

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT (Participating via Zoom and Telephone)

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: 6:51 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:52 p.m.

PRESENT (Via Zoom and Telephone)

Bridget Burkhardt, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, and Brian Minier

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)

David Young, Gary Marckres, Amadee Denton, Rhonda Ketner, Corey Burdick

GUESTS (via Zoom)

1 guest

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

Bridget Burkhardt reported that she and Brian Minier will be setting up interviews with

the four students who applied to be the junior student representative to the school board and afterward, will provide their recommendation to the board.

David Young said that a number of open houses have been taking place and SBHS held their first virtual open house October 6 where there were 180 attendees. There was a much higher level of participation than in past years.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

David Young gave an update on tax bills based on information he received from the city. A flyer will be going out to residents regarding their tax bills. If there is any remaining balance due from the previous installment, it will be divided equally between the two remaining installments.

Gary Marckres said he has been communicating with Todd Leblanc, Brad James, and Christie Wright regarding the common level of appraisal and reappraisal process. For the FY22 budget, the CLA will be based on the reappraisal data collected and due out in the spring. Marckres reported that the majority of towns that went through this process did not have values that fluctuated much more from 100 percent. Most towns came in over 100 percent.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Gary Marckres provided the update on Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street. He reported that the top coating of School Street was finished last week. There have been minor traffic congestion problems in the parking lot due to the new design and people getting used to it. It’s also a little tight for buses to navigate. He said they have a good snow removal plan for the winter which involves moving it onto the athletic field

Gary Marckres provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. As previously noted, a grant was approved by the FAA to do the noise mitigation project. Jones Payne, the group that is affiliated with the airport, is in the design phase. A 60 percent schematic will be completed by the third week of November, a full schematic will be done in January, and the fitting conducted in February. As soon as students leave the school for the year, work on this project will begin. The current timeline indicates this will be a two-month project with completion projected by the end of August. There will likely be a few remaining, nonintrusive punch list items to be completed once school starts. Final acceptance will take place in mid-September. Bridget Burkhardt asked about ventilation and air exchange. Gary Marckres said that there is a standard and it will be met. Meetings will occur every two weeks beginning in November between himself and Jones Payne to make sure things are on track.

David Young gave an update on enrollment. He presented three documents outlining current enrollment including students enrolled in VTVLC, district enrollment from June 1-October 6, 2020 compared to FY20, and current compared to expected enrollment. The largest drop in enrollment has been seen at the middle school (64 students). Students being homeschooled have been included in the count since confirmation has not been received yet from the Agency of Education that these students have officially been unenrolled from the SBSB. The drop in numbers is thought to be due to parents/guardians choosing private or alternative schooling and/or relocation.

The budget development calendar was initially reviewed. Bridget Burkhardt said she thought the guardrails in terms of a recommended percent budget increase to administration should be lower than what they came out with last year. David Young said there are programmatic needs and strengthening the foundation of the district is a priority in terms of building redundancy into operations, finance, and other areas where departments are stretched thin. Bridget Burkhardt wondered about revisiting master planning and visioning as well as the CBAC (citizens budget advisory committee) and getting that group on board sooner in the process. Amadee Denton recommended the group being smaller than it was in the latest iteration to make it more manageable. David Young added rationale to merit software expenses that have been delayed due to programmatic needs. A stewardship line will be needed to make sure IT infrastructure replacement can occur. Brian Minier said they need community buy in since they didn't have it last time. David Young said he will not be proposing any bonding for big projects at this time.

David Young said since Amadee Denton will be moving on to other opportunities in December, the District will need to determine a point person for the budget. David Young thanked Amadee Denton for her 31 years with the District and her incredible work.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Amadee Denton gave an overview of the current COVID-19 expense spreadsheet. The spreadsheet showed the work done to date in response to COVID. As different grants become available, adjustments are made to the spreadsheet. Amadee Denton said they will do their best to estimate what they are expending and not assuming all expenses will fall under COVID when they may not.

David Young reported on the current plan for the PreK-5 return to in-person learning. Currently, PreK-2 students are scheduled to return to 4 days per week of in-person learning beginning October 13 and grades 3-5 will do the same beginning October 26. If things go well with the 4-day schedule, discussions on moving to 5 days may take place. At the moment, Wednesdays will remain remote to allow for additional cleaning. At the present time, there is no sharing of ideas or suggested return for more in-person learning at the middle and high school. There exists a high level of concern with distancing with the older population. A 6 ft distance is not possible right now given current enrollment. In terms of transportation, as the district moves to Step III, there will be increased capacity, although not full capacity on buses. Right now, physical distancing requirements have been very strict with 3-6 ft distancing required for those 10 and under and 6 ft for older students. The Champlain Valley Superintendents submitted a letter to the Secretary of Education to try to get this changed. Bridget Burkhardt asked about assessments and how to determine what learning has been lost. David Young explained that the District first focused on social/emotional learning and teachers doing informal assessments but they do have a plan in place to do more formal assessments.

The board designated an Authorized Representative of the South Burlington School Board to vote via proxy at the Vermont School Board Insurance Trust (VSBIT) and the Vermont Education Health Initiative (VEHI) Annual Meetings. Elizabeth Fitzgerald has sat through these meetings as well as VSBA meetings and has read the resolutions and agrees with them. She said she is happy to be the representative. Martin LaLonde

made the motion to have Elizabeth Fitzgerald be the authorized representative to vote on VSBA, VSBIT, and VEHI resolutions and Bridget Burkhardt to be the alternate. Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was taken and all were in favor. Elizabeth Fitzgerald recommended that in a future meeting, the board should review the resolutions.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING: 2.3 TREATMENT OF COMMUNITY

The policy was reviewed by the board and they discussed the benefits of online meetings for community members including not having to drive at night. Alex McHenry thinks having the online availability through Zoom and RETN has increased participation. Although, he noted some of the people who were regular attendees at in person meetings, have not been participating online. The monitoring report was deemed to be in compliance.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Bridget Burkhardt reported that in regard to negotiations with the SBEA, fact finding is set to begin October 26 via Zoom. Martin LaLonde said that things are still on hold with the support staff and negotiations have not started with the administrators.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

David Young said Corey Burdick has reached out to the city regarding their e-newsletter to get some more information and discuss the potential for contributions from the school district as an additional vehicle for reaching community members. A meeting date has yet to be set. David Young said he is sensitive to the volume of information parents and guardians are receiving at the moment and thought a communication audit could be a good idea. He also noted that The Other Paper has always and will continue to be an important piece of communications for the District. Bridget Burkhardt expressed concern regarding the city having ownership of a newsletter rather than it being more of a partnership between the two entities.

SET AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 21, 2020 MEETING

Brian Minier mentioned that the board had talked about having a standing agenda item on the SROs on their agenda and wondered about the process and if they could have it on the agenda at every meeting. David Young said he initially wanted it on for the October 21st meeting to provide information on the SRO job description, agreement, and objectives. He also suggested inviting a current or past SRO to a meeting and gathering student perspective as well. Bridget Burkhardt said she thought it could be part of a broader discussion of antiracism work within the district. She noted the South Burlington teacher-initiated branch of BARWE (Building Antiracist White Educators) that meets monthly. She wondered about the board's role since they continue to hear that students in the district experience racism. Martin LaLonde and Brian Minier volunteered to evaluate the language on treatment of students, parents, and guardians. November 1 will be the target agenda for further discussion on this topic. The policy regarding treatment of community was removed.

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 14, AND SEPTEMBER 16

The minutes were approved via consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hires Blair Guthrie, 1.0 FTE VTVLC Teacher, District Haleigh Morgan, 1.0 FTE VTVLC Teacher, District Eileen Rosenberg, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher, South Burlington High School John Walker, 1.0 FTE VTVLC Teacher, District

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #11, #12, and #13

One question from Brian Minier on a VSBIT expense was answered.

Accounts Payable Order Check to Sylvane Inc. in the amount of \$138,516.00. This expense was for the purchase of 204 air purifiers with UV light that have been deployed in District buildings including most offices. This will be a COVID related expense. Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve, Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 9:24 pm.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk