

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Rick Marcotte Central School Gymnasium**

PRESENT

Patrick Leduc, Julie Beatty, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin

GUESTS

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and support staff and a student matter, and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. The Board requested that Mr. Young and Mr. Aubin attend executive session. The motion was approved.

Discussion Regarding a Student Matter

In: 6:00 p.m.

Out: 6:12 p.m.

No Action

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Teachers and Support Staff

In: 6:12 p.m. Mr. LaLonde arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Out: 6:46 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:46 p.m.

PRESENT

Patrick Leduc, Julie Beatty, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Isaiah Hines

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin, Stuart Weiss, Meg Collins

GUESTS

Approximately 150 guests including several South Burlington School District administrators and staff members

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none. Mr. Young did note that under the Superintendent's Report, he will provide the criteria for the school photography bid and later in the meeting, under the consent agenda, the Board consider approval.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hines reported the following:

- Monday night was the first of a 3-part South Burlington community series on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The next part of the series will be held on February 23 from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in the high school auditorium. This is a teen-led, small group format and is a collaboration between South Burlington School District Healthy Schools, PACT, South Burlington High School Student Diversity Union, South Burlington High School Refugee Outreach Club, Muslim Girls Making Change, FHTMS Peer Leadership, and the South Burlington Community Justice Center. All are welcome.
- Ali Barritt and Trevor Houchens were named as presidential scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.
- South Burlington High School Refugee Outreach Club began a new project where they will send bracelets with messages to students in Ghana. The students from Ghana will send their own back as part of a cultural exchange.
- A Pep Rally organized by the Athletic Leadership Council will be taking place tomorrow.
- A Sign-up sheet for the Rebel Name conversation is being passed around for those interested in speaking.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

There has not been a meeting with the city since the board last met.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**Budget Communication**

Mr. Young provided the Board with the draft ad on the proposed budget which will be placed in the Other Paper. Meetings with Staff and PTOs will be taking place in the next couple weeks to inform community about the budget, the budget process, and provide an opportunity for questions.

School Photography Bid

Mr. Young explained that the purpose of the bid was to ensure we received the best possible cost for our school photography so that parents/guardians could buy the package that best fits them and does not want this to be a money maker. He spoke with the PTOs and recognizes he is pulling important resources back, but informed them that there would be some money available if they were unable to do certain programs. This is also in response to guidance from our auditors who said that we need to have systems in place for money coming in. Mr. Young also wanted to support the PTOs and all the work they do for our schools and their relationship with their photographers. Four groups responded to the bid and two are being put forward. AMV Photography is recommended for Rick Marcotte Central School and Orchard School, and Beltrami is recommended for Chamberlin School. Mr. Young heard comments and responded to

questions from the public.

REBEL IDENTIFIER

Mr. Leduc provided the process for how the Rebel identifier discussion will flow. He encouraged everyone to keep a respectful tone. He stated that we are an inclusionary group and everyone has a right to have their opinion heard. He noted that Mr. Young will provide his recommendation and outline what he thinks the district should do for next steps. The Board can then ask questions and provide comments. Following questions, the Board can present their position or comments. The public conversation will then take place. He has asked that each person state their name and opinion. Following public conversation the Board will have further discussion and then see if they are ready to take action.

Mr. Young provided his recommendation to the School Board. He recommended, "as of the start of the new school year, August 2017, the South Burlington School District no longer uses Rebels or the Rebel identifier as a mascot". Mr. Young also provided the Board with the information that informed his decision. His statement will be posted on the district webpage along with the information that informed his decision.

Pat Phillips read a short statement that he shared with the students and also read a statement prepared by Patrick Burke supporting Mr. Young's recommendation.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Young how students would be involved with a process for change. Mr. Young will come back to the Board with next steps at a future board meeting and stated that the next steps would include feedback from students, staff, and the community.

Each Board member and our student representative read their position statements each stating that it is time to retire the Rebel name.

After the Board members and student representative provided their statements, the mic was opened for public comment.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Young to clarify the timing and distribution of the survey that was provided to staff and students. Mr. Young noted that Mr. Burke sent the survey to staff and students through Survey Monkey and a high percentage of staff and students participated. He can provide results to the Board for direct inspection but stated there are some small numbers that are identifiable. He is not sure why some did not receive the survey.

Mr. LaLonde thanked the students for speaking out on both sides and said it was very brave to do so. Mr. Leduc agreed and thanked them as well.

Ms. Fitzgerald made a motion that the Board accept the recommendation of administration to retire the Rebel nickname effective August, 2017 and move forward on a process as outlined. Mr. LaLonde seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The Board took a 10 minute recess.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. Leduc asked Mr. LaLonde if he could provide an update on the Governor's budget proposal and its effect on our budget. Mr. LaLonde noted that the Senate Education Committee voted 6 to 0 against the bill that would have changed the date. He doesn't believe the House Committee has voted on it yet. What may affect next year's budget, he doesn't know. He believes we are safe to be proceeding now. No action needed.

MASTER PLANNING AND VISIONING**Committee Structure**

Mr. Young is in the process of working with his staff to identify the targeted areas that we are going to monitor. He is also looking closer at high school and middle school upgrades. Ms. Burkhardt asked if prioritizing the study of Chamberlin School with a contingency plan is also in that agenda. Mr. Young stated that it is part of the targeted areas. Mr. Young will return to the first or second meeting in March with more specific details.

UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that the subcommittees of the Educators Association met for a working session on January 23 and the next working session is scheduled for February 13. The conversation is active and they will continue to provide updates. Ms. Burkhardt stated that the next meeting with the South Burlington Educators Association Educational Support Staff Professional Unit (SBSD ESPU) will be on February 7. Proposal sections that weren't covered at the last meeting will be covered at this meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. LaLonde moved that the Board approve the guidelines. Ms. Burkhardt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passes.

REVIEW TOPICS FOR OTHER PAPER ARTICLES

The Board discussed the topic for the next Other Paper article. They decided to outline the Rebel name process. Ms. Fitzgerald will write this article. Mr. LaLonde will write about Social Media the following month. Mr. Young thought we could also report on data we have collected on voter participation. This will be brought back at the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Hines asked about the student representative position on the School Board and if there are any updates on that. Mr. Young will be setting up a meeting with the student and will start the process.

SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR ORIENTATION

Ms. Burkhardt discussed the need to meet with the new members of the Board as it does take some time to get up to speed. She provided the Board with topics she felt are important to discuss with the new members and asked the Board to provide her with feedback. The Board will have a warned working session in March.

SET AGENDA FOR THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 MEETING

The Board discussed the agenda for the board meeting of February 15, 2017.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board discussed future agenda items.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2017 BOARD MEETING

Mr. Leduc announced general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017 as amended. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resignation/Retirement

Claire Buckley, 1.0 Library Media Specialist at the High School effective June 30, 2017

Bids

School Photography Bid

Mr. Leduc announced general consensus of the Board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #28 and #29

The Board reviewed accounts payable orders #28 and #29.

ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Patrick Leduc, Chair

Julie Beatty, Clerk