

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library
500 Dorset Street**

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald (via phone), Bridget Burkhardt, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry

AMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, Gary Marckres, Delina Gilroy, Amadee Denton

GUESTS

Approximately 12 guests.

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

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

CONSIDER SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET FOR FY 2021

David Young provided an overview of the FY 2021 school district budget.

The board discussed the revised school district budget for FY 2021. Several board members would like to see the proposed budget come in under 10 percent.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked if any of the proposed reductions will turn into deferred expenses that will need to be addressed in the future years.

Bridget Burkhardt asked if there are projects at the high school or middle school that need to be addressed now that the bond did not pass.

Board members suggested that the district plan for a fund balance/contingency account. The district has \$100,000 in contingency built into the proposed budget.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked about the retirement savings.

Bridget Burkhardt asked the administration to take a harder look at all programs and determine which programs could be removed without jeopardizing student learning. David Young said if we want to maintain the current initiatives, the budget presented does this.

David Young provided approximately \$221,000 in additional reductions which would bring the tax rate just below 10 percent. The board discussed adding back one of the security positions.

An audience member said it is not reasonable for staff to be getting such a large increase in wages every year?

An audience member spoke about the South Burlington tax rate and reassessment of his home due to the current underassessment.

An audience member asked about the Island school district budgets and where he would find the tuition amounts for sending students to other districts.

Martin LaLonde would like to understand what else can be eliminated from the budget. What does it take to decrease the budget and what impact does that have on programming?

Bridget Burkhardt would like to understand what the next layer of reductions would look like and what the impact would be.

Alex McHenry would also like to see what additional reductions would look like.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald said the primary guidance from the board is for the administration to look at other potential reductions which would not defer expenses to the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alex McHenry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Bridget Burkhardt, Acting Chair

Martin LaLonde, Acting Clerk