

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

**Reported By:** Janice Peterson

**Location:** Media Center, BHS

**Time Began:** 6:52 PM

**Adjourned:** 8:16 PM

**Attending:** Chair Debra Stockwell, Vice Chair Mary Karmozyn, Raymond Trinqué, Joan Cote, Paul Couture

**Absent:** Clerk Dorothy Cardon (excused), Scott Moore (excused)

**1. Convene in Open Session**

Committee Chair Stockwell called the meeting to order at 6:52 PM.

**2. Move to Executive Session**

P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 46-5-(a)(1), Personnel. Committee Chair Stockwell polled the Committee. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

**3. Reconvene Open Session**

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:15 PM. School Committee Chair announced one vote had been taken in Executive Session regarding a Memorandum of Agreement. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

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

Following the Pledge, Committee Chair Stockwell asked for a moment of silence in memory of the victims at Fort Hood and in honor of Veterans' Day.

**5. Consent Agenda**

M. Karmozyn (M), R. Trinqué (S) to approve the following minutes: September 8, 2009 Regular meeting; September 15, 2009 Negotiation Sub-Committee; October 13, 2009 Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S) to approve the payment of expenditures and payrolls for October 2009 in the amount of \$3,538,388.63. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinqué (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to award a bid for a web-based special education case management system to Maximus Educational Services, Scottsdale, AZ, for \$26,633.00. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinqué (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to award a contract for a preventative maintenance program for roofs to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., not to exceed \$46,000.00. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to approve a Job Description (*Director of Instruction, Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development*). VOTE: Approved 5-0.

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

Burrillville Middle School Principal, Lois Short, began the presentation by outlining four emerging changes to be discussed: advisory, parents, guidance and structure.

Vice Principal Raechel Robidoux explained the introduction of "advisory" this year at which each teacher meets with 12-14 students for 10 minutes per day. Tyler Kearney (Gr. 6), April Aliberte (Gr. 8), Chelsea Parkhurst (Gr. 8), and Tyler Courtemanche (Gr. 6) explained in their own words what advisory means to them.

Ms. Lapierre and Ms. Duantono, parents and SIT members, discussed their roles as advocates and partners in developing a School Improvement Plan and Strategic Plan. Additionally, SIT members helped to develop a transition plan (including a parent question/answer session) for students moving to grade 6, help organize school events, and discuss small details that impact student self esteem (e.g., announcements).

Guidance Counselor, Dorothy Nacu defined an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) as a student generated: is student-generated, evidence-based portfolio that takes into account a student's unique strengths and weaknesses, contains short and long-termed goals with academic, career and social/emotional components; it is cumulative and directs each student toward fulfillment of graduation requirements at Burrillville High School. Guidance Counselor Pamela Connors explained it is important to start this process at the Middle School because it's the first opportunity students have to take responsibility for their learning and to explore the world around them; students are given the opportunity to set, implement and evaluate goals while investigating a relationship between educational achievement, career planning and life goals; as students begin to understand themselves they will see the connection between success in school today and success in their lives tomorrow. ILPs should show evidence of grade level activities and data collection in academic, personal and social realms (e.g., learning style, inventory results, study habits, career interest inventories, decision making, risk taking, one yearly writing sample from each core area, culminating with a "Who am I" transition piece in grade 8.)

Mrs. Short restated that these are emerging practices. To demonstrate changes in school structure, the principal described three case studies: (1) 4<sup>th</sup> grade student due to being out of school for 3 years was age-appropriate for Middle School, placed in Gr. 6 with double courses, skipped Gr. 7, in Gr. 8 with peers, and made Honors this year in Gr. 9. (2) Student who is unable to attend school due to social/emotional issues has access to the classroom through cameras. (3) 6<sup>th</sup> grader out of school for 5 years with challenging behaviors.

School Committee members commended the presenters and praised the implementation of ILPs at the Middle School. No action required.

## **7. Public Comment**

None.

## **8. Personnel**

### Appointments

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to appoint Sheryl Hill, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective 12/7/09. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinque (M), Committee Chair Stockwell (S) to appoint Janet Lyons, Principal at A. T. Levy, effective 12/14/09, at a salary of \$87,125.00. M. Karmozyn commented the candidate has outstanding credentials. J. Cote asked if candidates could be in attendance in the future. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to appoint Lise Gleason, Parent Volunteer Coordinator, ATL, up to 20 hours per month at \$7.40 per hour. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinque (M), Committee Chair Stockwell (S) to appoint the following High School Department Leaders for 2009-10 at a stipend of \$2,150: Richard Goudreau, English; Kristi Craig, Math; Nicholas Servidio, Science; David Sheehan, Social Studies; John Jalette, Special Education; Andrew Aldrich, Technology/Practical Arts; Barbara DeMasco, Student Services and Wellness. M. Karmozyn thanked the Superintendent, the High School administration, and the teachers. Responding to J. Cote's question, Superintendent Pallotta reported a Department Leader for Culture and Arts is unfilled; S. McKeon will oversee that department. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

### Coaching Appointments for 2009-10:

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to appoint the following: Melissa Mansfield, Girls' Hockey, Volunteer; Wilfred Carter (Head Boys' Basketball, BMS, \$1,300 plus \$500 longevity; Brian Choiniere, Girls' Hockey Volunteer; Amanda Gingell, Girls' Basketball, BMS, Volunteer; Kyle VanRossum, Boys' Basketball, Volunteer; Joseph Mattera, Boys' Hockey, Volunteer; Mark+

Brissette, Girls' Hockey Volunteer; Abee Olannuyiwa, Boys' Basketball Asst., \$1,735 plus \$100 longevity; Devin Cormier, Head Wrestling, BMS, \$1,300. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

#### Retirement

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to accept with regret the retirement of Helen Williams, Teacher Assistant, BMS, effective December 4, 2009. M. Karmozyn commented that Ms. Williams began her career at Pascoag Grammar School. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

### **9. Old Business**

#### **A. FY10 Budget Update (R. Kimatian)**

P. Couture (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 5-0. R. Kimatian reported no action was required.

### **10. Superintendent's Report**

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the Superintendent's Report for discussion. VOTE: Approved 5-0. Dr. Pallotta called attention to:

- corrected enrollment figures for the past three months provided by the High School.
- the following elected officials have indicated they will attend the Commissioner's visit to the district on December 10: Peggy Dudley, Nancy Binns, Kevin Heitke, John (Mike) Karmozyn and Representative Edwin Pacheco.
- The Commissioner's (Review) visit will take place at the High School, November 17-19; the Superintendent, L. Short, and P. Barrette will represent the school department.
- Update - discussions are ongoing with the BTA regarding a credit recovery program (part of BELLA) that would enable students to receive half a credit towards an elective.
- H1N1 Clinic was held at Steere Farm; (365) consent forms were received, (290) students were vaccinated. Superintendent Pallotta commended J. Woodward, C. Dunham, emergency management personnel from the town, parents and teachers; there were approximately 40 volunteers. Permission has been granted by the state to hold Levy's (11/17/09) and Callahan's (12/8/09) clinics at Steere Farm due to parking limitations at those sites and a better flow for students; notices will be sent to parents. Committee Chair Stockwell asked when the state website would be updated. Responding to Committee questions, the Superintendent reported students who were unable to attend their scheduled clinic are referred to their own health care providers; teachers and staff weren't included in the first round of vaccinations because there weren't enough doses.

M. Karmozyn congratulated Superintendent Pallotta for being elected to the Superintendents' Executive Board.

### **11. Administrators' Reports**

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open discussion on the item. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

R. Trinque requested an update on overdue Aramark accounts and commended Mr. George Ducharme for his efforts filling the interim principal position at Levy; he asked that a letter of thanks on behalf of the Committee be sent to him. Mr. Trinque also requested letters be sent to the Middle and High School thanking them for their presentations.

M. Karmozyn commented the reports were interesting and wished all a happy Thanksgiving.

P. Couture commented the information is great, the district is moving in a positive manner and reiterated Thanksgiving wishes.

J. Cote congratulated Mr. Ducharme for his work, noted a great homecoming, and thanked the Middle School for their presentation. Responding to her question, Susan Moore reported the preliminary readout (draft form) for the Special Education review will be held November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Committee Chair Stockwell thanked all for the thorough reports and commented on Spirit Week at the various schools and the Red Ribbon Parade.

No action required.

## 12. Reports of School Committee Sub-Committees

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 5-0. R. Trinque reported the Negotiation Sub-Committee had met and mutually agreed on the following meeting dates with the BTA: November 23, December 7, December 17, and January 5 (with times to be determined).

R. Trinque stated he was resigning from the Negotiation Sub-Committee, citing the sub-committee had "gone in the wrong direction" by removing a member who has been an integral part of negotiations so far. Committee Chair Stockwell thanked R. Trinque for his service.

J. Cote said she had sent the Committee a letter to be read into the record and asked if it should be done now or under Item 13; Committee Chair Stockwell noted the latter.

## 13. Correspondence/Communications

- R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to receive and file a correspondence from Robert Lafleur, Chairman of the North Smithfield School Committee. VOTE: Approved 5-0.
- J. Cote thanked R. Trinque for his support and commented the Committee needs to move forward as a group; unity is the best way to go about it, not division. J. Cote stated, for the record:

"Dear Madam Chair,

I have been an active participant of the negotiation subcommittee team since the expiration of the 2006 contract. I have attended and contributed my expertise to these negotiations in good faith with no conflict. I am according to the State of Rhode Island an eligible committee member based on the criteria set forth by the State of Rhode Island.

I am dismayed by my removal from the negotiation subcommittee team seeing I am one of only four members who are eligible to negotiate the BTA contract.

As we move forward with a new vision and new cooperative spirit it is important for the members of the school committee to do the same. Removing qualified members from the negotiation team shows nothing more than division amongst the committee.

If as you stated, it is a matter of having to advertise these meetings when there is a quorum, I question that reasoning, we are acting on behalf of the taxpayers in negotiating a contract, it is their tax dollars and they have the right to know when these meetings take place. We are doing the taxpayers business.

If we are to move forward in a positive manner within the Burrillville School District we need to bring forward all our resources without prejudice. All parties are looking forward to moving forward in a positive direction, so should the school committee as a whole be projecting the same.

Sincerely,

Joan M. Cote

Burrillville School Committee"

R. Trinque commented that it is a very professional letter that reflects the professionalism Ms. Cote has exhibited in negotiations; he hopes people will read it and take it to heart.

## 14. New Business

### A. Approve FY11-12 Capital Improvement Plan

P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 5-0. P. Couture reported the Budget Subcommittee had reviewed the plan the past week and

commended J. Woodward for the complete explanations of each item; he is confident the plan will meet approval of the Budget Board. Responding to Committee question, J. Woodward explained the need to re-key exterior doors; M. Karmozyn suggested applying for a grant from the Trust since it is a safety issue. P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the FY11-12 CIP Plan as presented. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

**B. Affirm by Majority Vote**

Superintendent Pallotta explained the *Affirmative Action Policy* (P5243.1) is on the agenda for two reasons: it should be acted upon every two years because of new Committee members and, if changes are needed, it provides an open forum to formally make changes; the *School Committee Ethics Policy* (P1160) was brought forward because the actual state law has been added to the original policy and requires Committee vote. Responding to questions, the Superintendent noted there were no changes to the aforementioned policies; had there been, it would have been brought forward through the Policy Sub-Committee. M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to affirm Policies P5243.1 and P1160. VOTE: Approved 5-0.

**15. Committee Comments on Agenda Items**

M. Karmozyn thanked Superintendent Pallotta for "moving us along."

J. Cote put a good faith comment forward that perhaps the Chair may want to reconsider the Negotiating Team based on comments/information put forward earlier. Committee Chair Stockwell said she would schedule a meeting to discuss the matter with Dr. Pallotta.

**16. Adjournment**

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

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Clerk of the Committee