

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library**

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin

GUESTS

Attorney Steve Stitzel

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations with teachers and support staff, consider confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the school board concerning a legal matter and a real estate matter and evaluation employment, evaluation, and discipline of a public officer or employee, and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. The Board requested that Mr. Young, Mr. Aubin and Attorney Steve Stitzel attend executive session. The motion was approved.

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Teachers and Support Staff

In: 6:00 p.m.

Out: 6:54 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:55 p.m.

PRESENT

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

David Young, John Aubin, Stuart Weiss, Meg Collins

GUESTS

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REGULAR SESSION

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Young added agenda item 10a: a discussion regarding Vermont School Board Association (VSBA), and Vermont School Board's Insurance Trust (VSBIT) and Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) annual meeting voting delegation application.

An executive session will be added to the end of the regular meeting to discuss labor negotiations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our schools are up and running in full swing, and students and staff are deeply engaged in learning and relationship building.
- Chamberlin School held its annual Welcome Assembly yesterday to welcome kindergartners to our school family. Each fifth grader was given a carnation to share with a kindergartner as a symbol of a sincere welcome.
- Both Chamberlin and Orchard School are participating in International Dot Day this week, an international celebration based on Peter Reynold's book *The Dot*, which invites each of us to explore our creativity and make our mark on the world. Orchard students have been engaging in Google Hangout as part of the celebration with students from all over, including Massachusetts, Kansas and London, during their library class time.
- Rick Marcotte Central School will hold its Family Fund Day on September 23, an annual event to kick off the school year and build a strong community.
- Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School students have been engaging in a series of team activities intended to enhance learning and build relationships between team members. Those intentional efforts have included field trips to both Mount Philo and Shelburne Farms.
- South Burlington High School students have participated in a t-shirt design contest to build unity throughout the school. Every student will get a t-shirt. Additionally, this week students have held meetings for the following clubs: DECA Club, Coding Club, Speech Club, Robotics Club, Speech Club, and we're sure we've forgotten a few. These meetings for just a single week symbolize the depth of opportunities available to students outside of their academic time.
- Many students, staff and families have been taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather to ride their bikes and/or walk to school. We thank all who are biking for wearing helmets, and we thank our motorists for their care in watching out for our students, staff and families.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Mr. Young noted that he and Ms. Fitzgerald meet regularly with Mr. Dorn, City Manager and Ms. Riehle, City Council Chair. Their next meeting is September 22. The Steering Committee meeting will be discussed at this meeting. The Steering Committee Meeting will be taking place September 26 at 7:00 pm and an agenda will be put together.

Mr. Young also noted that the letter of intent on a land exchange between the school district and the city has been put on hold by the city. This is regarding a .7 acre parcel of land at the Rick Marcotte Central School property to allow for the building of City Center.

The city indicated that they would like to move the library to leased space. Mr. Young

understands that this will be at the University Mall and the move would take place with a November/December timeframe. A committee made up of a city representative and school representative will be formed to figure out what that means for the high school concerning shared resources, budgetary impact and logistics of the move.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Act 85 (State Budget) - Health Care and General Education Fund Payment Reduction

Mr. Young presented an information sheet to the Board prepared by Mr. Aubin explaining ACT 85, how the payback was calculated, the timing of payment from the Education Fund in Fiscal Year 2018 and implications for Fiscal Year 2019 budgeting.

Enrollment Update

Mr. Young provided the Board with an enrollment update for all the schools.

Hiring Status

Mr. Young noted that the district is in process of hiring the budgeted positions that remain unfilled. He also explained the staff FTE fluctuation due to student need.

Spirit Fund

The South Burlington Schools Foundation set up a "Spirit Fund" last spring as a way for parents and community members to donate funds to help support the transition to a new mascot and school nickname for the South Burlington School District.

Mr. LaLonde noted that a little over \$5,000 was raised which the Foundation would like to transfer to the SBHS Boosters to grant to the appropriate athletic teams and activity groups. He noted the following items were being purchased with the funds:

- Wolves mascot costume
- Wolves embroidered golf bags
- Wolves merchandise
- Wolves break away banner

Mr. LaLonde thanked the contributors to the Spirit Fund on behalf of the Board.

Adidas Product Donation

Mr. Young read a statement regarding a donation of product and a discount on purchases provided to SBSD from Adidas. Adidas agreed to provide a one-time upfront credit to our account of \$20,000. The district will receive a discount of 35% off everything purchased, and in addition, will receive a cash rebate equal to 10% of purchases.

BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT

Mr. McHenry discussed the importance of responding to community when they have emailed the Board, as he has received some feedback that community members have not received a response from the Board.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that she responds to specific inquiries as the chair, and discussed

Open Meeting Law and having to blind copy the Board on responses so that the Board can't start interacting through the email as it would be deemed an open meeting. She also stated that aside from Open Meeting, the Board has no authority as individuals, the Board operates as a convened body so that communicating the position of the Board as a single person is inaccurate.

It was suggested that if a Board member notices an email going unanswered they contact Ms. Fitzgerald.

Communication Enhancements

The Board communicates to community in various ways, including:

- Monthly article in The Other Paper
- RETN records all meetings and is now live streaming on Facebook Live (recorded meetings can be accessed on the district website by clicking Our District, then School Board, and Agenda and Minutes)
- Front Porch Forum
- SBSB School Board Facebook Page
- District Website
- Attendance at PTO meetings, club meetings, citizens' advisory groups, South Burlington Business Association, etc.

Mr. Young noted that we could add locations where information is provided to the back of the agenda.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING

2.7 Asset Protection

Mr. Young provided the Board with an update on policy monitoring report 2.7 Asset Protection. Mr. Aubin provided a quick summary of each detail policy. The Board discussed and reviewed the summary report. The Board approved the monitoring report.

2.1 Treatment of parents and Guardians

Mr. Young provided an update on 2.1 Treatment of Parents and Guardians and provided a summary of each detail policy. There was discussion. The Board reviewed the summary and approved the monitoring report.

UPDATE ON NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. LaLonde stated that he and Ms. Burkhardt met with the Support Staff Union Negotiating Team and have come to a tentative agreement. The terms cannot be discussed until the Support Staff Union membership ratifies the contract. The Board will ratify the contract at the October 4 meeting unless they feel there is an urgency to ratify earlier.

Ms. Burkhardt noted that the Board has received a lot of feedback from the community regarding teacher negotiations. The Board received statements made by the South Burlington Educators Association (SBEA) and were asked to respond to them in various ways and perspectives.

The Board provided responses to comments specific to the salary index, healthcare, the timeline that led to the imposition of contract terms for this one-year period, and the reasoning behind the Board's request of the potential identification of a fact finder so early in the process.

Mr. Wisloski asked the SBEA to provide the community with their final position in negotiations. It has not done so to this point and the Board would like the community to know where they both ended which led to the imposition of the contract.

Ms. Burkhardt stated that they are ready to open up negotiations for the next contract year.

Ms. Fitzgerald explained that the comments today are intended to be informational to questions that the Board has received individually or collectively inquiring about "why we can't just go back to the table." This was to provide clarification on the Board's collective perception of where they were in the process and what compelled the Board to make the decision to impose a contract.

Mr. LaLonde noted that a formal letter has been sent to the Chief Negotiator of the SBEA to reopen negotiations for the next contract year. The Board is still awaiting a formal response.

The Board received comments from the public.

VERMONT SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION (VSBA), VERMONT SCHOOL BOARD'S INSURANCE TRUST (VSBIT) AND VERMONT EDUCATION HEALTH INITIATIVE (VEHI) ANNUAL MEETING VOTING DELEGATION APPLICATION

Mr. Young stated that the Board needs to provide the name of a proxy voter to the VSBA, VSBIT and VEHI for the annual meeting. The Board identified Mr. LaLonde as the proxy voter and will add the resolutions to the October 4 meeting to discuss their vote.

SET AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 4, 2017 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The Board discussed the agenda for the October 4, 2017 school board meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Board discussed future agenda items.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Ms. Fitzgerald announced general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of September 6, 2017. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hires

Kathryn Carver, 1.0 FTE Speech Language Pathologist at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

Emily Gilmore, .40 FTE Social Studies Teacher at South Burlington High School

Ms. Fitzgerald announced general consensus of the Board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections.

EXECUTE LEASE DOCUMENTS

Mr. Aubin noted the Board approved various pieces of equipment and the lease company in previous meetings. The lease document has been reviewed by the district attorney and is available to be signed by the Superintendent upon Board approval.

Ms. Burkhardt moved for the superintendent to sign the lease as approved previously by the Board, Mr. Wisloski seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #9

The Board reviewed accounts payable order #9.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER CHECKS TO MILLBROOK BUILDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,211.62 AND NEAGLEY AND CHASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$182,135.00

Mr. Lalonde moved that the Board approve accounts payable order checks to Millbrook Building in the amount of \$68,211.62 and Neagley and Chase in the amount of \$182,135.00, Ms. Burkhardt seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

Ms. Burkhardt moved that the Board continue in executive session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations, Mr. Wisloski seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was approved.

The Board entered executive session at 8:52 p.m.

Discussion Regarding Labor Negotiations with Teachers and Support Staff

In: 8:55 p.m.

Out: 9:20 p.m.

No Action

ADJOURNMENT

The Board left executive session at 9:20 p.m. and adjourned the regular meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Martin LaLonde, Clerk