

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 superintendent evaluation 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: 6:33 p.m.

No Action

**Personnel Matter – Superintendent Evaluation**

In: 6:34 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, and student representatives Delaney Rosner and Hiba Ali

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)**

David Young, Gary Marckres, Amadee Denton, Patrick Burke

**GUESTS (via Zoom)**

3 guests

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

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hiba Ali announced that the term 1 grades have been finalized and are available via PowerSchool. The SBHS food drive will continue until Thanksgiving break. Facetime has returned on Wednesdays to SBHS. David Young noted that practices for a number of high school winter sports are currently set to commence November 30 and the middle school athletic practices are currently scheduled to begin December 14.

### **CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

The steering committee met November 9. Items discussed included the FY 2022 budget, the FAA/airport grants, status of the reappraisal process, a continued discussion around reestablishing school impact fees, and COVID city and school updates. The next meeting between the city and school has yet to be scheduled.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Gary Marckres provided the update on Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street. On November 23 and 24, when school is not in session, School St. will be closed since a well drilling truck will need to take up an entire lane during that timeframe. The Rick Marcotte Central School principal has been notified.

Gary Marckres provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. An electrical engineer visited November 10 and 11 to complete the information needed to complete the 60 percent of the design phase required by the FAA. They will now move on to the 100 percent design phase. The project is on schedule. David Young said he had received several complaints of noise around Gertrude Chamberlin School and he has reached out to the Vermont National Guard regarding their current flight schedule. He reported that they are not using afterburners. The Guard expressed to Young that they were open to conversations with both South Burlington and Winooski regarding their concerns.

### **SRO DISCUSSION**

David Young said he did not have an update. Bridget Burkhardt said she has been working on an SRO framing document that will work to sketch out what questions the board is trying to answer, who they need input from, and how it will be acquired. The City also recently had a conversation around SROs and their funding. David Young will follow up with the city regarding their budget discussions and will impress upon them the importance SROs have in relationship building with students. Martin LaLonde said that he could not see the District picking up the cost of the SROs if the city decides not to fund them any longer. Patrick Burke said from his perspective, and what is lost from the outside looking in, is how often young people in the city are victims of crime and having someone to go to that they can trust and known as a familiar face, is helpful. The City may be able to provide data regarding how often students are the victims of crime. Patrick Burke said his relationship with the police is framed from the perspective of being a white man and that BIPOC may have a different viewpoint that needs to be heard. This agenda item will return at the next meeting.

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Voluntary COVID surveillance testing took place for staff November 16. David Young said that 270 staff participated and the District was notified Wednesday that two individuals have tested positive, one at Rick Marcotte Central School and another at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School. The Vermont Department of Health contact tracing team will be in touch with any close contacts. COVID relief funding (CRF) was discussed. It is currently set to end December 31. The District is trying to determine how the run rate will look if the funding is not extended. Due to COVID, health screeners and substitutes have been added. The District has yet to be reimbursed for many items, but the CRF grant for food service equipment was recently approved. The district is talking with the city to see when they can expect the next tax installment as well.

**SUPPORT STAFF RETIREMENT FUND MANAGED BY SEI**

Patrick Blizzard from SEI gave a presentation on current market conditions, large cap stocks, and indexes. He reviewed the current plan for the support staff retirement fund. After his presentation, Martin LaLonde made the motion to accept the proposal for fund allocation from SEI which will be made at the end of the year. Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all were in favor.

**FY 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION: STEWARDSHIP PLAN AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

Gary Marckres presented a stewardship plan he and Amadee Denton developed. The plan covers 2022-2031 with the aim of making the current schools as safe and viable as possible. A broader conversation with the community about what they want and need for facilities will need to occur. For FY22 \$1,15 million of work was identified as being needed across the District's schools and \$888,438 would be the bare minimum cost to keep systems running safely. For FY23-25, a \$14.5 million bond was proposed that prepares the District for low operating costs once the work has been completed. \$7 million would be used in FY23, \$5.3 million in FY24, and \$2.9 million in FY25. Any items indicated by red text were deemed absolutely necessary such as replacement of fire doors, fire alarms, brick work, duct cleaning, and flooring hazardous waste removal. David Young made it clear that this stewardship plan only encompasses structural elements and does not do anything to enhance the educational system. Elizabeth Fitzgerald said the District will need to be clear with the community about what this plan includes and excludes. Bridget Burkhardt asked about the 3-acre rule and Gary Marckres said he sees coming into compliance with that item as a joint effort between the city and District given that there may be more funding opportunities if they work together.

**EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING 2.7 ASSET PROTECTION**

The Board discussed the item where David Young determined he was not in compliance, Detail Policy 3, regarding subjecting facilities equipment to improper wear and tear or insufficient maintenance. The board questioned going through the policy without a compliance plan in place. Bridget Burkhardt said the compliance plan would involve bringing the community along to determine what they want long term for facilities. This policy will return at the next meeting.

**POLICY 2.5 FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING**

This policy was reviewed in detail by Amadee Denton. There were no follow up questions by the board and the policy was deemed to be in compliance.

### **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Bridget Burkhardt said there was no update on negotiations with the SBEA since they are awaiting the fact finder's report due in early December. Martin LaLonde reported meeting with the support staff yesterday as well as meeting with administrators. Another meeting with the support staff will take place this coming Tuesday.

### **COMMUNICATIONS DISCUSSION**

Board members, David Young, and Corey Burdick discussed opportunities for board communications. Corey Burdick said the budget forums and board meetings are being noted in the city's e-newsletter, on the district website, and in David Young's Friday letter to families. The board requested that the upcoming budget forum information be pushed out on all South Burlington Front Porch Forums. Corey Burdick said she would connect with Delina Gilroy to coordinate the effort. Corey Burdick expressed concern about being the voice of the board if communications went beyond noting upcoming board meetings and community forums, for example overseeing the board's Facebook page. Bridget Burkhardt said that the board's vehicle for communications with the public is primarily through the board meetings and minutes and that their Facebook page was never designed to be the primary driver of information to the public. No further discussion or decisions were made regarding the board's Facebook page or other potential social media avenues. David Young noted that bandwidth becomes a concern when there are multiple communication channels active that require timely and accurate responses.

The board discussed their upcoming article for the December 3 issue of The Other Paper. Martin LaLonde will write about running for the school board.

### **SET AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING**

Alex McHenry added an item regarding a campaign finance filing discussion. Executive Limitations Policy 2.7 will return as well as the SRO discussion. Executive limitations policy 2.1 treatment of parents and guardians will return.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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 NOVEMBER 2, NOVEMBER 4, AND NOVEMBER 10**

The minutes were approved via consensus.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #18 and #19**

There were no questions on the AP orders.

Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve the accounts payable order to the HowardCenter in the amount of \$142,360, Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 10:23 pm.

---

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

---

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk