

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT (Participating via Zoom)

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Participating via Zoom)

David Young, Gary Marckres

GUESTS

1 community member and Attorney Joe McNeil

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

A community member asked about the process for community members to post signs on school property.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered executive session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. The board requested that David Young, Attorney Joe McNeil and Gary Marckres attend executive session. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff

In: 6:09 p.m.

Out: 6:56 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:56 p.m.

PRESENT (Participating via Zoom)

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Participating via Zoom)

David Young, Gary Marckres, Amadee Denton, Michael Martin, Meg Collins, Mark Trifilio, Karsten Schlenter, Patrick Burke, Kathy Murphy

GUESTS

Approximately 48 guests via Zoom including many 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

David Young noted that item number 18 Accounts Payable Orders to be reviewed by the Board are #46, #47 and #1. David Young also added item 9A, Request that the City Clerk Send the School Ballot to Every Citizen Requesting an Absentee Ballot for the Primary Election, for action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Young noted that there will not be a separate set of announcements because a lot of information will be provided in tonight's discussions.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young and Elizabeth Fitzgerald met with Kevin Dorn and Helen Riehle on June 26. They talked about common level of appraisal (CLA) and reappraisals, 180 Market Street. A Steering Committee meeting is planned for July 20 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. virtually. The agenda will include the school budget, reappraisal, and updates to current projects.

Also discussed was the Board of Civil authority; how it works with school districts and also brought up the real estate component and how it connects to the CLA. David Young asked if we could get a real estate leader to help us understand how properties are selling in South Burlington. It was noted that reappraisals are in process, though slowed by Covid-19, however, appraisers are now getting back into homes to complete the appraisals.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street**

Gary Marckres noted that plans are still on schedule. Paving will happen next week on School Street and portions of the Rick Marcotte Central School parking lot. This will provide abundant parking for School's Out and those working at Rick Marcotte Central School this summer. Gary Marckres noted the only concern is the very competitive demand on time for the market of subcontractors, however the focus on this project is high.

Chamberlin School Noise Mitigation/Airport

Gary Marckres stated that there is no additional information on the status of the grant from the FAA. No decision has been made by the FAA.

COVID-19 Update**Start of 2020-21 School Year**

David Young noted that the district has been collaborating with other educational partners in the Champlain Valley. Principals are trying to come up with a schedule that will work for us. Our district is planning for multiple reopening approaches. There are three levels of service that will be used for reopening depending on health and safety concerns. Our elementary schools will open at step III, which is in-person instruction with distancing measures, restricting attendance to those from limited transmission areas. The high school would open at step II, which would be in-person instruction with

hybrid components based on the students served. Step 1 is remote learning. The schools need to be prepared to be able to move from Step 2 or 3 to Step 1 given certain circumstances and then back again as needed. More guidance on determining this will be coming.

There is a re-opening task force at the district level and also at each school. They have been meeting to plan for the start of the school year.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the opening of school. The RETN recording can be viewed by going to the district website www.sbschools.net then clicking on Our District, then school board agenda and minutes, then clicking on the RETN video recording link at the top of the page.

Parents and guardians are anxious to know what the start of the school year will look like. The plan will be communicated out to parents and guardians in early August. The district will also need to understand from the staff who may not be able to come in due to various reasons.

A community member asked about using space in the community library for educational purposes. David Young noted that they are looking at all available spaces however, there are complications when intermingling with public spaces.

Alex McHenry expressed concerns about opening schools without a vaccine. He would like all instruction to be online.

David Young said that they are following guidelines set in science. Protocols and procedures will be in place to protect our students and staff. The district will take a conservative approach. As mentioned, the high school will be able to start in Step 2 but can shift to Step 1 if need be. He noted it is important for students to come in to school.

Brian Minier noted that he will be writing the next Other Paper article on re-opening, and what it will look like.

Bridget Burkhardt noted from a parental perspective, that she would like to be informed of things parents can prepare for and what their children can prepare for.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald would like to see parents/guardians included early on in the building level task force.

Patrick Burke noted that area principals at the secondary level are working with tech centers. The high school has 40 members on their task force, with 10 students, 8 parents, and staff. The data collection done in the spring has been helpful. Patrick Burke noted that it is important to be transparent about the task force, noting they are not decision making but are sounding boards about decisions being made. He said they are getting good ideas about things we could be doing going forward. They meet once a week and have had three meetings so far. Patrick is looking forward to continuing the work.

Mark Trifilio said they have about 12 people on their task force at Orchard School. He

noted a lot of great ideas being shared among the elementary schools. Schools Out and ESY are meeting this summer and Mark Trifilio has been observing how things are working and this is providing good information on what is being done and what more can be done.

David noted there is a lot of work going on gathering information. All 5 principals will be meeting tomorrow with him and the central office team to share their information

Karsten Schlenter said that the Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School task force is made up of custodians, teachers, administrators, nurses, counselors, nutritional services and staff. They have created two sub groups one is dealing with instruction and the other with logistics/operating the building under Covid guidelines. He noted that the task force doesn't make decisions, they just follow the parameters given. He joined the regional group of principals to share ideas.

David Young noted that Kathleen Kilbourne is now on board and doing well at Rick Marcotte Central School. She is a veteran administrator and is working hard to meet staff and prepare for the start of the year.

There were several questions and comments from the public.

CONSIDER AND REVIEW FY 2021 REVISED BUDGET

Citizens Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Update

David Young noted that there have been 5 meetings with the CBAC and a good number of community members are serving on this committee. Reductions were discussed with the committee taking ideas and recommendations from the committee. David Young went over the budget development worksheet.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald said that some of the feedback was how to best communicate what will be proposed to the community. Note the portions of the budget that will be fixed. Potentially highlight the risk liability, and variable summary. Note where there might be reductions proposed for one year only.

David Young went through reductions to the budget, line by line, and responded to questions from the board. This reduction sheet will be posted on the district website. Elizabeth Fitzgerald wanted to note concerns from the CBAC group about eliminating literacy coaches as they are important to foundational learning. Concerns about reducing high school health and business programs. Also concerns about cuts in arts vs sports.

All board members provided feedback and asked questions that will be responded to by the administration and brought back to the board.

BUDGET COMMUNICATION PLAN

Bridget Burkhardt would like a thorough discussion about how to get the word out to the community about the vote. David Young can meet with the Budget Advisory Group to come up with ideas about how to inform community members of the vote to bring up the percentage of voters.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald noted that the Board of Civil Authority recommended directly mailing out information about the vote.

The board discussed options to get word out about the vote.

David Young noted that he, with the board, will be presenting the school budget and will be available to answer questions at the meeting on August 5, 2020. He also noted that citizens requesting an absentee ballot could also write school on the bottom of the slip to indicate they would also like a ballot for the school budget vote.

REQUEST THAT THE CITY CLERK SEND THE SCHOOL BALLOT TO EVERY CITIZEN REQUESTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Martin Lalonde moved to instruct David Young to request that the city clerk provide a school budget ballot to everyone who has requested a primary ballot, Alex McHenry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING

Ends Monitoring

This item will be brought back to a future meeting with documents in advance.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Elizabeth Fitzgerald stated that last week the board sent notification to the South Burlington Educators Association noting that they were declaring an impasse based on the fact that their positions were significantly apart at this time and felt that the support of a neutral third party would be helpful in moving the process along and toward a resolution. The board is targeting the July 27 meeting for a mediated fact finding.

Martin LaLonde noted that they met with the union support staff last week and the next meeting is being scheduled for July 23. He stated that they continue to talk and are making progress.

OTHER PAPER ARTICLES

The board discussed topics for Other Paper articles.

SET AGENDA FOR THE JULY 15, JULY 16 AND AUGUST 5, 2020 MEETINGS

The board discussed the agenda for the July 15, July 16 and August 5 school board meetings. The board canceled the July 16 board meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The board discussed future agenda items.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 15, JUNE 17, JUNE 22 AND JUNE 29, 2020

Bridget Burkhardt announced general consensus of the board to approve the minutes of June 15, June 17, June 22 and June 29, 2020 as amended. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resignation

Mary Dupont, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Rick Marcotte Central School

Hire

Drew Gordon, .60 FTE Social Studies Teacher at South Burlington High School
Karine Poulin, .20 FTE World Languages Teacher at South Burlington High School

Leaves

Alysia Backman, .20 FTE English Teacher at South Burlington High School

Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt and Alex McHenry noted that each of them had a child taught by Mary Dupont and were in agreement that she will be missed. The Board along with David Young thanked Mary Dupont for her service to the district.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked to have the bids removed from the consent agenda for discussion. Bridget Burkhardt announced general consensus of the board to remove the bids for discussion and approve the resignation, hire and leaves as presented.

Bids

Content Filter
Athletic Trainer Services

The board discussed the content filter bid and the Athletic Trainer Services bid and asked David Young several questions.

Martin Lalonde made a motion to approve the Content Filter bid and the Athletic Trainer Services bid as presented, Alex McHenry seconded the motion. A roll count was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

CONSIDER LEASE INTEREST RATES

Gary Marckres noted that the district worked with Municipal Leasing Consultants to secure bids for equipment leases for one school bus, roof projects at the Middle School, Rick Marcotte Central School and Chamberlin School and Chromebooks.

The bid from Signature Public Funding offering the lowest interest rates was recommended to the Board. The board asked several questions.

Martin LaLonde moved that the board award the bid to Signature Public Funding and moves to approve the resolution. Brian Minier seconded the motion. A roll count was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #46, #47, #1

The board reviewed accounts payable orders #46, #47 and #1.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER CHECKS TO HOWARD CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$89,994.37 AND \$57,654.57 AND THE BURLINGTON TECH CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$82,664.61.

Martin LaLonde moved that the board approve accounts payable order checks to the Howard Center in the amount of \$89,994.37 and \$57,654.57 and the Burlington Tech Center in the amount of \$82,664.61. Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded the motion. A roll

call count was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald wanted to remind the board about the VSBA meeting coming up on July 21 and 22.

ADJOURNMENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald motioned to adjourn the regular meeting. Alex McHenry seconded the motion. A roll call count was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk