

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT (Participating via Zoom)

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Bridget Burkhardt, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, Brian Minier

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Participating via Zoom)

David Young

GUESTS

Attorney Colin McNeil

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bridget Burkhardt called for a motion to enter executive session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and support staff and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. Martin LaLonde made the motion and Alex McHenry seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor. The Board requested that David Young and Attorney Colin McNeil attend executive session.

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff

In: 6:03 p.m.

Out: 7:01 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT (Via Zoom)

Bridget Burkhardt, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, Brian Minier, and student representatives Delaney Rosner and Hiba Ali

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

David Young, Gary Marckres, Patrick Burke, Joanne Godek, Michael Martin, Holly Rouelle, Karsten Schlenter, Mark Trifilio, John Craig, Kathleen Kilbourne, Becky Fontana, Beth Coleman, Kristen Kavanagh, Dean Melen, Christie Nold, Kathy Murphy, Raechel Barone, Emily Gilmore, Jeff Novak, Gary Russell, and Carol Blakely

GUESTS (via Zoom)

92 guests

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Agenda item 15 was moved to the January 20 meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Students and staff recently returned from the early winter break. Rick Marcotte Central School completed their food drive December 17 and donated 661 pounds of food to the South Burlington Food Shelf. There will be no school January 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Winter sports practices began January 4 and more information on clubs and the performing arts will be forthcoming.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young said that the city proposed January 20 as the next steering committee date. After a brief discussion, the board agreed that this date could work if the meeting begins at 6:00 pm and they move their regular board meeting start time to 7:30 pm. A meeting between David Young, Kevin Dorn, and the chair of the school board and city council is tentatively planned for January 22. Bridget Burkhardt asked about an upcoming public meeting on Garden Street and TIF. David Young said he would be in attendance.

TOWN MEETING DAY AND VOTING PROCESS

City Clerk Donna Kinville was in attendance to offer thoughts and information on town meeting day and the voting process options under consideration. Martin LaLonde said that \$2 million in state funding was being proposed to conduct mail in voting for all registered voters. Kinville said that during a normal election year, the cost averages between \$6,000 and \$8,000. If the election was held with all mail in voting, including the postage to have the ballots mailed back, the cost would be between \$35,000 and \$40,000 which would be split between the city and school. This amount could be cut in half if ballots were mailed only to those who request them. Martin LaLonde made the motion to keep town meeting day March 2, 2021, Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor. Martin LaLonde made a motion that all ballots be mailed to registered voters contingent upon funding from the state, Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD AND THE SOUTH BURLINGTON EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL UNIT

Martin LaLonde gave a summary of the agreement which includes step increases in the current year of 30 cents and 40 cents in year two. This equates to 2.7 percent new money in year one and 3.41 percent new money in year two. Employees will pay 11 percent of their healthcare premiums. LaLonde noted that the district has struggled to fill and retain certain positions and this contract makes the district more competitive with area employers, not school districts alone. Martin LaLonde made the motion to ratify the agreement Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gary Marckres said there was not an update since the last meeting on the Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street project.

David Young provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. The design of the positive ventilation system will be completed over the next couple of weeks and will then be out to bid. Public bids will be held via Zoom from February 12-February 19.

COVID-19 UPDATE

David Young said he was happy to be able to have students and staff return to school in the current model after the winter break. Young hopes to maintain the current schedule. There have been some transportation difficulties due to a shortage of staff. The next round of voluntary COVID19 surveillance testing will take place for District staff January 19. Attendance has been strong at these testing days. The current vaccine schedule does not prioritize school personnel at the moment. Young said this is a conversation he is having with fellow Champlain Valley superintendents and they may send a letter to Governor Scott asking that they be prioritized as essential workers.

RAISING OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG YEAR-ROUND AT ALL OF THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOLS

Four Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School students who are members of SOAR (students organizing against racism) gave a presentation about their involvement with SOAR and what raising the Black Lives Matter Flag at all District schools means to them. After board discussion and hearing from the public, Alex McHenry made the motion that the school board endorse the raising of the Black Lives Matter Flag at all five schools and delegate the administration to develop a coordinated process around the action. Martin LaLonde seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor. Michael Martin then gave a presentation regarding ongoing work in the district around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD: ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND ELECTION OF THE CLERK

As Elizabeth Fitzgerald transitions off of the board, she requested that she and Bridget Burkhardt swap roles in advance of Town Meeting Day. Elizabeth Fitzgerald has served as the board clerk in the past. Martin LaLonde made the motion to appoint Bridget Burkhardt chair, Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was held and the motion passed 3 to 1 with Bridget Burkhardt abstaining and Alex McHenry voting "nay." Martin LaLonde made the motion to appoint Elizabeth Fitzgerald clerk, Bridget Burkhardt seconded, a roll call vote was held and the motion passed 4 to 0 with Elizabeth Fitzgerald abstaining.

FY 2022 BUDGET: PRESENTATION OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET

Gary Marckres and David Young gave a slide presentation of the recommended FY22 budget. Items covered included budget priorities, an outline of the 6.84 percent expenditure increase over FY21 and what made up that increase, major contributors to the general fund expenses, enrollment, projected tax impacts, and a proposed \$2.5 million facilities bond article including what projects would be funded by the bond. The next meeting dedicated to the budget will take place January 13 where board action is anticipated.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY REVIEW POLICY G1 TITLE I COMPARABILITY, SECOND READING

Given the late hour, this item was moved to the January 20 meeting.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING • 3.2 ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Given the late hour, this item was moved to the January 20 meeting.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

The support staff contract was ratified this evening and Bridget Burkhardt reported that a mediation session with the SBEA will occur Friday.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Bridget Burkhardt wrote the January board column for The Other Paper on the budget and has posted the January 13, 2021 meeting dedicated to the budget on the board's Facebook page.

SET AGENDA FOR THE JANUARY 20 2021 MEETING

The second reading of executive limitations Policy G1 will return as well as Policy 3.2.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

How to Run Effective Public Hearings (March Board Work Session), City/School Long-term Investment Strategies, Enrichment Activities, and Strategic Plan.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF DECEMBER 14, DECEMBER 16 (TWO MEETINGS), AND DECEMBER 21, 2020

The minutes were approved by consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hire of Margaret Griesmer, 1.0 FTE Speech Language Pathologist at Chamberlin School 22. There were no comments or questions on this item.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #23 and #24

There were no questions or comments on the AP orders.

Accounts Payable Order Check to Bellcate in the amount of \$64,400.70. Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve the AP order check, Alex McHenry seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 11:05 pm.

Bridget Burkhardt, Chair

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk