

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017  
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.  
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library**

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Aubin

**GUESTS**

Attorney SeanToohey

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and support staff, and to consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the school board concerning the ballot initiatives 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 Attorney Toohey attend executive session. The motion was approved.

**Consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the school board concerning the ballot initiatives and a student matter.**

In: 6:05

Out: 6:53

No action.

The board will add an executive session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss labor negotiations with teacher and support staff.

The executive session was closed at 6:53 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski, Isaiah Hines, and Alex Escaja-Heiss

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Aubin, Stuart Weiss, Mark Trifilio, Joanne Godek, Susie Merrick, Karsten Schlenter, Holly Rouelle, Meg Collins and several teachers and staff.

**GUESTS**

Approximately 150 guests

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The board listened to many comments from the public regarding, transparency, Rebel name change, and the threat at the high school.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Young noted the following amendments to the agenda:

- A brief executive session will be added at the end of the regular meeting to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and support staff.
- Safety and Security will be added to the agenda. This discussion will be placed next on the agenda.

**SECURITY AND SAFETY**

Mr. Young gave an overview of the events that took place in the district concerning the email and phone threat. Detective Ron Bliss from the South Burlington Police Department joined Mr. Young to answer questions from the public. Detective Bliss stated that this is an ongoing investigation and explained the process that Police take when a threat using technology takes place. He explained that he can't be specific but Police did not feel the threat was valid yesterday. Because the threat today was more specific with a specific time, a decision was made to put the high school in lockdown. He noted that the procedures that are in place for a lockdown worked perfectly. Protocols were put in place at the middle school. All middle school students were kept inside. Officers were in the parking lot between the high school and middle school. At the same time diligent work is being done by the police department to look at the origination of the email and phone message. Because this is an internet based crime, it involves a lot of work to get information from the internet companies. Internet companies have up to 60 days to provide information. The Police reached out to federal agencies because they have more clout when using a federal subpoena.

Mr. Young explained the communication process. First and foremost, we ensure the safety of our students. Then we find out what the risk is and provide some level of detail to parents with clarity. There was a delay due to a delivery filter problem at the middle school which has since been fixed. There will be a Police presence on site tomorrow. The administrative staff debriefed with police this afternoon.

A community member asked what happens if another threat comes in tomorrow? Mr. Young stated that protocols and procedures are in place and action will be taken to keep our students safe. Additional precautions have also been put in place. Mr. Young noted that he cannot talk specifically about the protocols that are in place for safety reasons, but all staff that work in the district are provided that information. As Detective Bliss noted, what happened at the high school is a testament to the practice of these procedures to ensure the safety of our students. Detective Bliss noted that this is happening across the country. Most of these swatting incidences are an online hoax. Swatting is when threats are made that certain incidents are going to happen and then they don't happen. It is a hoax.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hines and Ms. Escaja-Heiss provided the following announcements:

- Spring sports have begun, rowing and other clubs just started this week.
- Students have been able to give input on the new rebel identifier over the past month.
- Autism Awareness took place at the high school this week.
- SBAC testing for Juniors has now ended and AP exams will take place after the break.
- Big Picture had their student exhibitions this week.
- The Fine Arts Festival that would have taken place tonight has been canceled.
- PACT dinner is taking place tomorrow from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- DECA fundraiser is taking place at UNOs tomorrow.
- Friday is the last day of school before break.

**CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

Mr. Young meets with Mr. Dorn tomorrow and will discuss continuing our board chair and city council meetings. A Steering Committee meeting will also be scheduled. Mr. Young needed to secure a secondary site due to today's incident and the city opened up a room for this purpose. Mr. Young would like to thank the city for their help with this. Mr. Weiss and Ms. Godek, two district administrators, were at city hall with police officers to help inform the public of what was going on in the schools.

**CITIZEN PETITION REGARDING REBEL NAME**

Ms. Donna Kinville, City Clerk, presented two citizen petitions to the board. The two petitions state the following:

- Should the name of all South Burlington School District sports teams be the "South Burlington Rebels" and should the South Burlington City Council and South Burlington School Board be required to make official, retain, and maintain this name for all South Burlington School District sports teams?
- Should there be a prohibition on the expenditure of funds by the South Burlington City Council and the South Burlington School Board to change the name of athletic teams in the South Burlington School District to anything other than "South Burlington Rebels"?

Ms. Kinville noted that these petitions were presented to the city council Monday night.

The board will take this under advisement and will seek legal council on the petitions. Mr. LaLonde would like to set something up so that the community can understand the issues of the authority of the board and the authority of the electorate.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked Ms. Kinville what the cost of an election would be. Ms. Kinville stated that it depends on the scope of the elections. The ballot revote we just had cost between \$3,000 - \$4,000. It was low tech without tabulators. If we were to use tabulators it would be \$7,000-\$8,000. Ms. Kinville noted, as for timing of ballot petitions, the school board and city council have to determine how they will move forward.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****Enrollment Update**

Mr. Young will provide an update within item 9, FY 18 Budget.

**FY 18 BUDGET**

Mr. Young provided a budget packet to the board. Mr. Young noted that he took the feedback that was provided by the public at the last meeting and incorporated some of it into this new budget. Mr. Young reviewed the changes to the budget. This packet will be posted to the district website. The board asked many questions regarding the changes to the budget. Ms. Fitzgerald provided general guidance to synthesize information, be specific about staffing and programming and provide clarity on the impact on students. Mr. Young responded to several questions and heard comments from the public.

To close this item discussion, Ms. Fitzgerald noted that this is a budget discussion and the board has not gotten to the position where they can accept a budget to take to the voters; that will happen on a future agenda. She noted that she has had a number of conversations over the past few weeks with community members and the common thread she is hearing is that nobody wants to hurt the schools or harm the programming and the engagement that the board has had on the budget has been very robust. The board is extremely appreciative of the input that has been given. Budget discussion begin in October every year and this is a difficult time to be having budget discussion because we really need to operate the schools and be at the point where they can adopt a new budget that the voters approve. She hopes to see the level of engagement and questioning that has come from the community in future budgets.

There will be a special meeting next Friday to further discuss the budget.

**FY 18 BUDGET COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Young has some budget communication ideas and will also reactivate the budget advisory committee. There needs to be a robust communication plan to inform the community in many different ways. He heard good ideas tonight and if other people have ideas, he is open to hearing them. He's happy to think about coffees, large groups, small groups, PTO meetings, etc.

**SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL AGENDA CALENDAR**

Mr. Young provided the board with an agenda and work plan for 2017-18. Ms. Fitzgerald would like to put on a board agenda to discuss whether to include major areas that have been identified by the community which may help lay the ground work for subsequent budgets, for example tuition students and programming, class sizes and outcomes, and health care benefits. Sounds like there is interest to learn about key drivers within the district both in outcomes and the expenses associated with driving those outcomes.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

A special board meeting is scheduled for Friday May 28 at Frederick Tuttle Middle School Library. No action will be warned for that meeting knowing many community members are on vacation, it will be discussion only. It is an opportunity for the board to provide input to the administration on developing a budget that will get approved by the

board and taken to the voters.

Regular School Board meetings will continue to be the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The proposed budget will be brought back to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting and warned for action.

### **UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. LaLonde noted that since the last Board meeting it has been confirmed that a meeting on May 15 will be for mediation and if necessary, June 6 will be for fact finding. There have been a couple of press releases that can be found on the website. The press has requested documents that were released and he would like to get the documents online under the negotiations tab.

Support Staff negotiations continue, though they had to postpone the meeting on Monday for scheduling reasons. There is a meeting scheduled in early May. Progress is being made. Concerns outlined by the community through Board feedback, regarding negotiations, will be addressed on May 3.

### **REVIEW TOPICS FOR OTHER PAPER ARTICLES**

The Board discussed the topic for the next Other Paper article. Mr. McHenry has developed a draft article on Act 68 spending which he will edit based on feedback from the board. Mr. Hines will modify his Frozen Schedule article and will submit it to the board by the weekend and to the Other Paper by their deadline of April 27.

### **SET AGENDA FOR THE MAY 3, 2017 MEETING**

The Board discussed the agenda for the Board meeting of May 3, 2017.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board discussed future agenda items.

### **CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 30, THE SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF APRIL 5, 2017, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2017.**

Ms. Fitzgerald announced general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of the March 30, April 5, and April 10 meetings. There were no objections.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **Hire**

Michael Jabour, 1.0 FTE Director of Students Activities at South Burlington High School

#### **Retirements/Resignations**

Annemarie Adams, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Orchard School

Pamela Van De Graaf, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Chamberlin School

#### **Bid(s)**

Nutritional Services Software Request for Proposal

Resurfacing of High School Gym Floor

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

Ms. Fitzgerald expressed gratitude and congratulations on behalf of the board for Anne Marie Adams and Pamela Van De Graaf's years of service.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #37, #38 and #39**

The Board reviewed accounts payable orders #37, #38, and #39.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER CHECK TO HOWARD CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT \$73,689.75.**

Mr. Wisloski moved that the board approve the check to Howard Center for Human Services in the amount of \$73,689.75. Mr. LaLonde seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m. and the board re-entered executive session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Teachers and Support Staff**

In: 10:30

Out: 10:50

No Action.

The Executive Session was closed at 10:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Martin LaLonde, Clerk