

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library**

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Bridget Burkhardt, Martin LaLonde (via telephone), Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin

GUESTS

Attorney Sean Toohey, Attorney John Klesh, Attorney David Rugh

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with administrators and to consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the school board concerning legal matters and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. The Board requested that David Young, John Aubin, Attorney Toohey, and Attorney Rugh attend executive session. The motion was approved.

Discussion Regarding Legal Matters

In: 6:00 p.m.

Out: 6:45 p.m.

No Action

Attorney Rugh and Attorney Toohey left executive session.

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Administrators

In: 6:45 p.m.

Out: 6:55 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:55 p.m.

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski, Alex Escaja-Heiss and Arnel Husrefovic

Martin LaLonde arrived at 7:07 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin, Stuart Weiss, Meg Collins

GUESTS

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REGULAR SESSION

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

David Young called the meeting to order, introduced the board members to the audience, and noted that this is the first meeting of the South Burlington School Board following the approved budget and the reelection of our school board members Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Bridget Burkhardt.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD**Election of the Chairperson**

Bridget Burkhardt moved and Steve Wisloski seconded the motion to nominate Elizabeth Fitzgerald as chair of the school board. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Election of the Clerk

Alex McHenry moved and Steve Wisloski seconded the motion to nominate Bridget Burkhardt as clerk of the board. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

DESIGNATE A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TO SIGN CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Steve Wisloski moved and Alex McHenry seconded the motion to nominate Bridget Burkhardt to sign contracts on behalf of the Board. The motion was approved.

REVIEW POLICY B1 BOARD MEMBERS CONFLICT OF INTEREST, POLICY B2 BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT, AND GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

David Young noted that this is a good time in the year to review Policy B1 Board Members Conflict of Interest, Policy B2 Board Member Code of Conduct, and Guidelines on Social Media Communications. Elizabeth Fitzgerald suggested that the Board review these policies in SafeSchools each year and sign off on them. Elizabeth Fitzgerald would like these policies renewed, considered and adopted every 5 years.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Leslie Mercy, President of the Rotary Club, stated that a priority of their club is to support the youth of the community. Their annual fundraiser is on May 21. This will be a golf tournament. The Rotary would like to use some of the proceeds to go to the middle school to support the education of the youth with a program about opiate addiction. The Rotary would like to work with the school to develop a program. The Rotary is looking for the Boards approval for receiving the funds. Arnel Husrefovic recommended collaborating with students to create the program. Alex Escaja-Heiss asked how this would be different than what is presented in health class. The Rotary would look to the students for help in determining that. Elizabeth Fitzgerald thanked the Rotary on behalf of the Board for their past contributions to our schools and students and looks forward to seeing what comes of this as well.

MargaretAnn Cross, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, stated that the City voted to send a letter to the Board asking that the district enter into negotiations about a land swap which would benefit the new library that is being designed for City Center. She wanted to ask the Board for their support in this effort and noted if their Library Board could be helpful to the School Board in terms of facilitating negotiations they would be happy to work with them to assist in any way they can.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald noted that the Board received a Letter of Intent from the City and the plan is to put it on the April 4 agenda for discussion. She noted this is the earliest opportunity to discuss the letter of intent. She also noted that this will not meet the April 1 deadline given by the City Council.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

David Young will add a leave request for Eric Stone to item 21, the consent agenda. Bridget Burkhardt would like to discuss this request and have it stand on its own. David Young removed this request from consent agenda and added it as item 21A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student representatives to the Board, Alex Escaja-Heiss and Arnel Husrefovic, provided the following announcements:

- **Chamberlin:** Last night (March 20), Chamberlin held its 6th annual Invention Convention, an opportunity for students in grades 3-5 to share inventions they made at home with their school community.
- **Orchard:** This Friday, March 23, is the annual Orchard School Skate Night at Cairns Arena, which includes a collection of canned goods for the Vermont Foodbank.
- **Rick Marcotte Central School:** This Friday, March 23, is the annual RMCS Spring Fair, a school community event with games, food and fun.
- **F.H. Tuttle Middle School:** The South Burlington Mathcounts team swept the first five places at the State championship, with Sriram Sethuraman, Saksham Bhardwaj, Sangmin Lee and Kenny Chamberlain qualifying for the National Championship in Washington DC and Simon Cafiero as the first alternate. Anshuta Beeram also finished in the top ten.
- **South Burlington High School:**
 - A Walk Out Event was held on March 15. There was a 17-minute long “moment of silence” to honor the students who lost their lives in the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida.
 - Gender and Sexuality Alliance Club attended leadership day at the State House in Montpelier.
 - Peace and Justice Center held the Ed Everts Activist Award which was presented to SBHS alum Isaiah Hines and also Muslim Girls Making Change.
 - Vera Escaja-Heiss is the Vermont Poetry Out Loud State Champion. She will travel to Washington DC for the National Championships.

- This Friday, March 23, SBHS Drama will host its One-Act Performance in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
 - TIE Japan - our Japanese visitors will be at the high school from March 22 - April 2
 - Saturday, March 24, is the VT State Science and Math Fair at Norwich University.
 - Sunday, March 25, a SBHS Band Concert will be held at 2:00 p.m.
 - Freshman students had lunch with the Young at Heart group at City Hall.
- **Kindergarten Registration:**

Chamberlin School (652-7403)	April 9 and 10
RM Central School (652-7202)	April 11 and 12
Orchard School (652-7302)	April 17 and 18
 - David Young met with Alex Escaja-Heiss and Arnel Husrefovic to discuss a Public Hearing or dialog on public safety in our schools. They would like student voice in that dialog.
 - The School Board has been invited to send two members to the Beyond Diversity Training taking place in district on August 22 and 23.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Discussion took place during Comments From the Public regarding a Letter of Intent received by the Board from the City. That will be placed on the April 4 meeting for discussion. The next meeting with the City is on Friday, March 23.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alex McHenry provided articles to the Board to help support a Tobacco bill which is being considered to raise the age of purchasing cigarettes, and e-cigarettes from 18 to 21. The bill does not seem to be gaining momentum. Alex McHenry would like to see the school board get behind the bill by writing a resolution to the legislature. Martin Lalonde agreed and said there should be a focus on e-cigarettes. He felt that the letter should be put together at the beginning of the biennium. Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked if there was a VSBA position on this. Martin LaLonde felt that the Board could propose a resolution that would be brought before the VSBA, if there isn't a resolution already. General agreement would be to get a resolution to the VSBA in late June. Elizabeth Fitzgerald thanked Alex McHenry and encouraged him to stay on top of the data that would support the resolution.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald noted that she and David Young received an email from Maida Townsend with a link to a bill from the House Government Operations in reference to Open Meeting Laws and Public Records Act. Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked David Young to circulate the email to the Board. Martin LaLonde said that Representatives sent their regrets that they would not be out of session in time to make it to the meeting tonight.

Martin LaLonde noted high school sophomore Amelia Charbonneau testified in front of the Education Committee promoting the collective bargaining bill.

Martin LaLonde provided an update on the following:

School Safety Initiatives - The Judiciary Committee passed out a gun law that would establish expanded background checks, raise the age to 21 to purchase firearms with some exceptions, ban bump stocks and high capacity ammunition loading devices, like magazines and clips. Two other bills dealing with gun laws were presented, one is to remove firearms from domestic violence situations and the other is an extreme risk protection order bill – before someone has committed a crime, if there is a showing that there is an extreme risk of harming themselves or others with firearms, then the firearms can be removed.

House Capital Bill - Governor Scott requested 5 million dollars to help schools with safety upgrades.

H911 Bill passed – this diversifies the revenue stream by reducing the reliance on property tax and shifting some of the education funding to income tax. Elizabeth Fitzgerald noted that the Board did send a letter to the House Ways and Means Committee requesting that the changes not affect the budgets that were in front of community members. Martin LaLonde stated that this would not affect the budgets but agreed that it would affect taxpayers. The Board discussed this Bill at great length.

ELECTION RESULTS

David Young provided the voter information overview from 2009-2018 to the Board. The following items were covered:

- Voter information overview
- 2015-2018 comparison
- Voter participation by district
- Voting results by district
- Bond Vote
- Historical trend from 2009-2018

Based on feedback Elizabeth Fitzgerald received, she asked if the Board wanted to come up with a mechanism for teachers/staff to provide feedback to the Board. Bridget Burkhardt agreed that they should come up with a mechanism for staff to provide information. Staff Input Mechanism will be placed on the future agenda items.

Bridget Burkhardt received feedback concerning transparency and would like a broad discussion on transparency and how to make things more clear for the public.

She also felt the budget worksheet may need to be redesigned and financial information may need to be laid out throughout the year. She would like a reporting tool that will help make things clearer for the public. Tools for Transparency will be added to future agenda items.

Bridget would also like an assessment system set up in a way that we have reporting tools for the public to have a better sense of how we are doing. This will also be added to future agenda items.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald would like to identify a date for a board workshop and then look at future agenda items to come up with topics.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR FOR 2018-2019

David Young provided a draft calendar to the Board for consideration. The regional calendar has 175 days in common with local schools. The district adds an additional 5 school days and 9 professional development days to comply with contracts. The Board had several questions and asked to have a comparison between this year's early release and late start days to this new calendar and to look at the March 29 early release day. The calendar will be brought back to the April 4 agenda for action.

MASTER PLANING AND VISIONING

David Young provided an update on Master Planning with a view towards completion on April 30, 2018. The following items were discussed:

- High/Middle School Facilities Study
- Building Capacity
- Noise Monitoring Plan at Chamberlin School: Measurement of Educational Classroom Interference
- Threshold Criteria
- SWOT Analysis
- Noise Mitigation

Committee Work Update

Bridget Burkhardt noted that as we get results from the first stage of high school/middle school analysis, the architects will next look at the cost of these different options. She feels there is a need for an interim step that drives capital investment based on needs of curriculum and programing and draws in different viewpoints of what those are and what we want actual classroom spaces to look like. She feels that they need to give the architects instruction on what is needed. David Young said a committee will be formed including classroom teachers. Touring and discussion on best instruction spaces will be included in this committee work. Bridget Burkhardt wants to be sure the committee is driving the process not the architects. She recommended that a task force is formed to do the educational visioning before phase 2 of the architect's work. The subcommittee will meet on April 9.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING

2.4 Financial Condition and Activities

John Aubin reviewed the updates to detail policy #8 and the superintendent's interpretation. There was discussion about the updates and discussion regarding detail policy #7. The Board approved the monitoring report.

Ends Monitoring – Academic Proficiency

Due to the late hour, this item was removed from the agenda and will be brought back to the April 4 board meeting.

REVIEW SCHOOL BOARD SELF EVALUATION

Due to the late hour, this item was removed from the agenda and will be brought back to the April 4 meeting.

SET AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 4, 2018 MEETING

The Board discussed the agenda for the April 4, 2018 school board meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board discussed future agenda items.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018

Elizabeth Fitzgerald announced general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of February 21, 2018. There were no objections.

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO THE SOUTH BURLINGTON ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSOCIATION SECTION 125 PLAN

John Aubin provided an amendment to the South Burlington Administrator's Association Section 125. Bridget Burkhardt moved that the Board accept the amendment to the South Burlington Administrator's Association Section 125 Plan, Martin. LaLonde seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA**Hire**

Michael Martin, 1.0 FTE Director of Learning, District

Leave

Bill Wight, 1.0 Social Studies Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School
Leave from October 1 – October 29, 2018.

Retirements/Resignations

Phyllis Stambolian, .80 FTE guidance Counselor, RM Central School
Barbara Yerrick, .80 FTE Mathematics Coach, RM Central School

Elizabeth Fitzgerald announced consensus of the Board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ERIC STONE, 1.0 FTE MATH TEACHER, SBHS

The Board discussed a second year the leave of absence request made by Eric Stone. Martin LaLonde moved not to approve the request for a second year leave of absence. Bridget Burkhardt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passes.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #31, #32, #33, #34, #35, and #36

The Board reviewed accounts payable order #31, #32, #33, #34, #35 and #36.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER CHECK TO HOWARD CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$292,425.03

Martin LaLonde moved that the Board approve accounts payable order check to Howard Center for Human Services in the amount of \$292,425.03 Bridget Burkhardt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passes.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bridget Burkhardt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Martin LaLonde, Clerk