-groups (i.e., students with IEPs, students in LEP programs, students receiving free/reduced lunch, Hispanic, Black, etc.). In Burrillville, there are 13 categories we’re measured against; this is the third year we’ve made adequate yearly progress (AYP) in 12 of 13 (missed on students with IEPs in English/Language Arts in 2004-05; missed on graduation rate in 2005-06; missed on students with IEPs in English/Language Arts); the Middle School missed the AYP for students with IEPs, thus the district has been placed on a watch list. If a district does not meet AYP at two levels (elementary, middle, high school) for two years, or at least 40% of the schools are in need of improvement, you are classified as a district in need of improvement; depending on the results of NECAPs, we may be classified as in need of improvement and possibly progressive support and intervention the following year. Responding to D. Cardon, the Superintendent noted the reason is possibly reading weakness; writing scores were also lower at the middle and high school; Susan Moore is looking into the situation. He added that if 50% of the state’s high schools aren’t making adequate yearly progress, we either are not doing a good enough job educationally or we’re using the wrong measuring instrument. R. Trinique commented that data is misleading. No action required.

B. Joint Meeting with Town Council – re: Levy Rink

Superintendent Welford reported the meeting scheduled for January 10th will consist of a walk-through of the rink; R. Kimatian will put together a status report on the construction project.

C. Appointment to Sub-Committee by Chair

D. Cardon explained the sub-committee is made up of three members, P. Lambert is away, two members make up a quorum, the Chair can sit in ex-officio on any committee; she believes all meetings should be advertised and all members attend. The Superintendent reported the item was put on the agenda to open discussion under Open Meetings Law and for the Chair to express her point of view on filling the basis on a temporary basis; he will ask legal counsel. D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) that a third member not be appointed, and all

members are encouraged to attend, therefore the Budget Sub-Committee meetings should be advertised and posted according to the R.I.G.L. until the next meeting. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

11. Committee Comments

The Superintendent called attention to an informational advisory opinion received from Attorney Kevin McAllister. Superintendent Welford reported a member requested reviewing invoices; the information (which is confidential) is provided to all members.

J. Cote commented she would prepare an agenda item for next meeting regarding electronic transfer of information.

12. Move to Executive Session

At 8:47 PM, J. Cote (M), D. Cardon (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel and (2) Collective Bargaining. Vice Chair Trinque polled the Committee. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

13. Reconvene in Open Session

At 9:40 PM, the Committee reconvened in Open Session. Vice Chair Trinque announced no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

14. Adjournment

J. Cote (M), D. Cardon (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Chair of the Committee