

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 12, 2010**

**1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

Moment of Silence for a student who passed away  
January 2 - Mason Boltrushek.

**Reported By:** Anne Schmiedel

**Location:** Media Center, BHS

**Time Began:** 7:00 PM

**Adjourned:** 9:07 PM

**Attending:** Committee Chair Debra Stockwell, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Scott Moore, Paul Couture, Raymond Trinque, Joan Cote, BHS Student Liaison Douglas Fullerton

**Absent:** Vice-Chair Mary Karmozyn - excused

**2. Recognition**

Recognition of Andre Guilbert for his work and commitment, which culminated in the success of reaching the level of Eagle Scout. Congratulations extended.

**3. Consent Agenda**

R. Trinque (M) - Motion to approve minutes of December 8, 2009 Regular Meeting and December 22, 2009 Special Meeting, D. Cardon (S) VOTE: Approved: 6-0

D. Cardon (M) -Motion to approve warrant and invoices, S. Moore (S) VOTE: Approved: 6-0

**4. Presentations by the Public to the Committee**

First Presentation – Health and Physical Education K through 12 - Barbara DeMasco, BHS

- Lists amounts of time provided for health and physical education at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- Relates statistics/studies regarding suggested/recommended optimum amounts of time for physical activity obtained from the various national health agencies.
- Describes negative behavior findings of survey done by Youth Risk Surveillance System. Believes that daily Health/Physical Education classes will be a positive influence in preventing negative behaviors.
- Notes RI law stating that each student grades one through twelve must receive an education in physical education and health, which shall average 20 minutes each school day. Notes that recess may not be counted toward physical education time allotment.
- Expresses view of intent of law to be daily physical education, not the average of minutes required times days in the school year placed into schedules to facilitate ease of scheduling.
- Urges that the current health/physical education program remain the same. If it must be changed, change it for the better.

Second Presentation – Program of Studies – Mr. Ralph Olsen, Burrillville High School

The High School, by definition, is a comprehensive high school. Besides traditional courses of education, there is supposed to be exposure to different areas of interest. Full year courses are limiting due to staff and curriculum constraints. Having semester classes opens schedules up.

- Commends Barbara DeMasco for the passion to her content area.
- Change Course of Study Identification Labels in order to reduce stigma, promote movement between levels, eliminate perception that student will not continue on to college, college transcripts. Proposes College Prep I and College Prep II in place of Standard and Traditional.
- Give students one or two credits for un-weighted courses. Colleges recalculate GPA on core courses eliminating electives.

- Graduation Requirements to Math –4, English –4, Science –3, Social Studies –3, Physical Education –3. Add electives to become a truly comprehensive high school.
- Block out studies across the board. Increase electives to broaden student horizons/experiences.
- Twenty-first Century Skills course proposed for incoming freshman dovetailed with Physical Education. Course content ideas are excel/spreadsheets, PowerPoint, digital portfolio, career exploration.
- Enhanced Writing Skills course proposed for next year’s sophomore class. Continued poor scores in required state testing indicates need for specific skills. Not to take place of present English curriculum, but in addition to. Also dovetailed with Physical Education/Health.
- Begin contemplating ideas for the State mandate of Individual Learning Plans for each student.
- Fine Arts course needs to be added to courses necessary for graduation. A presentation to qualified staff in a specified Fine Arts content area can fulfill this course requirement.
- Freshman Academy Team Teaching for at-risk incoming freshman. Highly personalized to support a smooth transition to high school.
- Academic Development Center - peer tutoring for credit to be overseen by staff.
- Incorporate a 50-minute advisory into the schedule.

**5. Public Comment**

Corey Pontious, 558 Wallum Lake Road, Pascoag, RI  
Commented on the value of Physical Education.

**6. Personnel**

Appointments

Pamela Watts & Barbara Fontenault Co-Cheerleading Coaches, BHS Winter \$850. each  
R. Trinque (M) to approve, D. Cardon (S) VOTE: 6-0 approved

**7. Old Business**

FY 2010 Budget Update – No changes are recommended at the present time according to Business Manager, R. Kimatian. The budget reflects the new Universal Chart of Account codes. A chart was provided explaining the code process. Changes will be noted as it is determined which account expenses need to be coded to. The intent of the Chart of Accounts is to have districts throughout the State report expenses consistently. Some expenses are still open to interpretation. Moving forward, any changes will be explained.

**8. Superintendent’s Report**

J. Cote (M) to open, D. Cardon (S)

VOTE: 6-0 approved

Superintendent Pallotta states that there are no major changes from last month. There are only two more openings at the grade 4 level at Steere Farm Elementary due to an enrollment this month.

**9. Administrators’ Reports**

R. Trinque (M) to open, J. Cote (S)

VOTE: 6-0 approved

J. Cote – Notes the method used in reporting BMS enrollment - likes that three months are included. Answers many questions. Asks if method can be adopted and utilized system-wide. Notes RIDE meeting at BHS regarding facilitating student learning on 1/13 and recommends all available attend. Requests presentation on new Chart of Accounts in coming months to give an overview to the general public and the School Committee.

P. Couture – A wealth of information is contained in all of the reports. Keeps the Committee updated and this is appreciated.

D. Cardon – Observes December was a busy month in which issues involving curriculum, transportation, budget, and snow removal, etc were worked on. It is noted that our students and their education did come first.

R. Trinque – Asks Dr. Pallotta to look into a change in the stipend for the Truancy Officer position

regarding longevity and report back to the Committee.

S. Moore – Asks Mrs. Short about the program at BMS to help students who are falling behind before the end of the year and learns that a program is being worked on with BMS and BHS.

D. Stockwell – Asks Ms. Moore about transportation issues having to do with the implementation of the statewide contract. Response is all is progressing at this time.

Dr. Pallotta calls upon Mr. Whaley to explain the difference between the Commissioners’s Report and the Commissioner’s Review. The Review is a structured visit where a team of educators and RIDE personnel will come to BHS to review the school’s implementation of the diploma system. It is one of the checkpoints that RIDE built in when they initiated the PBGR system. We need to submit a report electronically stating the progress that has been made and what the deficiencies are, if any, and what the plan is to address them. A fully implemented diploma system must be in place within 18 months.

## **10. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees**

### **A. Health and Wellness**

Ms. Cote met with Tricia Wright of BYN/Aramark and Leah Sarris, our Power-Up coordinator from Kids First, in December. Ms. Sarris is our grant coordinator and program designer for the promotion of healthy eating. She will bring programs into our schools supporting nutrition and physical activity. The Power-Up coordinator has offered to provide, with ~~our~~ grant money, a white board for all five cafeterias to be used in ways to promote healthy lifestyles. Carol Toselli and Leah Sarris will sponsor a “Chili Night” demonstrating healthy ways to make chili in an effort to revitalize the Health and Wellness Committee. Teachers, administrators, parents and students will be invited to attend. Will have agenda for Health and Wellness meetings posted on the website [and as directed by State Law](#).

## **11. Correspondence/Communications**

Correspondence from Rep. Pacheco mentions services provided by the State 211 Plan, one of which is to anonymously take applications for free and reduced lunch. May be a good tool for the district. Letter references heating assistance and other methods of helping those in need.

## **12. New Business**

### **A. Approval of FY 11 Budget**

D. Stockwell (M) to open, R. Trinque (S)

VOTE: Approved 6-0

Dr. Pallotta explains all of the many political goings-on that will possibly affect the outcome of the presented budget. It is likely that final figures for State Aid will not be finalized until late Spring. The budget, as presented, contains a 1.84 percent increase over last year’s budget. We have stayed within the allocated amount of dollars that the Town gave us this year. He asks that the Committee approve the budget, which is whole and not reduced in any way, so that it may be forwarded to the Town Manager.

D. Cardon (M) to approve the budget as presented noting that it is still a work in progress.

D. Stockwell (S)

VOTE: Approved 6-0

### **B. Approval of Home School Instruction**

R. Trinque (M) to approve as presented, J. Cote (S)

VOTE: Approved 6-0

J. Cote asks if the number of requests has increased. Ms. Moore responds the number is actually less. After age 16, families are not required to report to the District. There are currently 24 applications.

## **13. Committee Comments on Agenda Items**

D. Stockwell – Commends actions of staff opening BHS on a Sunday; providing support and counseling to students/siblings at elementary level and upper level schools after the tragic death of a student.

J. Cote –We have a very strong connection between the school staff, coaches and students. This human aspect was more apparent than ever during this time of tragedy. Commends all, especially the tennis coaches for reaching out to the team, who lost one of their own, during this difficult time.

R. Trinque – References Memorial Park in front of BHS that was created by the Technology Dept. (students and teachers) several years ago. It is heartbreaking that we have to keep adding students to the rolls.

Dr. Pallotta – Thanks all the teachers who were at BHS that Sunday to lend support to the 75 to 100 students and Mrs. Boltrushek. In the time that Dr. Pallotta was there, he made an attempt to thank each teacher that was there. He felt that this was a community that truly came together in a time of need. The teachers and administration should be complimented on what they did that Sunday. Dr. Pallotta made it a point to thank them on behalf of the School Committee.

**14. Pending Issues**

A. Commissioner’s Review

Curriculum - Mrs. Short notes that today 22 teachers met to begin working on the curriculum revision that had been approved by the School Committee in October. The Oversight Committee had met the previous week as the structure dictates.

Commissioner’s Review – There are 32 items that have to be responded to. A list has been compiled containing completion dates for each item along with who is responsible for developing the process for completion of each item on the list. We are to respond electronically with evidence upon completion. After submission, a report will be generated from the Commissioner whereupon a long-term plan to meet each requirement will have to be developed.

J. Cote asks for an update on the Technology Grant to be put on Pending Issues.

**15. S. Moore (M) to adjourn, D. Stockwell (S)**

Vote: Approved 6-0

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Clerk of the Committee