

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT (Via Zoom)

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

AMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

Amadee Denton, Patrick Burke

GUESTS (via Zoom)

13 guests

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

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

**FY 2021 REVISED PROPOSED BUDGET – AN OVERVIEW WITH TIME FOR
COMMUNITY QUESTIONS**

Amadee Denton presented slides that gave an overview of the FY21 revised proposed budget. The budget increase being proposed is 1.52 percent and the proposed residential tax rate with CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is 1.91 percent. Upward pressures on the budget were noted as well as reductions made since the last budget proposal in the areas of operations, new expenses, and programming and services. The impact of cuts made to date were clarified including the impact to students and the higher level of operational risk. The five- and ten-year average tax rates were shown for informational purposes as well as the combined city and school budgets and tax rates prior to income sensitivity; a page directly from the annual budget book provided to residents.

Information was shared on how, when, and where to vote in the August 11 election. In person voting is available at City Hall weekdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m. until noon August 10. Residents can vote in person August 11 from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. at their district polling locations, Orchard School (7-1), FHTMS (7-2, 7-3), and Chamberlin School (7-4). An absentee ballot can be requested at the mvp.vermont.gov website then mailed to City Hall or dropped in the night drop box until 8:00 a.m. August 11. If an individual has already requested a state primary ballot, a school ballot will be sent as well. It was noted that while the state primary ballot being mailed out from the state includes return postage, the school ballot, being sent from the city clerk's office, does not. Options aside from adding one's own postage include dropping it off in person at City Hall or in the night drop box.

After the presentation the floor was opened for community member questions. Since no questions came in initially, Elizabeth Fitzgerald discussed the purchased professional services line item and Bridget Burkhardt discussed the impact of statewide factors such as the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) on the budget. Bridget Burkhardt mentioned both increases in health care costs and enrollment as contributors to the budget increase. Afterward, two community members posed questions. One was curious about the presentation slide that showed cuts to programming; in particular the Big Picture program. Bridget Burkhardt clarified that this program, as well as others listed in that category will see reductions, but not complete elimination. Another community member

wondered if the District had received federal funding to help with the costs of reopening. Bridget Burkhardt and Amadee Denton confirmed that the District has not received this funding nor has the District received direction on how to be reimbursed for such expenses.

Bridget Burkhardt mentioned the next budget mini meeting dates of July 30 and August 9 as well as the public hearing on the FY21 revised proposed budget warned to take place August 5. All meetings will occur via Zoom and will begin at 7:00 p.m. Bridget Burkhardt let people know if they had budget questions after the meeting, they could send them to Budget@sbschools.net or contact the school board at schoolboard@sbschools.net.

ADJOURNMENT

Alex McHenry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Martin LaLonde seconded. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk