

BURRILLVILLE BUDGET BOARD  
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Place: Council Chambers, Town Hall  
Meeting Date: February 9, 2006  
Meeting Time: 7:00 PM

Members Present:

Arthur Hurley, Chairman  
Brigitte Buxton, Vice Chairman  
Mark Brizard, Secretary  
Michael Molloy  
L. Kevin McDonald  
Tom Sylvester

Members/Staff Absent:

Matthew Trimble

Staff/Consultants Present:

John Mainville, Ex-Officio, Finance Director  
Dawn Bailey, Administrative Assistant to Committee

Staff/Consultants Absent:

Others Present:

Mark Adams, Treasurer  
Dr. Barbara VonVillas, Superintendent  
Robyn Kimatian  
Paul Couture, School Committee  
Dorothy Cardin, School Committee  
Scott Moore, School Committee

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of Minutes

The question of accepting the minutes of the regular meeting of the Burrillville Budge Board held Thursday, February 2, 2006 and the question of dispensing with the reading of said minutes.

**A motion was made by Mark Brizard and seconded by Kevin McDonald. With no further discussion, the vote in favor was unanimous. Voting in favor were Arthur Hurley, Brigitte Buxton, Mark Brizard, Michael Molloy and Kevin McDonald**

New Business:

**CIP**

Dr. VonVillas stated that she had made a reminder in the packets regarding the mandates that are placed on the school department. A review on the assessment program also had been placed in the packets given to the Budget Board by the School Department. She also stated that the school department had originally given the board a budget approved by the school committee before 1/31/05. There was a revised budget by the school committee given to the board in regards to staffing changing.

The discussion of band uniforms was brought up by Brigitte questioning where the issue stands. Dr. VonVillas stated that in FY04 the council helped with a \$200,000 special appropriation that due to a bad budget year. Dr. VonVillas stated that the revolving uniform account is for athletic uniforms only. Art Hurley questioned John Mainville

regarding an expense at the level of \$25,000 and it was a one-time expense then why could it not be considered under the Capital Improvement Plan. John Mainville stated that he does not believe that it falls within the definition of the ordinance. Brigitte requested that the definition of CIP be defined.

Mark Brizard questioned if the sewer at the Middle School was failing and if that was the reason for the need to hook up to the sewer when the middle school was doing the sewer project. Dr VonVillas stated that she does not believe the sewer is failing but does believe that this is the kind of expenditure if you do not have at this time and access to the money, and in the future, if it does fail where they will be able to come up with the money. Mark Brizard questioned if they will be assessed a sewer charge when they are hooked up to the sewer. Dr. VonVillas brought up that they are meeting with a company that is known to save schools a considerable amount of money in regards to energy. She will be speaking to the school committee to obtain their approval to have the company come in and do a presentation. The subject of FY05 and the \$135,000 for the Callahan School project was in regards to the stairs, High School and Steere Farm roofs.

A discussion in regards to the ice rink was brought up. The question was who is responsible for the ice rink. The school is responsible for the building. \$44,000 is contributed towards the administration, the rest is considered self-supporting. Dr. VonVillas stated that the school department is not ignoring the problem at the ice rink.

Tom Sylvester questioning the CIP request for the telephone system. Dr. VonVillas stated that the phone and intercom system at the high school is very outdated and considered a hazardous situation. They are in the process of trying to upgrade the system to one similar of the Middle School, where each teacher has a cordless type phone system and will be reachable anywhere on the school grounds.

John Mainville requested for a clarification as to what budget the board is to be using. The budget that states updated at 1/31/06 is the correct one.

### **Operational Budget**

The school department answered questioned regarding the step increases that the teachers receive. Dr. VonVillas explained the increase to the board.

Kevin McDonald questioned regarding where they are at with clerical substitutes, custodial overtime. Brigitte requested information as to where they are to date this year.

Art Hurley questioned the variance of \$370,000 in FY05 about the request for classroom teachers. The question was how typical does this happen. As per Robin Kimatian this situation is not typical. The reason is based on a number of issues.

Mike Molloy questioned the workers compensation line item. Robin stated that the RI Trust gave them that number. Art stated that the reason the difference is due to the way the carrier was presenting the data. Art also questioned the MOD number, which is part of the reason the workers compensation is high.

Dr. VonVillas stated that if there is any money left over in certain line items then the department buys supplies, textbooks, etc.

Tom Sylvester questioned the utilities increase. Per Robin, they are running in the red for that account. Under rentals, Brigitte questioned the rental of chairs for the high school graduation. Also the rental of gown for graduation. Per Robin, only the caps and tassels are bought. Brigitte questioned the three-year contract under transportation. Robin stated that they are in a 5 year contract and they are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the contract.

Brigitte questioned the 32% increase for the internet service. What is the need for the internet service for each school? Mike Molloy explained that commercial service internet service is more expensive than home usage. Postage line item is high due to the bulk mailing that is sent out to all the students' homes.

Art brought up the subject of a 5-year high school student. He brought up the subject that he has heard that there is a possibility of a 5-year high school student. Dr. VonVillas explained that it had been explored previously. Mr. Hurley stated that at previous meetings students were outspoken in regards to courses were not available to them in order to graduate.

### **Citizen Comments**

Ann Crouce, 451 Chapel Street, Harrisville, RI questioned what the role as a budget board is. Mr. Hurley explained the function of the budget board. Ms. Crouce also wanted to urge the board and school committee to look at what is being presented to them, especially with the elimination of the culinary program and how this will affect the students. She would like to state that with this elimination of programs the drop out rate would be scientifically higher. Mr. Hurley also explained that the School Committee is an elected board and the budget board is interviewing them so the board is able to make recommendations to the Town Manager.

Margaret Bowers – Lynne Lane, Harrisville, RI  
Wanted to comment on the elimination of a guidance position and the culinary department.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

**A motion was made by Mark Brizard to adjourn meeting and seconded by Brigitte Buxton. With no further discussion, the vote in favor was unanimous. Voting in favor were Brigitte Buxton, Arthur Hurley, Mark Brizard, Michael Molloy and Kevin McDonald**

Minutes Approved by:

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Arthur Hurley, Chairman

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Brigitte Buxton, Vice Chairman

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Mark Brizard, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date filed with Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 16, 2006