

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2009**

1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence for Senator Pell.

Reported By: Anne Schmiedel

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7:06 PM

Adjourned: 9:32 PM

Attending: Committee Chair Debra Stockwell, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Scott Moore, Paul Couture, Raymond Trinique, Joan Cote

Absent: Vice-Chair Mary Karmozyn arrived at 7:19 pm

2. Consent Agenda

- Clerk D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2008 Regular Meeting, December 9, 2008 Executive Meeting, December 13, 2008 Negotiation Sub-Committee Meeting, January 6, 2009 Special Meeting. J. Cote requests clarification to December 13, 2008 Negotiation Sub-Committee Meeting. She would like it noted in the minutes that her request to have Attorney Scungio, Nancy Binns and Robin Kimatian to leave the room was because it was pertaining to negotiations and therefore legally could be part of the discussion of that meeting. It is part of negotiations to discuss the Negotiations Chair. Clerk D. Cardon accepts the clarification as a Friendly Amendment. J. Cote notes that she was not present on December 9 and therefore does not feel she should be voting on those minutes.

All minutes except both December 9, 2008 VOTE: Approved 6-0 (M. Karmozyn not present.)

December 9, 2008 – both VOTE: Approved 5-0-1 (M. Karmozyn not present.)

- J. Cote (M), P.Couture (S) to open discussion of the December Warrant. VOTE: Approved 6-0 (M. Karmozyn not present.) No discussion to approve the warrant for the payment of payrolls and expenditures for December 2008 in the amount of \$2,830,810.40.
D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) VOTE: Approved 6-0 (M. Karmozyn not present.)

3. Public Comment

Michelle Badessa, Black Hut Road, Glendale commented that she had brought concerns before the School Committee in November. She returned in December with one issue-the 50/50 Raffle-still unresolved. Ms. Badessa wanted it to be noted that after much research, she finally got her answer from John Abbate. There never was an application filed. No one realized this was necessary. It was an error and not done in malice. The situation has been corrected.

4. Personnel

Appointments

Superintendent Welford explains the second shift custodial position at SFE chain of events. Bob McKay, WLC custodian, took a position in the maintenance department. Due to “bumping” within the Union, the final position ended up SFE. This position has nothing to do with the custodial termination later in the personnel agenda.

William Latendresse 2nd Shift Custodian, SFE

effective 1/9/09, at the current contractual rate

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

VOTE: Approved 6-0 (M. Karmozyn not present)

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

VOTE: Approved 7-0

J. Cote addresses the School Committee regarding being removed as Negotiating Sub-Committee Chair during the December 9, 2008 Regular Meeting at which she was not present. Mrs. Cote has two issues regarding her removal. First, it was done in her absence and second, she was not notified by the Committee. She learned of her removal while listening to the tapes of the meeting that same week. Mrs. Cote would have reported to a Negotiation Sub-Committee meeting the following Saturday had she not listened to the tapes. Mrs. Cote states that she always made sure that all parties were present and prepared for negotiations and in trying to move them forward. We are in this together. There is no one to be blamed in regards to negotiations. The four people on the Committee have the same responsibility to try to solve the issue of the contract. No one should be singled out. She would like to make it clear to the general public that she never took a position outside the Committee and feels that she has been shown a lack of respect from the Committee.

M. Karmozyn reads the motion that was read to the general public when the Committee came out of Executive Session. "Motion made by Mary Karmozyn to appoint all four Burrillville School Committee Members assigned to the BSC Negotiation Team to be equals. No chair person or co-chairpersons. All will sign the new BTA contract, alphabetically, as equals. Each will take a turn opening individual meetings. There will be no one designated as lead. All will respect each other and also respect the representatives of the BTA membership. And it passed 4-0."

R. Trinque suggests that the Committee eliminate the sub-committees that are "open" on the 2008-2009 list of subcommittees. They can always be revisited in the future.

M. Karmozyn nominates Chair Debra Stockwell to substitute for Scott Moore on his sub-committee assignment. R Trinque seconds the motion.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

M. Karmozyn comments that the Warrant Subcommittee members are listed as the School Committee Officers. It is to be noted that all School Committee members have access to the warrant.

D. Cardon (M), R. Trinque (S) to accept the 2008-2009 Sub-Committee list with the elimination of B-PAC Liaison, NRI Cooperative Extension Board of Directors, Liaison to BHS Student Council.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

6. Superintendent's Report

D. Cardon (M), R. Trinque (S) to open item or discussion.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

Superintendent Welford reported on the following:

- Enrollment reports: Upon comparing January to December, the numbers are very stable – no more than a difference of two students in any grade level.
- ATL had a broken heat coil in a rooftop unit in between the roof and the suspended ceiling in the hallway outside the nurse's office. The coil froze and then burst causing a water leak in the hallway and into two classrooms. The Trust brought in OHI to do air quality testing, Vortex which is an environmental testing company and Clean Care to assess and deal with any asbestos-related issues. The reports state that the hallway tile does not contain asbestos, however, the mastic does.

The classroom tile and mastic contain asbestos. Asbestos tile and mastic with asbestos in the base do NOT give off friable asbestos. By Tuesday all surfaces had been covered/cleaned/replaced by Clean Care. On Saturday, two separate firms tested the air and found no instances of friable asbestos whatsoever. Notices went home to parents through the children on Wednesday afternoon and were posted on our website. Executive summaries of the testing will be distributed to staff upon completion of said reports by OHI and Vortex. Over February vacation, the rugs and tile and mastic will be removed. New non-asbestos tile will be put in place.

- Bus bids were found to be very high. The lower of the two bids contained an increase of \$383,000 for the next year. The second bid called for an increase in excess of \$400,000. Superintendent Welford rejected both bids after contacting the companies to explain budgetary concerns. The bid has been advertised again and closes January 23. Both companies are interested in bidding again and a third company requested the bid specifications.
- A budget freeze for the district was put effect December 29. All non-essential spending is frozen. Discretionary spending will now require justification before being approved. The goal is to attempt to generate a surplus to pre-purchase supplies (copy paper, ink, etc) for next year so we can lower next year's budget in anticipation of possible cuts in State Aid. The anticipated cut is a minimum of 3%, which translates into approximately \$420,000.
- At the Rhode Island Field Hockey Banquet, the Burrillville Field Hockey Team, under the leadership of Coach Susan Burgess, had the distinct honor of having seven players appointed to the All Academic Team, which consists of nine players. This is a huge honor and clearly shows that the team members have the student/athlete perspective. Letters will be sent to Coach Burgess and the team members congratulating them on their accomplishments on behalf of the School Committee.
- The Governor wants to cut Article 31 funding, which is used at the school and administration level to fund professional development. The Burrillville School Dept. would incur a loss of \$99,000 in professional development funds. We have not filed our Article 31 Plan, and therefore have not encumbered any expenses against that money. In the short term, we will not realize a loss. Future cuts of this nature could have a negative impact not only in the District, but on the teachers as well. Many teachers need to participate in professional development in order to retain their certification. In order for the District to provide professional development, we would have to fund it from the local budget. The District's ability to fund professional development at the level the State provides is probably not possible and very doubtful.
- Permanent Fund for Education is a new category for education. It was created this past summer when the gambling hours were extended at Twin Rivers with the proviso that funds realized from those extended hours would be distributed among the local school districts. The amount of money the District would realize was to be based on the amount of money the District received in State Aid. We were slated to realize \$230,000 if the gambling revenues had been maximized. When the figures were compiled from May through August, we received two payments totaling \$71,000. However, the Governor has decided that the remainder of the funds designated to the Permanent Fund for Education will now go to the State to close the budget gap. That would be a potential loss for the District of \$160,000. We did not calculate that State Aid into the budget because we felt the source of the revenue was too risky to count on. We will be coming to you at a later time with some suggestions for the use of monies actually realized.

- The most troubling of the Governor's recommendations from the School District's point of view has to do with the Pension Program. No one can blame staff for retiring by the April 1 deadline in order to keep their retirement cost of living increases. No one expects staff to remain for the last eight weeks of school, even though we know staff would want to stay. This creates staffing issues for the District. Also, the Governor has suggested having school districts pay only 25% of what their contribution would be under normal circumstances. The other 75% would come from a reduction to our local aid. Simply put, that is \$900,000 we don't have to pay to the pension program this fiscal year, but it is \$900,000 we lose in local aid. The Town will have to lower our appropriation by the amount we are not going to receive in State Aid. Where this becomes an issue is with the tax cap law of 30/50. Next year we are entitled 104.5% of this year's appropriation. If that amount of money is lowered by \$900,000 it will affect our budget next year by that amount of money, and essentially forever going forward.
 - Reminders of upcoming subcommittee dates and times:
 - Wednesday, January 14 - Policy Sub-Committee – 6 pm
 - Thursday, January 15 – Budget Sub-Committee – 6:30 pm
 - Thursday, January 15 - Legislative Session w/Town Council – 7 pm Council Chambers
 - Tuesday, January 27 – Negotiations Sub-Committee – 6 pm – BHS Media Center
- R. Trinque (M), S. Moore (S) to accept Superintendent's Report VOTE: Approved 7-0

7. Administrators' Reports

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 7-0.

S. Moore noted the significant growth of the Special Ed Advisory Committee. Also wishes BMS Science Dept well with their new microscopes gained through the Champlin Grant. He is also glad to see the BMS Mentoring Program getting up and running.

J.Cote notes that no administrative report has been filed from the Facilities Manager. She understands he is out and wants to be sure that everything is being taken care of in Mr. Richard's absence. She inquires about a report from the Truancy Officer. The Superintendent states that the report will be included next month. Mrs. Cote asks for a Rink report. Mr. Lacy has a copy with him and distributes copies to the Committee members. Mrs. Cote inquires if there is a return date for the Facilities Manager. Superintendent Welford does not have a date. Kudos to Lois Short. There are some incredible things happening at BMS and with the Champlin Grant.

R. Trinque comments on the report from two police officers who provide after-school activities. Parents groups are doing the same. This is important. Mr. Trinque notes that Aramark is trying hard to put together a healthy menu that the students will enjoy. This is important also.

P. Couture, while reading the Aramark report, was reminded of the State trying to have a state-wide lunch program, state-wide bussing. Superintendent Welford explains that Aramark is the food management program that was the successful bidder when the State went out to bid last year. In using Aramark, we essentially already are in the State's lunch program. This saves the District from having to go through an eight or nine month bid process that involves the Food and Drug Administration at the federal level, the state Department of Education and so forth. Superintendent Welford comments that the Committee will be getting a recommendation at the February meeting about the continuation of the program for future years. After a question regarding the future bus contract, Superintendent Welford explains that the state bussing only pertains to out-of-district special education transportation.

D. Stockwell comments that all of the administrators' reports were very thorough, as always. She attended the Harvest Festival at ATL, which was very interesting. It was a very good program promoting our local farmers.

M. Karmozyn notes that the Director of Pupil Personnel and Director of Business Affairs complemented Sheila Jenness twice in their reports. It is good to have support staff recognized. Mrs. Karmozyn reads a portion of Principal David Brissette's letter to parents regarding report cards. BHS

SIT Team report was complete: attendance, discussion, timely minutes. Kudos to Lois Short regarding the Champlin Grant, the Mentoring Program, the Anti-Bullying Student Committee.

D. Cardon notes that her fellow Committee Members have covered pretty much everything. As usual, she is very grateful for all of the information that the administrators provide. It is always a learning experience. Mrs. Cardon thanks everyone and wishes all a "Happy New Year".

R. Trinque (M), S. Moore (S) to accept the Administrative Reports VOTE: Approved 7-0

8. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

Sick Bank Committee

D. Cardon (M), S. Moore (S) to open item for discussion VOTE: Approved 7-0

M. Karmozyn reports that the Sick Bank met December 16, 2008. Thirty sick days were allotted to a certified member from the sick bank.

S. Moore (M), R. Trinque to accept the report as stated VOTE: Approved 7-0

9. Correspondence/Communications

Letter from John Fair

D. Cardon notes receipt of letter from Jack Fair written to Mr. Boule. She asks Superintendent Welford if all of the issues in the letter are taken care of.

D. Cardon (M), S. Moore (S) to receive and file VOTE: Approved 7-0

D. Stockwell notes that a parent letter had been received and was not on the agenda. A brief discussion ensued regarding the homework letter. Mr. Welford offered to print out the last email correspondence with the parent. The issue has been resolved and the parent was very complimentary to the Special Ed teacher who was involved in the resolution.

D. Stockwell notes a letter from Nancy Binns regarding a meeting at 7 pm at Town Hall on January 26 regarding the budget.

M. Karmozyn notes that RIASC is holding workshop on management rights Saturday, January 24.

10. New Business

A. School Organization Study Committee Composition

R. Trinque (M), D. Cardon (S) to open item for discussion VOTE: Approved 7-0

D. Stockwell recommends putting notice of the meetings up on the Town website. R Trinque recommends notifying each school's SIT organization. Much discussion ensued regarding the make up of this citizen committee that would report to the School Committee regarding school utilization and configuration. No conclusions were made. Ideas discussed were size (large/smaller, odd number of members or even), composition (staff representation as well as parent representation), deadlines (how many meetings with what end date) etc.

11. Committee Comments Regarding Agenda Items

None

12. Move To Executive Session

D. Cardon (M), J.Cote (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-26-5(a)(2)

Collective Bargaining: Grievance Hearings 8:36 pm VOTE: Approved 7-0

13. Reconvene in Open Session

At 9:30 pm, the Committee reconvened in open session. Chair Stockwell noted that one vote had been taken in Executive Session. Voted to have Superintendent Welford direct the High School Administration to rotate duties as a non-precedent setting for the last half of this year was carried with a 7-0 vote.

P. Couture (M), D. Stockwell (S) to adjourn Regular Meeting

VOTE: Approved 7-0

14. Adjournment

P. Couture (M), D. Stockwell (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

VOTE: Approved 7-0

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Clerk of the Committee