

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020  
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.  
Special Session at 7:00 P.M.  
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library  
500 Dorset Street**

**PRESENT (Participating Via Zoom)**

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

**AMINISTRATION/STAFF (Participating Via Zoom)**

David Young, Gary Marckres

**GUESTS**

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The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There were no comments or questions.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald made a motion to enter executive session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. Martin LaLonde seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes. Elizabeth Fitzgerald requested that David Young and Gary Marckres attend executive session.

**Labor Negotiations with Teachers**

In: 6:01 p.m.

Out: 6:47 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:47 p.m.

**PRESENT (Participating Via Zoom)**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Bridget Burkhardt, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, Brian Minier, Cole Patno, Delaney Rosner

**AMINISTRATION/STAFF (Participating Via Zoom)**

David Young (at FHT library), Delina Gilroy (at FHT library), Gary Marckres, Amadee Denton, Steve Walker (at FHT library), Holly Rouelle, Brent Coon, Mark Trifilio, Karsten Schlenter, David Hyatt, Michael Martin, Joanne Godek, Patrick Burke, John Craig

**GUESTS**

Approximately 300 guests via Zoom including many staff members

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

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Young amended the agenda to remove Agenda Item #11.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Cole Patno and Delaney Rosner spoke about how COVID-19 has changed their daily learning to online and how well it is going.

David Young said he had sad news to share about a long-time staff member at Rick Marcotte Central School, Beth White. Beth passed away yesterday.

**CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

David Young said he has been in contact with Donna Kinville, City Clerk, about the May 7 vote date. He said he received new guidance today regarding COVID-19 revised voting guidelines which he needs to review. Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked if a meeting could be set up with Kevin Dorn, David Young, and Helen Riehle to get an idea of where things are now and how we will move forward.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

David Young provided an update on the services being provided by the district including continuance of learning (classroom teachers are working hard to provide services outside of school) food delivery for PreK-12 (food service staff are preparing meals for approximately 800 students) and childcare is being provided to approximately 11 students by the district to South Burlington parents and guardians designated as essential workers.

Board members and community members asked several questions.

**SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR REVISION**

David Young provided an update to the district academic calendar approved last week. He said there was a day count issue in October which has been fixed. He requested that the board approve the new version of the academic calendar.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald called for a motion. Brian Minier moved and Alex McHenry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

**ALLOWABLE TUITION RATE RECONCILIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019**

The board discussed the allowable tuition rate reconciliation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Alex McHenry motioned to approve the allowable tuition rate reconciliation as presented. Brian Minier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

**CONSIDER FY 2021 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

David Young provided an overview of the FY 2021 budget which is available for review on Zoom. The budget is not warned for action, it is for discussion purposes only. Amadee Denton provided an overview of responses to some of the community suggestions.

David Young said the district did receive new guidance today from the Secretary of State's Office which needs to be reviewed and discussed with Donna Kinville, City Clerk.

The budget presentation will be posted to the district web page along with the proposed reductions.

David Young provided an overview of the proposed \$2,356,658 in budget cuts throughout the district. They include:

- One school bus lease
- District facility stewardship
- District IT computer resources
- District and hourly staff reductions
- District special education clerical positions
- District seasonal grounds worker
- FHTMS building support position
- District safety and security
- District/HS alumni and development
- District human resources software
- District transportation director
- District ITE staff
- District IT/help desk staff
- District healthy schools' position
- High school guidance outreach
- High school activities/athletics
- Chamberlin teacher
- Rick Marcotte Central School teacher
- Orchard teacher
- High school core teacher sections
- FHT Middle School Wolf Den support position
- High school technical education
- High school driver's education
- High school world language
- High school PE/health
- Rick Marcotte Central School teacher
- Chamberlin teacher
- Orchard teacher
- FHT Middle School library support position
- High school business and health education teacher
- FHT Middle School enrichment program reduction
- High school visual and performing arts

- FHT Middle School family and consumer science program
- High school big picture program
- FHT Middle School digital citizenship
- FHT Middle School visual and performing arts/music appreciation

Board members asked detailed questions about each proposed budget reduction and made comments and suggestions.

The board provided the administration with the following direction regarding the prioritized reduction list.

- Martin LaLonde – C & B reductions get the district to the place they need to be for the next budget vote while minimizing the impact to the students and the student programming that we have currently.
- Martin LaLonde – In the B category, keep ITE and IT staff, as well as healthy schools and the community outreach position. If we can get to the 4% increase range, I think that should be our goal.
- Brian Minier – If you take out the individuals that support special education teachers, it might impact the students.
- Brian Minier – (Alumni & Development) Do you need to spend money to make money?
- Brian Minier – (Safety and Security) Are we getting a return on investment for this?
- Brian Miner and Martin LaLonde -- want to keep all the items in A and feel the board does not need to go over them.
- Bridget Burkhardt – Okay with items in C, but not with all the items in B, and would like to keep all of the items in A.
- Alex McHenry – Does not want to make any of the cuts in A.
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – If administration wants to trade off anything in the B category, they might look at generic target for A's with a dollar figure and allow administration the opportunity to prioritize those as needed to see if there is anything they would like to trade out of A for B. She would not support the entire package as presented.
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – Choose a target expense increase and leave it to administrators to do the tradeoffs between categories A & B. If there is a tradeoff in B, take that dollar amount from the A's but leave that up to administration.
- Martin LaLonde – The last few items in the B category were getting a little too close to education of our students. I would keep the IT and ITE positions and trade that for the human resources staff which is lower on this list. So, my target is a 4% increase.
- Bridget Burkhardt – Transportation Director concerned that Director of Operations would have to devote a significant portion of his day to transportation issues. This is concerning.
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – If three staff members maintains the current district human resources staff, with the shift of our employee base and the shift to statewide healthcare I want to ensure that we have adequate staffing.
- Bridget Burkhardt – I am struggling with all of the B category. Safety and Security are important as well as all of the others.
- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – What we have is the priority by the administration and I

think we need to understand where they are coming from.

- Elizabeth Fitzgerald – The original budget included an increase in FTEs over the prior year. What were the actual FTE increases over the prior year and what were they?

Student Representative Cole Patno and Delaney Rosner commented about the budget and proposed reductions.

Many community members asked questions and provided feedback with Zoom questions and answers.

Bridget Burkhardt said that board members are willing to meet individually with community members about budget questions or concerns they may have. Feel free to contact board members directly with questions via email or phone.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked David Young to follow up on the proposed voting date of May 7 with the city clerk and legal counsel before a final decision is made.

### **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald reported that none of the groups have met since the last board meeting. The board would like to continue negotiations with the South Burlington Educators Association via Zoom and have reached out to the association to set this up. Martin LaLonde said he and Brian Minier will do the same with the union support staff and administrators.

### **OTHER PAPER ARTICLES**

The board discussed topics for Other Paper articles.

### **SET AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 29**

The board discussed the agenda for the April 29, 2020 school board meeting.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Future agenda items will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER #35**

The board reviewed accounts payable order #35.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Martin LaLonde motioned to adjourn the regular meeting and Brian Minier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk