

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

1. Welcome/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Reported By: Janice Peterson

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7:06 PM

Adjourned: 10:55 PM

Attending: Chair Raymond Trinqué, Scott Moore, Mary Karmozyn, Paul Couture, Joan Cote, Student Representative Keith Chamberland

Absent: Peter Lambert (Excused) Dorothy Cardon (Excused), Paul Couture (Excused)

2. Consent Agenda

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the Consent Agenda; M. Karmozyn requested the minutes be pulled. VOTE: Approved (payment of expenditures and payrolls for March 2008 in the amount of \$2,671,537.99) 4-0.

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to open the minutes for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. M. Karmozyn noted the following changes: page 8, line 27, include list of how Committee member voted. (The secretary reported D. Cardon, P. Couture, and M. Karmozyn opposed.); same page, Item E, change "Committee Chair Karmozyn" to "M. Karmozyn". The secretary noted the time on the Executive Session minutes (part B) should be 12:20 AM, not PM. M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Regular Meeting and Executive Sessions. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

3. Public Comment

Nancy Binns, Town Council President, asked the Committee to seriously consider approving participation in the Governmental Health Group of RI and answered three questions raised by a Committee member: (1) no penalty would be incurred if the town/school department decided to no longer participate after the initial three-year commitment; (2) neither the Town nor the School Department would have to change plans – the changeover would be seamless; (3) savings would go directly to the School Department.

Town Manager, Michael Wood, distributed information to the Committee highlighting the prospective savings and referred to the proposal as a "win-win" program.

4. Personnel

Appointments

S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) to appoint Scott Lee, Roving Custodian/Groundskeeper, effective 4/9/08 at the current contract rate. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) to appoint Christopher Lacey, Rink Director, for a one-year period, effective 4/9/08 at the salary rate of \$50,000. M. Karmozyn stated, "For the record, Steve, School Committee members have always been able to sit in on all interviews for administrative positions. Why weren't School Committee members notified about this interview?" Superintendent Welford explained that it was an oversight and that interviews had been quickly scheduled at the availability of Jim Moran, Personnel Board; interview team consisted of R. Richards, R. Kimatian, and S. Moore. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Resignation

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to accept the resignation of Jennifer Boisvert, Secretary, effective March 28, 2008. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Temporary Disability/Parental Leave

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve a temporary disability/parental leave for Jennifer Fowler, Special Educator, BHS, effective on or about 6/3/08 until the end of the current school year. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Resignation

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to accept with regret the resignation of Susan Mosher, Mathematics, BHS, effective the end of the academic year. M. Karmozyn commented that Ms. Mosher is an excellent teacher, has also filled in to teach Physics, and is a big loss for the High School. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

Retirements

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to accept with regret the retirement of Raymond Doherty, Grade 4, SFE, effective at the end of the current school year. S. Moore commented he has known Mr. Doherty since they both taught at Pascoag Grammar; J. Cote wished Mr. Doherty well in his retirement, noting he has been an integral part of the Steere Farm family and will be missed. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to accept with regret the retirement of Charles Boucher, Tech. Ed., BHS, effective the end of the current school year. J. Cote thanked Mr. Boucher for all of his work at the High School and with the energy conservation program. Chairman Trinque added that Mr. Boucher was instrumental in his son, Sean's, career at the High School both as a mentor and model. VOTE: 3-1 9 Chairman Trinque opposing.)

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to accept with regret the retirement of Melinda Ryan, English, BHS, effective the end of the current school year. J. Cote commented that Ms. Ryan is an incredible teacher. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to accept with regret the retirement of Ruth Sunn, English, BMS, effective the end of the current school year. J. Cote commented Ms. Sunn will be sorely missed.

M. Karmozyn stated, "For the record, Ray, Ruth, Chuck and Mindy, and the resignation of Sue Mosher – all are outstanding, dedicated teachers. I respect experience. I thank all of you for educating and enhancing the lives of our Burrillville children. I am very concerned with the 'black hole' at the High School which will occur this June with some of these retirements. Chuck and Mindy – outstanding department chairs, outstanding leaders in their fields. Potential layoffs will decimate their respective departments and I'm looking forward to recalls."

Superintendent Welford added that there are 130 years of teaching experience among the five aforementioned teachers (R. Doherty – 38 years; C. Boucher - 24 years; M. Ryan – 34 years; R. Sunn – 24; Sue Mosher – 10 years) and wished all a happy and healthy retirement. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

M. Karmozyn requested moving Item 10A to follow Item 5A. There were no objections.

5. Old Business

A. Participation in Governmental Health Group of RI

Mr. Kevin Walsh, representing Governmental Health Group of RI, provided information relative to the structure and history of the organization. The group currently has approximately 4,800 subscribers and \$52 million in annual premium to negotiate a lower retention charge with Blue Cross. The Board of Directors meets monthly; the current fiscal year's surplus is \$2.2 million of which it is anticipated \$1 million will be returned to members in the near future. Superintendent Welford thanked the Town Manager and Finance Director for the work they have done, restated the savings to be realized, emphasized that the health plans remain the same, and called attention to the April 15th deadline for commitment to join the Governmental Health as stated in Mr. David Faucher's April 4th e-mail to John Mainville. J. Cote commented on the great deal of information that had been provided. S. Moore commented the opportunity was a "no lose" situation. M. Karmozyn commented there hadn't been enough information provided last month. J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to join the Governmental Health Group of RI effective July 1, 2008, and that the Superintendent be authorized to sign the contract and any associated documents with GHGRI on behalf of the Burrillville School Department. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

10. New Business

A. Request for Financial Support in Accordance with Policies 3849.2 and 3849.8

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to approve a \$500 donation in accordance with Policies 3849.2 and 3849.8 to DECA to defray expenses to compete at a national conference in Atlanta, GA with best congratulations and best wishes in their upcoming competition. DECA Advisor, Mary-Lou Tupper introduced the participants (Samantha Pellerin, Josh Durand, Jennifer Baker, Jared Anderson, Kassondra Rouleau, Corinne Mattera, and Erin Conley). The students provided information about the team's successes, events of the past year, and elements of the competition. The Committee thanked the students for their presentation and extended best wishes for the competition. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to approve a \$500 donation in accordance with Policies 3849.2 and 3849.8 to the Robotics Team defray expenses to compete at a national conference in Atlanta, GA. Andrew Aldrich, advisor, introduced the team (Josh Groleau, John DeMelim, Nate Desautels, and Zach Alarie) who gave a demonstration of the robot they will use in the competition. Mr. Aldrich explained the team had won the Inspire Award given to the team that outgoing, helpful, and puts others before themselves. The Committee congratulated the team and wished the luck in the competition. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

5. Old Business

B. FY08 Budget Update

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford to Ms. Kimatian who explained her recommendation to transfer \$50,000 from the Teacher Substitute line, \$32,396 from the Special Education Transportation line, and \$2,604 from the Property Insurance line. J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to transfer \$80,000 to the Heating Oil line from the aforementioned funds. Responding to M. Karmozyn, R. Kimatian stated the special education bus costs \$75,000; there are still some funds available from the bus aides item (which comes under Transportation expenses.) VOTE: Approved 4-0.

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S), to transfer \$5,000 to the Custodial/Maintenance Supply line from the aforementioned funds. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

C. Policies – Final Reading

1. M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the final reading of a Policy Related to Support Operations (*Ice Rink – School Athletic Program*) and to dispense with the reading. S. Moore suggested disseminating the information to the PE/Athletic Department to afford inclusion into the curriculum. VOTE: Approved 4-0.
2. M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the final reading of a Policy Related to Support Operations (*Ice Rink – Community Use*) and to dispense with the reading. S. Moore requested the Rink Director be informed of the policy. VOTE: Approved 4-0.
3. M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to approve the final reading of a Policy Related to Education (*Graduation Requirements*) and to dispense with the reading. VOTE: Approved 4-0.
4. M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to approve the final reading of a Policy Related to Education (*Grading Policy – Secondary Schools*) and to dispense with the reading. M. Karmozyn and S. Moore thanked the Superintendent for researching the subject. Chairman Trinqué clarified that the policy was not made to “dumb down” the school but rather to give students the opportunity to succeed in the school and to graduate. Superintendent Welford called attention to the information provided from five local colleges and reported this grading system is in keeping with both the colleges and high schools nationally; the policy will be included in the student handbook and will be implemented fourth quarter of the current school year. J. Cote noted this is like putting the light on for some students and not shutting the door. The Superintendent emphasized that the main reason to develop the

policy was not address the dropout problem and reported Mr. Ron Struminski would be presenting his Dropout Report at next month's meeting; parents will be informed of the change when report cards are sent out and it will be posted on the District website.
VOTE: Approved 4-0.

6. Superintendent's Report

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S), to open the Superintendent's Report for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford congratulated the Boys' Hockey Team for winning the Division 1A State Championship and commended Coach Steve Daigle for working with the team during this difficult freshman season. Chairman Trinqué commented that the fans were energetic, well behaved and "a good time was had by all." The Superintendent highlighted the security measures being addressed (cameras, Alert Now automated call system); introduced the new Rink Director, Christopher Lacey; reported he has met with all PTF/SIT teams, congratulated L. Sullivan on the success of the Spaghetti Supper, grievance arbitration is scheduled for April 10th, he has met with Bryant University to arrange for tutors. J. Cote questioned the enrollment figures and requested the information be all in one place. Responding to Committee questions, Superintendent Welford reported Bryant has looked at preliminary information regarding enrollment; an additional 4th grade has been added at WLC and an additional 2nd grade at SFE; not all of the district's curricula has been cross-walked with the GSEs (only English and Math), there is no scaffolded literacy program, RIDE is only talking about high schools, there are gaps in student achievement; Regent's diplomas will be required by 2012. M. Karmozyn reported she had contacted the Superintendent regarding vandalism at Eccleston Field House. No action required.

7. Administrators' Reports

M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. M. Karmozyn expressed appreciation for the complete reports, thanked teachers, support staff, administrators and students and wished all a well-deserved restful vacation. Responding to S. Moore, P. Barrette reported First Class training is in process; every staff member has received the same custom instructions he has created. J. Cote commented on the ATL Spaghetti Supper, WLC breakfast, SFE parent conferences and book fair, the BMS penpals for 5th graders and the RI Music Festival at Warwick Vets. HS. The rink director indicated the rink will start shutting down tomorrow; bathrooms will be ready for graduation. Chairman Trinqué commended Dorothy Tominski for her participation in the Spelling Bee, Andrew Westgate for winning a Poetry Out Loud competition, the Figure Skating show, and requested comparison on electricity costs at the rink. Superintendent Welford commended Lisa Carpenter for the grant she wrote. No action required.

8. Reports of Standing School Committee Sub-Committees

The Policy Sub-Committee scheduled a meeting on April 29th at 4:30.

9. Correspondence/Communications

None

B. Preschool Admission Fees

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to open the item. VOTE: Approved 4-0. The Superintendent provided background information; based on research a fee of \$100/month for a 5-day per week program for "role model" students. J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve establishing a \$100/month fee for Preschool "role model" students with said fee to be collected through the school and that the Superintendent be authorized to petition the Town Council to establish a revolving account for the deposit of said funds. Money collected will be used to offset costs associated with the Preschool program. M. Karmozyn commented this is long overdue.
VOTE: Approved 4-0.

C. 2008-09 School Calendar

J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the 2008-09 School Calendar. The secretary reported the draft calendar had been shared with the unions. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

D. School Security – Joan Cote

J. Cote (M), S. Moore (S) to open the item. VOTE: Approved 4-0. J. Cote reported the subject has come up frequently, she believes it to be the most important issue, and emphasized the need to have uniform sign-in form procedures, picture IDs, and communication throughout the district. Steve noted emergency plans are essentially the same; it's how they're implemented that is different. The plans will need to be updated to take into consideration the new technology that has been implemented (i.e., cell phones with "press to talk" capabilities, automated calling system). M. Karmozyn called attention to a practice lockdown reported in L. Sullivan's report. Chairman Trinque suggested Committee members obtain BCI checks and be provided with a picture ID identifying them as School Committee members. Responding to the Chair, Superintendent Welford indicated it would not be unreasonable to have a plan published and ready for distribution by September, but cautioned that they will never be carried out in the same way due to different nuances in each building. J. Cote noted that Homeland Security grants are available. Chairman Trinque requested adding the item to an ongoing items list.

E. Approval of 5-Year CIP Plan

Chairman Trinque thanked the Superintendent and administration for the work they have done with the plan. S. Moore (M), J. Cote (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 4-0. Superintendent Welford provided an overview of the plan presented and noted the Ocean State Power funds will end in 2013. Calling attention to 2010, the Superintendent highlighted the \$50,000 planned for the preliminary phase (engineering, seed money, etc.) for lighting at the football stadium. J. Cote suggested holding fundraisers; Chairman Trinque commented the lighting would provide revenue. M. Karmozyn commented she believes the Town will appreciate this. The following edits were noted: heading should read "CIP 5-Year Plan; 2012 – change Callahan School to Eccleston Field. J. Cote (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to approve the 5-Year CIP Plan as amended. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

11. Committee Comments regarding agenda items

None

12. Move to Executive Session

At 9:41 PM, M. Karmozyn (M), J. Cote (S) to move to Executive Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(1) Personnel and (2) Collective Bargaining. Chairman Trinque polled the Committee. VOTE: Approved 4-0.

13. Reconvene in Open Session

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 10:50 PM. Chairman Trinque announced two votes had been taken in Executive Session: (1) to take Grievance 415NS under advisement (VOTE: Approved 4-0) and (2) to deny Grievance 416NH (VOTE: Approved 3-1; M. Karmozyn opposing).

14. Adjournment

M. Karmozyn (M), S. Moore (S) to adjourn the Regular Meeting. VOTE: Approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 PM.

Clerk of the Committee