

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 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

**GUESTS**

Attorney Colin McNeil

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bridget Burkhardt made a motion to enter executive session at 6:02 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 and Attorney Colin McNeil attend executive session. Brian Minier seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

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

In: 6:02 p.m.

Out: 6:45 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:46 p.m.

**PRESENT (Via Zoom)**

Bridget Burkhardt, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, and Brian Minier, Student Representative Delaney Rosner

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)**

David Young, Gary Marckres

**GUESTS (via Zoom)**

1 guest

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

David Young added item 13a., a bid for additional Chromebooks to the consent agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Student representative Delaney Rosner mentioned the start of school September 8 for 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the blue pack and September 9 for the gray pack. All SBHS blue pack students will return to school September 10 and gray pack September 11. A similar

schedule will be in place for the other schools as well, with the packs split by last name and all students being remote on Wednesdays going forward. The first week of school will not have any remote days due to it being an abbreviated week.

### **CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

David Young said he and Elizabeth Fitzgerald are trying to set up a meeting with City Manager Kevin Dorn and City Council Chair Helen Riehle for September 25. The topic list will include impact fees and 180 Market Street. Bridget Burkhardt wondered if traffic patterns would be discussed.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Gary Marckres gave the update on Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street. He reported that the district's portion of the project will be finished Friday. He did express a minor concern around the parking and traffic flow and urged caution as people become accustomed to it.

Gary Marckres reported out on the Gertrude E. Chamberlin School Noise Mitigation/Airport item. On August 27, a team from the consulting firm Jones Payne met with Gary Marckres and spent the day looking over the design of the project. The engineers estimated the project would take only two months start to finish. The group works on schools primarily and understands the challenges associated with those types of projects.

Delaney Rosner is now the senior student school board representative and the board would like to get a junior representative on as soon as possible. David Young will reach out to Patrick Burke to begin the process of reaching out to students who may be interested. A subset of board members will review applications and make a recommendation as they did last year.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

David Young gave an update on the start of the 2020-2021 school year. He reviewed the hybrid model that will be executed in full during week two of the school year. There are 178 students participating in 5 day per week remote learning through VTVLC; 79 in K-5, 30 in 6-8, and 69 in 9-12. The district has 9 teachers participating and there will be 1 teacher per 20 students. Building administrators have been extremely busy preparing for the start of school and have been providing regular updates to families via PowerSchool Messenger and their websites. Initial bus routes were posted to the website the evening of September 2. There are enough drivers and they have been working all summer to get meals to students. Brian Minier asked about optimizing laptop pickup to allow for more physical distancing and efficiencies. Elizabeth Fitzgerald mentioned an e-mail she had received from a community member regarding the safety of students walking to school. David Young said they do not currently have any additional staff to monitor intersections right now, but he said he will add the item to his agenda for discussion with police chief Shawn Burke at their meeting the morning of September 3. Bridget Burkhardt asked about additional bike racks, clarity around student pickup and drop off timing, and how the board could stay more connected to what is happening at the high school, possibly by being included on their e-mail lists. A question arose around how VTVLC students are being supported. David Young said Shelley Mathias has been hired as a coordinator to correspond with these families.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald also asked for information regarding FTEs, where and how they are being deployed and if they are being funded by the budget or through COVID funding sources.

David Young touched on childcare briefly. The state has set up 12 hub locations and he hopes that all parents, guardians, or staff, who need childcare are able to get it as needed. He specifically mentioned The Edge as one local location and they currently can take on additional capacity.

### **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald said that the next step in the negotiating process with the SBEA is to find a date for fact finding. A date has yet to be set. Martin LaLonde said the next session with the staff has not yet been scheduled.

### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

David Young suggested that a subset of the board meet with himself and Corey Burdick around the board's desired communication outcomes. A discussion could include the instruments by which they want to push information out, whether that be the district website's RSS feed, Front Porch Forum, and/or print. Bridget Burkhardt said it is important that information goes out in as many different channels as possible and mentioned an issue with district e-mails going into her spam folder. David Young said the parent portal is an important tool that the district will be using more since it is secure and confidential.

### **SET AGENDA FOR THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING**

David Young said he would tentatively update the board on FTEs under his superintendent's report and could potentially pull in expense projections related to both staffing and COVID. There was a desire of the board to reach out to the student justice union to make sure there was student representation for the discussion of Black Lives Matter and SROs. If students could not be present, the board wanted to push this item to a future agenda. New hires were also added to this agenda.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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 AUGUST 13, AUGUST 17, AUGUST 19, AND AUGUST 24, 2020**

The minutes were approved via consensus.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A bid for 325 Chromebooks in the amount of \$133,734.25 was presented. The board had questions related to their need and use. Given high national and international demand for devices, the Chromebooks on order may not arrive until February, but possibly sooner. This order would likely arrive prior to that. It would help cover K-1 students and backfill the devices that were working only intermittently on Zoom. If these come in before the current order, they could be used in their place. This has been

deemed an appropriate COVID expense. Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve the bid, Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #6, #7, AND #8**

There were no questions on the AP orders.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald made the motion to adjourn and Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 9:00 pm.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk