

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 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

No guests

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 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, and Brian Minier

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

David Young, Gary Marckres, Noah Everitt, Corey Burdick

GUESTS (via Zoom)

2 guests

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delaney Rosner noted that there would be a choral sampler concert from 7:00-8:00 pm at the high school October 22. November 3rd is in-service day (as it is election day). For the high school, term one ends November 6th. High school picture days will take place November 2 and 5 and she said that she conducted an informal poll with fellow high school students regarding school resource officers. She will continue to be part of the ongoing board discussions. David Young asked for a moment of silence to honor long time district educator Kathy Buley who recently passed away. David Young also noted the valuable connections that are being made with students during the health screenings they receive prior to entering the schools.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young said that the next steering committee meeting between the school board and city council will take place October 27 at 7:00 pm. Items on the agenda will include FY 2022 budget discussions, the FAA/airport grants, status of the reappraisal process, a continued discussion around reestablishing school impact fees, and COVID city and school updates.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gary Marckres provided the update on Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street. Additional markings and arrows will be placed in the parking lots to more clearly delineate the staff and parent lanes. Westbound traffic has been limited and it has been communicated that the Mary Street entrance is not for school use.

Gary Marckres provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. He will begin meeting next week and bi-weekly thereafter with the Jones Payne group representatives regarding the design phase of the positive ventilation system. After the design phase is completed, the bidding and design submittal phase will take place by March 1. Construction will begin when the school year concludes and will be complete by September 1.

David Young did not have an enrollment update since the figures he presented October 6. David Young explained there are many moving parts as PreK-2 students were welcomed back to 4 days per week of in-person learning October 13 and grades 3-5 are scheduled to return to 4 days per week of in-person learning October 26. Young explained that the average daily membership count is important to budgeting, continuous learning plans, and determining staffing and programmatic needs.

Gary Marckres reported on the roof bid/lease update. Under the advisement of the leasing company the district was working with, they paid \$269,000 that the board approved in a prior meeting, for equipment for roof replacement which has been completed. Marckres reported that they found out after the fact that the materials were leasable, but once on the roof, the cost was not recapturable. The district received legal guidance and going forward, will add a step for legal review when these processes come up. The recommendation from Marckres was to use funds from the capital reserve to cover the \$269,000 expense so as not to impact the FY21 budget.

COVID-19 UPDATE

All grades have been great about following protocols of distancing and masking. David Young said he is hopeful about bringing more students back to additional days of in-

person learning, but if there is a lack of change in the language from the state around the 6 ft physical distancing requirement for high school and middle school, it could make this more challenging. Gary Marckres noted the work the reopening task force did prior to returning to school, particularly the nurses and facility teams. They did a lot of in-depth research around air quality that led to the district's decision to focus more on that than surface transmission. This work prepared the district well for reopening. Martin LaLonde asked about how remote learners are being supported. David Young said that they are all still part of the SBSB, but given the district's current bandwidth, they could not offer an option to be mostly at VTVLC and take one class at the high school for example. Therefore, the district had to be firm in communicating that VTVLC is a completely online program. Ten teachers from SB have been deployed into the VTVLC program. Two of the teachers will be fully reimbursable by the state. Their positions have been back filled as one year only positions.

SRO DISCUSSION

David Young gave a brief overview of the history of school resource officers in the SBSB. The job description was provided, and he explained that they are paid by the SBPD not the school district. He suggested having a conversation with administrators about this topic along with diversity, equity, and inclusion. Bridget Burkhardt asked that not just administrators be included and expressed a desire to hear all perspectives. Bridget Burkhardt said that what can feel like relationship building from one perspective may not feel that way to students who are in the building. She would like to figure out some way of gathering input from students. Martin LaLonde expressed concern on part of the job description regarding delinquent behavior and wondered if students were being arrested in schools. He suggested a meeting of the school board with the SJU and Bridget Burkhardt said she would like to get the middle school involved as well. David Young will invite SB Police Chief Shawn Burke to an upcoming meeting to offer his perspective and possibly have SB SROs current and former present as well to participate. Then, have students watch the presentation to gather their perspectives. Brian Minier wondered if it would be possible to explore a health or driver's ed teacher conducting the DARE program or teaching about alcohol and drug use prevention, as opposed to a police officer. Elizabeth Fitzgerald said she felt the job description seemed outdated even though it was updated in 2015 since there is no mention of reparative practices and restorative justice. David Young said he would make sure there was further clarity around the purpose and role of SROs.

FY 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

David Young said he was looking for some guidance from the board regarding the upcoming budget. For Young, he is focusing on four main areas: enrollment and staffing, program needs to meet the district ends, district staffing levels to support the infrastructure, and facilities/planning for the future. At the next board meeting, Young would like to provide options to the board with preliminary numbers. The citizens budget advisory group was briefly discussed and it was agreed that it is valuable and needs to be folded into the process sooner since in the past, a lot of time was spent getting people up to speed on how the budget process works and the various state factors that go into it rather than gathering their priorities. Marckres said the greatest value for him has been the actual forums during the budget cycle on Zoom. Public forums that are not exclusive of a specific group could be an alternative to the smaller CBAC.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING: 2.2 TREATMENT OF STAFF

Board questions were raised on several aspects of this policy therefore it will return at a future meeting for further discussion and potential action.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Fact finding will begin in terms of negotiations with the SBEA October 26. It was noted that the SBEA would like to negotiate next year's contract as well. A meeting with the staff will occur the second week of November and soon negotiations will begin with the administrators for next year's contract.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Corey Burdick reported that she has been in conversation with the editor of The Other Paper and the regular board column is being reinstated effective November 5. Brian Minier said he would write a column about the budget development process. Burdick also said she has been in communication with the city regarding their newly launched e-newsletter. Burdick will have more details on this item at the next meeting. Brian Minier said he thought a social media presence would be an important component as well.

SET AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2020 MEETING

An item was added regarding the announcement of a junior representative to the school board, an update on an electric vehicle grant, treatment of staff will return for action, and an update around the communication plan with next steps will be provided. David Young will also reach out to SB Police Chief Shawn Burke to see if he is available to participate in the SRO agenda item.

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 MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 5, and OCTOBER 7

The minutes were approved via consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA

New Hires: Matthew Pickart, .40 FTE French Teacher at South Burlington High School and Alison Palmer, 1.0 FTE Literacy Teacher at Gertrude Chamberlin School.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #14 and #15

There were no questions or comments on the above orders.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 9:20 pm.