

**BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Monday, May 24, 2010

Location: Administration Building

Attending: Committee Chair Debra Stockwell, Vice Chair Mary Karmozyn, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Joan Cote, Paul Couture, and Raymond Trinique

Excused: Scott Moore

Others in attendance: Superintendent, Dr. Frank Pallotta, Finance Director, Robin Kimatian and Attorney Ben Scungio

Convene in Open Session at 6:05 PM by Chair Debra Stockwell

D. Cardon requested a “point of order”, for the record. She questioned the memo sent to Dr. Palotta, dated Friday, May 14, 2010 from J. Cote and R. Trinique requesting a special meeting regarding the ‘Revised FY 2011 Scholl Budget request/changes in Budget from original request’. D. Cardon asked why only J. Cote’s signature appeared and not R. Trinique signature. R. Trinique replied he was in route to sign the memo and was notified a meeting had already been scheduled. ~~replied noted that he had called and it was OK that his signature was not on memo.~~

D. Cardon made a motion to table executive session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargained regarding the tentative agreement, which was bargained in good fair, between the Burrillville School Negotiation sub-committee and the Burrillville Teachers Union sub-committee, until legal council can provide information and direction regarding the legal documents served to members of the School Committee this afternoon.

Following a brief discussion among school committee members and legal council, D. Cardon withdrew her motion.

Motion to go into Exec. Session under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Collective Bargaining was made by P. Couture and seconded by M. Karmozyn.

**Committee Polled: VOTE: ___ 6 yea ___ 0 nay ___
Time: ___ 6:07 PM _____**

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MAY 24, 2010**

Reported By: Janice Peterson

Location: Media Center, BHS

Time Began: 7:09 PM

Adjourned: 7:24 PM

Attending: Chair Debra Stockwell, Vice Chair Mary Karmozyn, Clerk Dorothy Cardon, Raymond Trinque, Joan Cote, Paul Couture

Absent: Scott Moore (excused)

3. Reconvene Open Session

The Committee reconvened in Open Session at 7:09 PM. Committee Chair Stockwell announced no votes had been taken in Executive Session.

R. Trinque (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to move to Item 6 on the agenda. VOTE: Approved 6-0.

6. Approval of BTA Contract

Committee Chair Stockwell read the following Town Council Resolution into the record:

Whereas, the Town of Burrillville is projecting revenue losses, primarily state aid, in an amount up to \$3,805,953 and a potential additional loss of \$508,392 in Distressed Community Aid in FY2011; and Whereas, the Burrillville School Committee has amassed significant unfunded liabilities (\$1,034,754 unfunded sick leave benefits and \$1,557,516 in Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) and has not set forth a plan to address these financial liabilities; and Whereas, the Burrillville School Committee has no meaningful capital improvement program funded within its operating budget; and Whereas, for months, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) has advised the Burrillville School Committee that education aid was proposed to be cut by at least 3% in FY2010 and 3.8% in FY2011, information that was reiterated to the School Committee as recently as May 17, 2010; and Whereas, RIDE further advised that the proposed RIDE Education Funding Formula will result in an additional loss of approximately one million three hundred thousand dollars upon enactment of the proposed legislation; and Whereas, the Burrillville School Committee granted a cumulative 3% raise to Burrillville teachers in 2009 without gaining any financial concessions from the union and despite the union's formal "Work to Rule" retaliatory action; and Whereas, the Burrillville School Committee, its Superintendent and Solicitor have been fully informed of the current and projected financial condition of the Town; and Whereas, any employment agreements that the Burrillville School Committee enters into must include wage and benefit concessions by the teachers and other school department employees to provide affordability to the town and taxpayers; and Whereas, the Burrillville School Committee has chosen to continue to provide the same health insurance plan that they have offered to school employees, despite the fact that the municipal employees have changed to a more cost efficient plan that has been demonstrated to offer substantial savings to the school department; and Whereas, §11.10 of the Burrillville Town Charter states that "The School Committee, after consultation with the Town Council, shall establish wages, salaries and benefit programs for all school employees which are consistent with wage and salary and benefit programs currently in effect or proposed for a similarly-rated classification in the classified employment of the Town of Burrillville."; and Whereas, the Burrillville School committee has failed to consult with the Town Council with respect to establishment of wages, salary and benefit programs as may be set forth in the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the teachers; and Whereas, despite being fully informed of the precarious financial situation confronting the Town, the Burrillville School Committee is about to take intentional action to ratify a teachers' contract that could result in extraordinary local tax increases and/or elimination or reduction of educational programs and/or municipal services; and Whereas, a vote by the School Committee members to approve a teachers' contract without consulting with the Town Council as set forth above may constitute a violation of the Town Charter which could result in the forfeiture of office by School Committee members pursuant to §11.04(B) of the Burrillville Town Charter. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville, do hereby and emphatically demand that the Burrillville School Committee refrain from ratifying any and all collective bargaining agreements until such time as the Town's financial situation becomes clear. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Burrillville, do hereby demand that the Burrillville School Committee exercise fiscal responsibility and not obligate Burrillville taxpayers to an excessive increase in local taxes. Adopted as a resolution of the Burrillville town Council this 24th day of May 2010. Signed by Council President Nancy F. Binns.

R. Trinque (M), Committee Chair Stockwell (S) to table the item, schedule a meeting for the Superintendent, Chair, Business Manager, legal counsel, and the ~~Town Council~~Town Manager/designee to discuss the contract proposal in Executive Session prior to June 8th, and place item on next agenda for ratification.

4. FY2010 Budget

J. Cote (M), R. Trinque (S) to open the item for discussion. VOTE: Approved 6-0. R. Kimatian reported surplus gained from fuel and transportation line items will be enough to cover the 3% cut in State Aid. R. Trinque (M), P. Couture (S) to accept the budget update information.

5. FY 2010 Budget

R. Trinque (M), J. Cote (S) to open discussion on the item. VOTE: Approved 6-0. R. Kimatian reported the budget being presented at Thursday's public Hearing is the same as was presented to the Budget Board. Responding to Committee questions it was noted the Town Manager does not have the current presentation; Town Council is scheduled to adopt the budget on June 9th. No action required.

7. Adjournment

P. Couture (M), M. Karmozyn (S) to adjourn the Special Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Clerk of the Committee