

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting 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 Joe McNeil, Attorney Colin McNeil (Participating via Zoom)

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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, Attorney Joe McNeil and Attorney Colin McNeil attend executive session. Brian Minier seconded the motion.

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

In: 6:01 p.m.

Out: 6:58 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:58 p.m.

PRESENT (Via Zoom)

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

David Young

GUESTS (via Zoom)

3 guests

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no formal announcements, but David Young reported that the start of school has been going well. He has been impressed with students following the new protocols including mask wearing and physical distancing. Given that this is the first full week in the hybrid learning model, there will still be items to iron out.

THEODORE MANAZIR AWARD

This annual award was given out during the virtual convocation that was held September 4, but an official board motion was needed. Elizabeth Fitzgerald made the motion to give the award to Information Technology Educators Jennifer Burton, Kristen Courcelle, and Chris Johnstone. Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young said he and Elizabeth Fitzgerald will have their next meeting with City Manager Kevin Dorn and City Council Chair Helen Riehle September 25 at 8:00 am. The topic list will include impact fees, 180 Market Street, and the ongoing confusion around tax bills. Bridget Burkhardt thought it would be a good idea to bring up the discussions happening at the city level around developable land and its potential impact on enrollment.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

David Young gave the update on 180 Market Street/Rick Marcotte Central School. He reported that construction on 180 Market Street is on track for completion in June 2021. There have been some visibility concerns given the increase in traffic on Market Street and on street parking.

David Young reported out on the Gertrude Chamberlin School Noise Mitigation/Airport item. The \$3.2 million grant for noise mitigation was received and 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 design package is being solidified and it will then go out to bid. There is no definitive timeframe as of yet. In the meantime, there are continued concerns around noise at Gertrude Chamberlin School and David Young said he wanted to talk to the Air Guard about their current flight schedules, so that the school could plan appropriately for time outside vs. inside.

David Young began the conversation on school resource officers (SRO) and Black Lives Matter. He said he has had a conversation with Police Chief Shawn Burke and asked the board what information they would like to inform the discussion including a SRO job description, clarity around their roles in South Burlington schools and how they fit into the local and national conversation around antiracism. Board members mentioned the task force being developed in Burlington around this item. Martin LaLonde wondered about getting the SBHS Student Justice Union involved in the conversations and potentially developing a survey for students and the community. Bridget Burkhardt said this all fit into a broader conversation about antiracism work and wanted to learn more about what the district should or could be doing. She cited the lack of diversity on the school board and the importance of making sure a variety of voices are heard. David Young suggested an audit of how the district is doing in terms of staffing, SROs, programming, mindfulness, and diversity, equity, and inclusion work

since they are all interconnected. It was agreed that these agenda items would be retained as stand alone items going forward.

David Young provided an update on current enrollment as of September 14 for the District's elementary, middle, and high school. He covered tuition student numbers and the students from each school who are attending school remotely via VT VLC. Currently, there are 167 students enrolled; 70 in grades K-5, 30 in grades 6-8, and 67 in grades 9-12. He also reviewed current FTEs, long term substitutes, and will offer a more detailed review of what positions could qualify for reimbursement as COVID related expenses at a future meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

David Young gave an update on the start of the 2020-2021 school year. He discussed the daily health screenings that occur in person and those that occur via the health screening tool by parents and staff. He said there have been some challenges around the logistics of traffic flow at parent drop off and pick up. The hybrid learning roll out has netted a fair amount of questions and concerns. There is a plan in place to begin ramping up the academics as the initial focus has been on social/emotional support and the return to school. The district has a good handle on their PPE in terms of masks and cleaning supplies.

Bridget Burkhardt said there has been some confusion on student remote work days as well as some incorrect student schedule information in Powerschool. One parent commented that while there has been a lot of information shared via e-mails, there hasn't been enough valuable information. This parent wanted to understand how better to use NEO and said there has been very little communication from the middle school. A desire for having adults on the buses to enforce distancing, mask wearing, and temperature checks was also expressed. Bridget Burkhardt wanted to know how attendance is working this year when students are not in school. David Young said teachers can count them as present if they attend a Zoom, a phone call or other communication. The District is working to adhere to the AOE guidance on this.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Elizabeth Fitzgerald reported on the status of negotiations with the SBEA and said that a tentative date of October 16 has been set for a fact finding presentation and hearing. If this date remains fixed, the fact finding report would become available toward the end of November.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

At the last meeting, the board and David Young discussed putting together a subgroup of the board to meet with himself and Corey Burdick to discuss various communications strategies to effectively reach the community. Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, and Brian Minier volunteered. Elizabeth Fitzgerald said that Front Porch Forum has recently opened up their policy around frequency of postings from people. Bridget Burkhardt mentioned reviewing their communications policy as a board since she has heard that a broad swath of the community feels like they don't hear from the board. Their main vehicle at the moment is through board meetings and minutes. Corey Burdick mentioned the idea of a newsletter, both digital and print, that could be a collaboration between the city and school and could be a way to highlight board and city business as

well as community events. The District RSS feed and the potential for social media were noted as well.

SET AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 7, 2020 MEETING

David Young will add an expense report bullet point on the COVID Update and will ask Business Manager Amadee Denton to be present. The Black Lives Matter and SRO discussion will be kept on as their own agenda items. Elizabeth Fitzgerald added VSBA resolution and delegates for the annual meeting. An update on the new junior school board representative selection process was added. The budget development calendar will need to be brought on as well as an update on tax bills from the city.

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, and Strategic Plan.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 31 AND SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

The minutes were approved via consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hires: Marguerite Adams, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Orchard School; Carly Bennett, .50 FTE English Teacher at High School Ryleigh Combs, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Orchard School; Auriel Gray, .20 FTE Guidance Counselor at Orchard School; Louis Merola, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Rick Marcotte Central School; Lauren Martin, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School; Mary Mitchell, .1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Rick Marcotte Central School; Jaclyn Parrott, .80 FTE English Language Learner Teacher at Orchard School; Monica Petzold, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Orchard School; Wynne Poleman, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School; Maia Zuchman, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Gertrude E. Chamberlin School.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #9 AND #10

There weren't any questions on the accounts payable orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald made the motion to adjourn and Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 9:09 pm.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk