

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL [APPROVED]

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
AUGUST 31, 2015 5:00 PM
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01p.m.

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Julie Beatty, Dan Fleming, Patrick Leduc

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Stewart

GUESTS

2

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 5:02 p.m. to discuss a real estate matter and potential legal proceedings regarding a personnel matter and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the District not to do so in Executive Session. The board asked Mr. Young, Mr. Stewart, Ms. Nowak, and Mr. Dorn to join the Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter.

Potential Legal Proceedings Regarding Personnel Matter

In: 5:02 p.m.

Out: 5:22 p.m.

No Action

Real Estate Matter

In: 5:22 p.m.

Out: 5:56 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 5:56 p.m.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Julie Beatty, Dan Fleming, Patrick Leduc

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Stewart, Delina Gilroy

GUESTS

8

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

NEXT STEPS AND WORK PLAN - VISIONING

Ms. Fitzgerald asked for comments from the board on the Master Planning and Visioning Task Force Report.

Board member comments:

- Need to provide the community with the opportunity for input.
- Why were some of the original recommendations not put forward? Should the board add back in some of the original recommendations for consideration? The board/administration should solicit community feedback on all of the original recommendations not just the last two suggested in the Task Force Report.
- The board should look at the vision piece of the report to make certain the vision is what the administration/board would like.
- Need to make sure the following principles are included going forward:
 - Safety for staff and students
 - Best school district for Education
 - Financial implications
- Intra District Consolidation
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Debt Repurposing Opportunities
- For students – what we currently provide and what we would like to continue to provide – What is the aggregated benefit?

John Stewart made the following comments:

- Spending Cap from the VT State Legislature – the new “cap” needs to be applied. Capital improvements funded with bonds are excluded from the cap.
- Updates to the Stewardship Plan – Include the additional cost to replace windows in the high school. Window estimated costs need to be recalibrated.
- Deficiencies in each of the schools. For example, the Tuttle Middle School gym needs to be enlarged, more practice facilities are needed and we need real numbers for the cost of these items.
- Update the cost benefit/analysis.
- Funding options – debt versus operating expenditures.

Other comments:

- Look at consolidation of the three elementary schools into either one facility or two.
- Need to have a plan to address aging facilities.
- High School would have the most educational advantage for repurposing.
- The district has been trying to consolidate schools for a long time and it is now time to do so.
- The two options provided by the Task Force are not enough.
- The high school programs are suffering because of the space.
- The teachers and the community involvement are what make the school, not the buildings at the elementary level.

- The community has elected the board to provide leadership. The board/district needs to provide clarity to any recommendations.
- Vision versus what the community can afford.
- Neutral on two versus one elementary school. Unique opportunity to provide equity within the South Burlington elementary school community.
- Preschool opportunities.
- What is the sustainability of five facilities versus three?
- Need to take an aspirational goal to the community that might be phased in.
 - Phase 1 Elementary
 - Phase 2 Middle
 - Phase 3 High School

At the September 16 meeting the superintendent will provide the board with his recommendation.

Repurposing/Selling of Rick Marcotte Central School (RMCS)

- If we sold RMCS what would be the net benefit to the taxpayers?
- It is too premature to say we are going to repurpose/sell RMCS.
- If we are doing really well on our Ends, why would we sell one of our schools. If we are not meeting our Ends, is it because of our facilities, programs, technology, or professional development opportunities?
 - How will we get the information we need because our Ends monitoring is not there yet.
 - What data shows that a new school will advance our Ends?
- What is the educational value of selling RMCS?

Community Comments

- What are your opinions about the structure/culture of the community-based school?
- This community has really valued the community schools. The benefit of the neighborhood school includes walkability, etc. I'm not sure how sustainable this model is.
- A large school will lose the community feel.
- Where you put a large school makes a huge difference.
- What is the future of South Burlington's entire vision, including new mall.
- Too much change in South Burlington now including the airport area, City Center, and the recently announced mall expansion project.
- If a new elementary school were built, possibly at the Oak Creek site, this would be a neighborhood school.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked the board for feedback on what questions would we ask the community to better inform our process?

- What is the major issue regarding consolidation.
- To what extent would any additional information be available on revenue streams to build a new school?
- What does the revenue stream look like for a new school? Is there a local options tax? Need to present a total picture to a taxpayer.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT**Board Job Description**

The board discussed the revised Policy Governance board job description and made additional changes. It will be brought back to the September 16 meeting for review.

Role of Student Representative

The board discussed the role of the student representative on the board. The board asked that the board representative position be opened to the entire high school student population and asked that the following be considered before a student is appointed.

- Availability
- Ability to provide board with student opinions
- Participate in the meeting actively
- Interview by the Board
- Responsible
- Provide a summary statement/presentation at the end of the year

Mr. Young and Ms. Beatty will work with Mr. Burke on the process before a new student representative is appointed.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING**2.3 – Treatment of Community**

Mr. Young presented revised policy monitoring report 2.3 – Treatment of Community to the board. There was discussion with some additional suggested changes. Mr. Young will bring it back to the September 16 meeting.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING**2.2 – Treatment of Staff**

This will be discussed at the September 2 board meeting.

CONSENT AGENDAHire(s)

Chris Allen, .50 FTE Media Literacy Teacher at South Burlington High School
Nicholas Gordon, 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Mr. LaLonde motioned that the board approve the consent agenda as presented, Mr. Leduc seconded. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Martin LaLonde, Clerk

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chairperson