

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT (Via Zoom)

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young

GUESTS

No guests

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bridget Burkhardt made a motion to enter executive session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with 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 attend executive session. Brian Minier seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Discussion Regarding Labor negotiations with Teachers and Support Staff

In: 6:01 p.m.

Out: 6:29 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:29 p.m.

PRESENT (Via Zoom)

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

David Young, Amadee Denton, Gary Marckres, Noah Everitt, Kathleen Murphy, Meghan Sweet, Dan Diamond, Mark Trifilio, Holly Rouelle, Karsten Schlenker, Joanne Godek, Kathleen Kilbourne, Mike Martin

GUESTS (via Zoom)

23 guests

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

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

David Young removed item 9, Ends Monitoring report and said it would be replaced with an integrated field review report from Mike Martin.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION ON FY 2021 BUDGET

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. It is now too late to mail in an absentee ballot and have it arrive in time to be counted. 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 dropped in the City Hall night drop box until 8:00 a.m. August 11. The final board mini meeting on the budget will be held Sunday, August 9 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young said he had not met with the city since the steering committee meeting between the city council and school board last month. He will be reaching out to City Manager Kevin Dorn to set up a date.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gary Marckres gave the update on Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street. The stormwater and parking lot are going well, the roof repairs have been completed, and he reported that the crew working on site has been professional and responsible.

Gary Marckres said he has repeatedly reached out to the airport regarding Gertrude E. Chamberlin School noise mitigation and they reported there isn't any new information, but will call when they have it.

David Young gave the COVID-19 and start of 2020-21 school year updates. He outlined the three steps of school reopening: Step I is entirely remote as school was conducted in the spring, Step II is the hybrid model under which schools will reopen in September, a blend of in-person and remote learning, and Step III is modified, full-time, in-person learning. He noted that parents can choose the hybrid in-person option for school, all remote 5 days per week through the Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative, or homeschooling. He also reviewed health screening and temperature checks required for students and staff. Details of childcare are being worked through. Transportation routes are expected to be published at the end of August. The cleaning of facilities is nearly complete, PPE is stocked, and large tents have been ordered to provide outdoor classrooms at all schools. The tents will be up by August 17 according to Gary Marckres. In addition, through Efficiency Vermont, filtration systems have been purchased for each classroom and equipment will be installed to monitor air quality. HVAC systems will also see upgrades. Nutrition services will continue providing meals to students through August 28 and a plan is being developed for a mix of on-site meals, curbside pickup, and delivery for the upcoming school year. A document of FAQs is in development and will be distributed and posted to the District website soon.

Questions arose around transportation capacity, the arts and music, traffic, staffing, and whether parents can toggle between all online, homeschooling, and in-person learning options throughout the year. Both Gary Marckres and David Young explained that while they know their transportation and staffing needs and allocations as of mid-August, the circumstances are ever changing. While the initial analysis on transportation indicates there is sufficient capacity of buses and staff, it could reach a point where a request is put out to parents/guardians to drive their children to school if at all possible. Elizabeth Fitzgerald mentioned having a conversation with the city around a potential increase in a traffic as a result. In terms of music classes, there will need to be creativity involved. Holly Rouelle mentioned she heard that if students were outside, all masked, and facing the same direction, it was okay to have chorus.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING

Mike Martin discussed the integrated field review. The District received feedback from the agency team in March 2019. The visiting team of agency of education colleagues from the field participated in protocols of data collection that was growth oriented. Seven recommendations were made related to proficiency-based learning. The area of data practices is going well thanks to new online registration systems, proficiency tracking and reporting, and e-finance and transportation software. To support English Language Learners, all continuity of learning books were translated and education jargon was removed to make them more user friendly for families. That work is ongoing. There were also recommendations in the area of mental health, a crucial component to wellness especially as families and staff return to school. A family survey went out in April 2020 related to technology needs and access. Less than 10 percent of families requested support with internet access. The family survey that went out in May 2020 related to how continuity of learning went for them. Some of the highlights included that 80 percent of respondents said that weekly schedules and structures this spring were “about right” and 20 percent said they were “too flexible.” Expectations for computer use, the number of times a student communicated with their teachers each week, and feedback on students’ work were other questions on the survey. Mike Martin noted the need for improvement in the area of how often a student communicated with their teacher. NEO and Google classroom are working well as learning platforms and it was agreed that sharing technology how-to guides not just with students but with families would be helpful. Teachers identified their top concerns as a need for implicit bias training, a concern around the lack of engagement in remote or hybrid learning, and personally, being most anxious about workplace safety and health as well as life/work balance. Brian Minier mentioned the desire to hire more communications people to help spread the word around this work.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Elizabeth Fitzgerald said the board was shooting for fact finding and mediation July 27, but will now have mediation only August 13. For support staff, Martin LaLonde said their next meeting is August 20.

OTHER PAPER ARTICLES

The Other Paper has discontinued the board’s and city council’s regular columns. It was determined that a larger discussion was needed in the future on how best to communicate with the public. Elizabeth Fitzgerald recommended reaching out to the city to see if they are exploring other venues for communication. Martin LaLonde added that

the legislative update column has also been cancelled. Brian Minier wondered about a database to receive updates from the school and/or city. David Young said he can explore more and ask Kevin Dorn about his plans. Bridget Burkhardt said someone asked on board Facebook page about an app where they could get city or school notifications.

SET AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 19, 2020 MEETING

David Young said he needed to make COVID a separate agenda item. Brian Minier asked whether there was any impetus to move SROs and the Black Lives Matter discussions up onto an agenda soon. These items will be put on the first meeting in September. Bridget Burkhardt proposed changing the Other Paper articles agenda item to communications update. A brief discussion ensued about the need for additional communication resources.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items include: Non-Union Support Staff Employee Manual (2.2 Treatment of Staff), How to Run Effective Public Hearings (March Board Work Session), City/School Long-term Investment Strategies, Enrichment Activities, Strategic Plan, Black Lives Matter, and SRO Update

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 6, JULY 8, JULY 15, JULY 20, JULY 23, JULY 27, JULY 28, AND JULY 30, 2020

One minor edit was made to the July 27 minutes and all minutes were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resignation

Bob Uhl, 1.0 FTE Language Arts Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Hires

Alexandra Bahrenburg, 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School

Allison Balk, .80 FTE Library Media Specialist at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School

Carly Brassord, .60 FTE Technology Education Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Fiona Connors, 1.0 FTE French Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Daniel Diamond, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School

Gavin Santacross, 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor at South Burlington High School

Juliana Saehrig, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Jennifer Signorino, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School

Bids for copiers and printers

Bridget Burkhardt announced general consensus of the board to approve the consent agenda as presented.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS

There were no questions on orders #2, #3 or #4

Check to Dell Marketing LP in the amount of \$50,897.44 (Board approval is required before disbursement of this check per the exception that the Superintendent shall not be authorized to draw orders for any claim for which the amount due exceeds \$50,000 for tuition or contract services). Brian Minier made the motion to approve and Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn. Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 10:14 pm.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk