

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT (Via Zoom)**

Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Brian Minier

**AMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)**

Amadee Denton, Gary Marckres, Christine Lundie

**GUESTS (via Zoom)**

5 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](http://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. One community member asked about what happens if the August 11 proposed budget vote fails. Bridget Burkhardt explained the process and directed this person to the city website where the charter outlines specific timelines by which votes must occur if a budget is rejected by voters. Other questions pertained to the non-residential tax rate and concerns around landlords potentially needing to raise rents. Bridget Burkhardt explained that this rate is set by the state. A parent was also curious about any potential budget impacts on students with IEPs (Individual Education Plans). This led to a brief conversation regarding the uncertainties that COVID-19 has created, budget related

and otherwise. Although the District has yet to be reimbursed by the Federal government for any COVID related expenses, Gary Marckres said that guidance has been received on the grant application to recover this money and the process is set to begin next week.

Bridget Burkhardt mentioned the public hearing on the FY21 revised proposed budget warned to take place August 5 and the next budget mini meeting August 9. 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](mailto:Budget@sbschools.net) or contact the school board at [schoolboard@sbschools.net](mailto:schoolboard@sbschools.net).

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brian Minier made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

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Bridget Burkhardt, Acting Chair

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Brian Minier, Acting Clerk