

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Reported By: Janice Peterson

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 6:30 PM

Adjourned: 10:35 PM

Attending: Vice Chair Raymond Trinke, Dorothy Cardon, Joan Cote, Paul Couture, Mary Karmozyn, Scott Moore, Student Representative Keith Chamberland

Absent: Peter Lambert (Excused)

2. Move to Executive Session

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

3. Reorganization of School Committee

At 7:05 PM, D. Cardon (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open discussion on the item. VOTE: Approved 6-0. Vice Chair Trinke announced he would assume the position of Chair. J. Cote asked the reason for the action; neither Ms. Cardon nor Ms. Karmozyn said they would comment at this time. Chairman Trinke called attention to, and read into the record, the following correspondences:

“January 28, 2008

Dear Superintendent Welford,

This letter is presented to inform you that as of the February 1, 2008, that I am stepping down as Clerk of the Burrillville School Committee. I will continue to serve, as elected on the Burrillville School Committee and as the Chair of the Budget Sub-committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy A. Cardon

Burrillville School Committee”

“January 30, 2008

Dear Superintendent Welford,

This letter is presented to inform you as of Friday, February 1, 2008, I will be stepping down as Chair of the Burrillville School Committee. I will continue to serve as elected on the Burrillville School Committee and on the Policy Sub-committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary M. Karmozyn

Burrillville School Committee

Chair”

Chairman Trinke asked for nominations for Vice Chair; there were none. Chairman Trinke asked for nominations for Clerk; there were none. J. Cote commented it is difficult to reorganize when information was not available. M. Karmozyn stated for the record that under Section 4 of the By-Laws, a chairperson pro tem shall be appointed according to longevity of the remaining members. Chairman Trinke announced the item would be put on next month’s agenda.

4. Consent Agenda

J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S) to open the Consent Agenda for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. Regarding the 1/8/08 minutes, M. Karmozyn requested clarification of Tim Duffy “strongly opposing” binding arbitration for financial issues. It was reported that this was the opinion of the Executive Board as well as Mr. Duffy. M. Karmozyn questioned information contained under Committee Comments and requested an opinion from legal counsel. J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the Consent Agenda (minutes of the January 8, 2008 Regular Meeting and Executive Session; warrant for the payment of payrolls and expenditures for January 2008 in the amount of \$3,116,480.45; bid award for the purchase and installation of wireless equipment for BMS to Hub Technical Services, South Easton, MA, for \$30,141.00.) VOTE: Approved 5-0 (M. Karmozyn abstaining from the vote.)

5. Public Comment

Chairman Trinqué outlined the protocol to be followed (e.g., the Committee cannot act on the information; don't make comments about job performance.)

1. Raymond Daignault, III, Spring Street, Pascoag, read a statement (and distributed copies to the Committee) outlining concerns related to bus monitors and requesting a program review. S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) to refer Mr. Daignault's questions to the Superintendent. J. Cote was informed that the monitors are actually employed by the School Department, not First Student. M. Karmozyn said she was curious as to whether the subject has been discussed with the bus company. VOTE: Approved 6-0.
2. Tammy Duquette, Cherry Farm Road, parent of four children in the schools commented on the lack of information available regarding the teachers' contract.
3. Selene Antionelli, commented on the teachers receiving "pink slips."
4. Josh Groleau, Gr. 12 at BHS, commented on how the lack of a teachers' contract is impacting the senior class.

6. Personnel

D. Cardon noted the date on the Personnel Recommendation memo was wrong; should read, February 12, 2008.

Appointments

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to appoint Lisa Sartini, Temporary Assistant Production Leader, BYNS, effective 2/13/08, at the current contract rate. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Coaching Appointment for 2007-08

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to appoint Timothy Durigan, Golf Coach, \$1,000 plus \$500 longevity. It was noted the Golf team is coed. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Retirements

M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to accept the retirements of Ellen Reuter, Speech/Language Pathologist, WLC/District, effective 5/9/08; Joyce Carter, Special Educator, SFE, effective 6/30/08. M. Karmozyn commented Ms. Reuter's retirement is accepted with regret. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Layoffs of Tenured Teachers for Budgetary Reasons (2008-09)

M. Karmozyn stated, "Per R.I.G.L., for the record, request to read 78 names into record. We need separate readings to allow members the opportunity for recusal." After that sentence, a question to the Superintendent, "For the record, did you work jointly with the BTA in deriving this list and/or did you confer with the BTA after the list was formed?" Chairman Trinqué read the names of the following tenured teachers: Patricia Lapierre, Gr. 1; Stephanie Bruckmann, Gr. 1; Joan Surprenant, Gr. 1; Dena Lucia, Kindergarten; Mary Jean Boucher, Kindergarten; Rachel Auclair, Gr. 3; Julie Mayhew, Reading Specialist; Cindy Giguere and Janet Wallman, Literacy Specialist; Sally Curtis, Library/Media Specialist; Rosanna Cavanaugh and Michael Coggeshall, Music; Donna Roderick, PE/Health; Peter Godfrin, Soc. Studies; Sara Gaulin, Literacy/Sp. Ed.; Kevin Stockwell, Tech. Ed.; George Grace, Art; Jeanne Zaleski, Reading Specialist; Lisa Carpenter, Lisa Ricci, Anne Blissmer, Jenet Beard, and Kathryn Desilets, English; Brian Hauser, Mathematics; Barbara DeMasco, PE/Health; Stacy Lamontagne, Soc. Studies; Heather Ray, Jennifer Fowler and Lisa Gaddes, Sp. Ed.; Timothy Durigan, Ind. Arts; Kyle Rose, Tech. Ed.; Ellen Sandstrom, Home Ec.; Julie Scheefer, Art; Mary Lou Tuper, Business/Digital Portfolio; Diane Lebrun and Kelly Adams, Library/Media Specialists; Richard Phelan, Music; Mary Belisle and Susan Smith, PE/Health; Diana Ferriter, ESL; Pauline Mueller, Art. S. Moore (M), P. Couture (S) to lay off the aforementioned teachers with regret.

~~Citing R.I.G.L.,~~ M. Karmozyn stated “By RI General Law the school committee must notify possible layoffs by March 1st. No one on this Board is pleased with this more than lengthy list. Therefore, I volunteer to be the token descending vote – It is time for the federal and state government to fund mandates. We are dismantling the district.”~~she will cast the dissenting vote.~~
VOTE: Approved 4-2 (M. Karmozyn and D. Cardon opposing.)

J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S) to lay off Erin Jasmin, Gr. 3, and Melissa Rhodes, Sp. Ed., with regret. ~~Citing R.I.G.L.,~~ M. Karmozyn stated “By RI General Law the school committee must notify possible layoffs by March 1st. No one on this Board is pleased with this more than lengthy list. Therefore, I volunteer to be the token descending vote – It is time for the federal and state government to fund mandates. We are dismantling the district.”~~she will cast the dissenting vote.~~
VOTE: Approved 4-1-1 (M. Karmozyn opposing, and S. Moore recusing from the vote.)

S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S), to lay off Pamela Connors, Guidance Counselor, with regret. ~~Citing R.I.G.L.,~~ M. Karmozyn stated “By RI General Law the school committee must notify possible layoffs by March 1st. No one on this Board is pleased with this more than lengthy list. Therefore, I volunteer to be the token descending vote – It is time for the federal and state government to fund mandates. We are dismantling the district.”~~she will cast the dissenting vote.~~ VOTE: Approved 4-1-1 (M. Karmozyn opposing and P. Couture recusing from the vote.)

Non-Renewals of Non-Tenured Teachers for Budgetary Reasons (2008-09)

Chairman Trinque read the following list of teachers to recommended to be non-renewed: Kristen Manning and Heidi Cairo, Kindergarten; Amanda Martins, Alison Mills, and Lisa Licitra, Gra. 1; Susan Sutherland, School Nurse/Teacher; Nanci Morelli, Gr. 3; Kristen Ann Butler, and Jason LaDuke, Gr. 2; Holly Andersen, Preschool Sp. Ed.; Kathryn Johnston and Jennifer Pesare, Sp. Ed.; Jay Brochu, Gr. 4; Karen Hundley, Mathematics, Christopher Belussi, PE/Health; Michael Meehen and Sara Roch, Science, Kara Vessella, Soc. Studies; Helen Pereira, Sp. Ed.; Elizabeth Emigy, English; Brian Limoges and Megan Maguire, For. Lang.; Michael Kropman and Mathew Daignault, Mathematics; Sandra Simas, PE/Health; Megan Taylor and John Fair, Science; Valerie DeMarco, Lauren Leonti, and Maria DiPaolo, Soc. St.; John Fontes, Sp. Ed.; Andrew Aldrich and Lisa Sciacca, Tech. Ed. J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to non-renew the aforementioned teachers, with regret. S. Moore told the teachers affected not to get discouraged. Chairman Trinque commented that legislators need to become involved. ~~Citing R.I.G.L.,~~ M. Karmozyn stated “By RI General Law the school committee must notify possible layoffs by March 1st. No one on this Board is pleased with this more than lengthy list. Therefore, I volunteer to be the token descending vote – It is time for the federal and state government to fund mandates. We are dismantling the district.”~~she will cast the dissenting vote.~~ VOTE: Approved 5-1 (M. Karmozyn opposing).

Heidi LaPlume, parent of a Middle School student, commended Pam Connors in her position of Guidance Counselor, and expressed dismay that the position might be cut.

M. Clifford asked why the budget hadn't been adjusted to reflect changes at Father Holland School.

Chairman Trinque deferred to the Superintendent for comments. Superintendent Welford stated the layoffs were not only demoralizing to those teachers who received them, but also applied to the administrators and the Central Office; he sincerely hopes to recall teachers as soon as possible. The Superintendent cited the following as reasons for the actions: the state tax cap, a \$450 million state budget deficit, level funding (at best) from the state, legislation that would impose a \$126,000 cost to Beacon Charter School and a potential \$91,930 to Woonsocket Area Voc. Tech. School, \$48,000 for the out of state placement of a child in DCYF custody who lived in Burrillville less than a month, the potential for over a \$500,000 expense should Father Holland School not reopen, and the “fervent hope” that the teachers' contract will be settled. Mr. Welford reported the core basic academic areas (elementary classrooms (class size), English, Math, Science, and Social Studies) have been protected first with the plan to build out from there.

M. Clifford took exception to the fact that six out of nine English teachers had received layoff/non-renewal notices; the Superintendent reported that the number included Literacy Specialists. Mr. Clifford disagreed that the notices had been researched in the proper manner.

Jennifer Fullam commented she feels the Superintendent has contradicted himself from last year – programs/teachers put into place last year are those proposed to be cut. Chairman Trinque noted we, like many other communities, will probably become out of compliance/request waivers due to the budgetary constraints. Mr. Trinque added he had been told no Culinary students were involved. The parent commented that students are upset that teachers have been given “pink slips” and added that she hasn’t seen any administration cuts. S. Moore stated there have been administration cuts: there has not been an Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director in three years, a secretary. Chairman Trinque noted the discussion had gone astray – the topic is the layoff/non-renewal of teachers.

Kevin Stockwell, taxpayer, teacher, volunteer in the community, commented that more students will be attending the vocational school.

M. Clifford asked how long ago the administration had been in contact with Father Holland School; the Superintendent indicated it had been approximately two weeks. Chairman Trinque reported there is no concrete evidence; we (the School Committee) have to be prepared for the worst case scenario. M. Karmozyn added that it is against the law to deficit spend. J. Cote reported Father Holland is optimistic about staying open, they have required commitment letters, they need to have a payment plan in place and to know that enrollments need to remain stable. It was reported a tuition rate has been established.

Lisa Carpenter, English, BHS, commented she had been devastated to receive a layoff letter, being a teacher in the system for 18 years.

M. Karmozyn commented that although she acknowledges those who intend to attend St. Joseph’s (Father Holland), she requires a “hard copy”.

7. Old Business

A. FY08 Budget Update

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to open the FY08 Budget for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. R. Kimatian reported no adjustments have been made this month and called attention to a recommendation to reallocate CIP funds. J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to reallocate funds from Middle School Sewer Connection to: \$15,000 to SFE lighting and \$5,940 to BMS Tank Removal. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

B. Rescind Vote of 5/8/07 to Purchase a Munis Financial System

D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to rescind the vote of 5/8/07 to purchase a Munis Financial System. M. Karmozyn questioned the Superintendent relative to his reference to Munis training in his report. M. Karmozyn stated, “For the record, it was my understanding that Mr. Barrette shared at a previous school committee meeting and we were waiting for the town. When did training take place?” R. Kimatian reported training for School Department employees had taken place approximately one month ago and again last Wednesday (2/6). Referring to “Tasks to Be Completed” memo attached to the Superintendent’s report, insert, “For the record, is this the Town’s report?” VOTE: Approved 6-0.

C. Sub-Committee Appointments

Ray called attention to list of appointments provided and asked the Committee to inform him or the secretary of his/her intentions to continue serving on the listed committees. The item will be added to next month’s agenda. M. Karmozyn noted the list provided needs to be updated (e.g., BOSAP).

8. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Welford called attention to the Budget Board Workshop scheduled for 2/14/08, a Health Study summary, Beacon Charter communications; elementary and middle school NECAP test results will be presented next month; rink schedule; suggested the Executive Director, Mr. MacDonnell, attend the March meeting to disseminate information relative to the NRI Collaborative. D. Cardon commented that \$3.3 million is a considerable amount to have in the bank for property and suggested it could be used to supplement grants for special needs students. M. Karmozyn called attention and read an excerpt from a 1/16/08 Providence Journal article relative to surpluses and suggested the Superintendent contact other superintendents in the Collaborative to see what they're going to do prior to having Mr. MacDonnell attend.

At his request, J. Cote (M), P. Couture (S) to direct the Superintendent to request a waiver from the Commissioner of the 330 minute requirement. M. Karmozyn requested a "hard copy" of the letter. Committee members responded to questions from the audience regarding unfunded mandates, the tax cap, and suggested contacts (e.g., Representatives, Senators, Commissioner of Education) for information. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

Superintendent Welford noted scheduling a Policy Sub-Committee meeting was to be addressed later on the agenda. Chairman Trinque called attention to the inclusion of ongoing issues were included on the "Blue Sheet". J. Cote questioned the dramatic increase of students at the High School; the principal will follow up. Chairman Trinque suggested including enrollments figures for both the past and current month. M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to accept the Superintendent's Report as presented. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

9. Administrators' Reports

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S), to open the Administrators' Reports. VOTE: Approved 6-0. D. Cardon commented she is pleased with the reports, as usual. M. Karmozyn stated, for the record, "I'm glad to see you all here, or at least most of you. I've missed you greatly. Continue to do the fine job you're doing. I know you're under a great deal of stress. I hear you. Hang in there." P. Couture commented he continues to be impressed – continue the fine work. S. Moore commented on the Autism conference and was informed there are approximately 40 students diagnosed in the district; the national average ratio is approximately 1:150. Mr. Moore asked and was informed there hadn't been a formal "opening ceremony" for the rink. Responding to S. Moore's question regarding ice time for Nichols College (women's team), the Superintendent reported that, preliminarily, there is no problem with "bumping" - they are looking at times not previously rented. The Superintendent added that Mr. Lima had informed him of the possibility of having an ECAC tournament taking place in March and responded to Mr. Moore's question regarding the compressors shutting down due to the National Grid being out of balance. S. Moore read the following letter into the record:

"Dear Director of Levy Ice Rink,

What a nice surprise when I arrived at your rink to watch the girls' Bay View hockey game on Saturday evening, January 19, 2008.

The use of the elevator gave me a better view along with watching a more enjoyable game. Now I can look forward to attending future games at Levy. I thank you for your thoughtfulness in making our non-walkers able to fit in with the crowd.

Thanking you, I am.

Sincerely, Carol Boscia"

M. Karmozyn encouraged the letter be forwarded to the Town. J. Cote commented the administrators' reports are appreciated. Chairman Trinque thanked the administrators for their participation in the budget workshop and acknowledged their hard work in developing a budget.

10. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

Sick Bank Committee: M. Karmozyn reported the committee met on 12/21/07 and awarded five days to a support staff member.

Members discussed and agreed to schedule a Policy Subcommittee for 6:00 PM, Monday, February 25, at the Administration Building. The meeting will be advertised.

D. Cardon commented she would like to see all sub-committee meetings listed on a monthly basis; Chairman Trinque indicated he would seek advice from legal counsel.

M. Karmozyn commented there are three standing subcommittees: Budget, Policy, and Health & Wellness.

11. Correspondence/Communications

Chairman Trinque noted correspondence had been read earlier.

12. New Business

A. FY09 Budget Approval

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. Superintendent Welford deferred comments to D. Cardon, Chair for the Budget Sub-Committee. D. Cardon distributed an activity report and indicated a cover letter outlining the various scenarios (e.g., DCYF, Beacon Charter, state aid, teachers' contract, etc.) had been requested of the Superintendent. D. Cardon requested the activity report be added as an addendum to the meeting's minutes. M. Karmozyn thanked R. Kimatian for numbering the pages and questioned (page 18, textbooks) who would determine need; Superintendent Welford noted it would be determined by the principal with requests/input from teachers; in the absence of department chairs, he would rely on the principal's priorities. On page 27, M. Karmozyn questioned an expense for an administrator to attend a national conference. Superintendent Welford explained the need for administrators to be exposed at the regional/national level. It was proposed to have one elementary administrator attend a national/regional conference annually and alternate between the high school and middle school annually. S. Moore noted the budget represents a 3.4% increase over last year (including Beacon/Woonsocket Voc. and DCYF students) The Superintendent noted the budget, as presented, is still \$186,000 over a "best case scenario" of funding; preschool tuitions would offset the amount by \$40,000, if approved. Responding to Committee question, Mr. Welford reported it was his understanding the Governor is backing off the plan to reduce aid by 1%. J. Cote commented the budget presented is a work in progress and does not satisfy all our needs. Chairman Trinque added that he sees the possibility of page 27 being eliminated in its entirety. M. Karmozyn stated, "For the record, this budget is a work in progress. Unfortunately, many federal and state mandates are unfunded which is causing severe cuts no one on this board wants. I will cast the token dissenting vote. Districts across the state are becoming dismantled." D. Cardon (M), P. Couture (S) to present this budget, though I feel it's under funded, with the cover letter presented by Mr. Welford this evening, to the Budget Board on Thursday night, knowing it is still a work in progress.

M. Karmozyn stated, "For the record, this budget is a work in progress. Unfortunately, many federal and state mandates are unfunded which is causing severe cuts no one on this board wants. I will cast the token dissenting vote. Districts across the state are becoming dismantled." Vote: Approved 5-1 (M. Karmozyn opposing.)

J. Cote (M), D. Cardon (S) to open the Capital Improvement Budget. VOTE: Approved 6-0. Superintendent Welford reported the document remains unchanged from the Budget workshop and 1/23/08 Budget Sub-Committee meeting. M. Karmozyn requested and was provided a copy of the slide presentation provided at the workshop. S. Moore commented that the CIP budget is more realistic and specific than in the past. D. Cardon stated that these funds will be coming to an end soon and the Committee should prepare a line item for a contingency fund in upcoming years. M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) to approve the Capital Improvement budget. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

B. Electronic Transfer of Information (J. Cote)

Due to the time, J. Cote deferring discussion until next month but noticed it was due to be discussed by Policy Sub-Committee. It was debated whether or not the Committee had voted to send it to the Policy Sub-Committee; M. Karmozyn asked to see the minutes. J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to table the Electronic Transfer of Information item until the March meeting. Chairman Trinque stated the item would be dropped from the Policy Sub-Committee agenda until the topic could be researched. M. Karmozyn requested clarification: if there is no record of a vote to send it to the Policy Sub-Committee, where do we stand? Chairman Trinque said it would not go to the Policy Sub-Committee. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

C. High School Preliminary Approval Status

Chairman Trinque called attention to relevant correspondence. M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. M. Karmozyn asked if there were any plans to improve criteria. R. Boulé reported targeted assistance has been offered; they are currently working on the wording of a graduation policy, and alignment of GSEs. No action required.

13. Committee Comments

None

12. Move to Executive Session

At 9:38 PM, M. Karmozyn (M), D. Cardon (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1), Personnel (discussion of personnel and possible settlement) and (2) Collective Bargaining (negotiations and arbitration.) Chairman Trinque polled the Committee. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), P. Couture (S) for a 5-minute recess. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

14. Reconvene in Open Session

10:31 PM the Committee reconvened in Open Session. Chairman Trinque announced no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

15. Personnel

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) approve three-year contract extensions for the following: Lois Short, BMS Principal; Laurie Sullivan, ATL Principal; David Brissette, WLC Principal; Robin Kimatian, Business Manager; Paul Barrette, Technology Director; Janice Peterson, Executive Assistant. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) to approve a one-year contract extension to Michelle Selman, Burrillville Youth Nutrition Services, to be executed upon the receipt of two satisfactory audit reports. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

S. Moore (M), D. Cardon (S) to approve a one-year contract extension to Robert Richards, Facilities Director. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) that all administrative contracts will contain a provision for a 10% co-pay toward health insurance for the 2008-09 school year, and 15% health insurance co-pay for the 2009-10 school year and beyond in consideration of raises that will be voted on by the School Committee at a later date. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

M. Clifford requested his comments be included in the minutes of the meeting. J. Cote questioned whether the request was legal. Chairman Trinque indicated it would be allowable if the Committee approved. So moved by D. Cardon, M. Karmozyn (S). VOTE: Approved 5-1 (Chairman Trinque opposing.)

14. Adjournment

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Clerk of the Committee

NOTE: Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-7A(4), members of the School Committee have requested the following four documents be appended to the official minutes of the February 12, 2008 Regular Meeting