

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017  
Executive Session at 6:00 P.M.  
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Orchard School Cafeteria**

**PRESENT**

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

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Aubin

**GUESTS**

Attorney Sean Toohey

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered executive session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss legal matters and labor negotiations with teachers, support staff, and administration 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 Sean Toohey attend executive session. The motion was approved.

**Discussion Regarding a Legal Matters**

In: 6:01 p.m.

Out: 6:42 p.m.

No Action

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

In: 6:42 p.m.

Out: 6:53 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:53 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Bridget Burkhardt, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski, Alex Escaja-Heiss

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Aubin, Stuart Weiss, Meg Collins

**GUESTS**

6

**REGULAR SESSION**

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

- Blood Drive at SBHS was held on October 27.
- October 26, Rowland Conference, many students in attendance. This year's theme was about racial bias and making sure classes are inclusive. Students were advocating for proficiency based learning.
- French exchange students arrived on October 28.
- Application process is under way for a junior student representative to the Board.
- SB Has Talent is taking place tomorrow evening.
- Much activity with sports and clubs.
- Article written by our student representative to the Board will be in the Other Paper this week. It will be on the roles and responsibilities of the student representative.

**CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

Mr. Young and Ms. Fitzgerald meet regularly with City Council Chair, Helen Riehle and City Manager, Kevin Dorn. The next meeting is scheduled for November 10. A press release will take place concerning the solar array at the landfill. Money is given back to the city and school district. The city will also hold a press conference regarding the development in front of Rick Marcotte Central School to let the community know that there may be a bond vote on the next ballot for new city offices and the community library. These offices and library will be located on the property next to the building now going up in front of the Rick Marcotte Central School property. The community library move may not take place until December. There is a plan to reuse the space to make it effective for the high school. Potential plans for use of the space will be on a future agenda in November.

**LEGISLATIVE INPUT**

Mr. Young provided this time to hear from the Board concerning topics they would like to discuss at a legislative breakfast. Mr. Lalonde said the biggest question is how much the Board wants to weigh in on some of the issues that we know are coming. One being whether health insurance negotiations should be moved from local school boards to the state level. The Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA) voted to move toward the State deciding on all healthcare. Mr. Lalonde, with direction of the Board, voted against that move.

Other issues that will be coming up are about teacher and staff to student ratios. Mr. Lalonde isn't aware of a bill on this, but there will be talk about this topic. The other topic is on collective bargaining. There is a bill that would ban strikes and impositions and a bill will be introduced to modify guidelines.

On December 11 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a legislative community discussion on the collective bargaining issues. This is a time for the community to provide input because there are bills involved.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted at the VSBA annual meeting, the resolutions that were discussed did pass by varying majorities of the VSBA membership.

Ms. Burkhardt and Mr. LaLonde with Mr. Young will put a paper together providing input to the legislature weighing in on some of these issues. They will plan to have something early to mid-December.

Mr. Young also noted that there needs to be sensitivity around any bill that happens with strict awareness of cost implication, for example, the health care claw back. If it has a cost piece, there has to be some kind of process in how it will be phased in.

Ms. Fitzgerald summarized this discussion for the topics of the paper to be written as follows:

There is an umbrella of the collective bargaining process with health care being a subset. Also a cost containment umbrella where health care straddles between process and cost containment. Student ratios and level funding fall under cost containment as well as mandates and financial cost implications.

## **FY 2019 BUDGET**

### **Financial Planning and Budgeting**

John Aubin provided the Board with 2.5 Planning and Budgeting to review each detailed policy with the Board in preparation of planning and budgeting the FY19 budget.

Mr. Aubin reviewed the memorandum from Secretary Rebecca Holcombe on managing staff attrition. There is no legislation or directive from Secretary Holcombe, however, we should look at the configuration every time a teacher or staff person leaves.

Vermont has the lowest student to teacher ratio in the country. However, Mr. McHenry noted that South Burlington is not a shrinking district like many others. Mr. LaLonde asked that we provide an explanation for the community on why our teacher and staff numbers are the way they are.

Mr. Young noted that the budget process is well underway. At the last meeting, the Board provided input on what they would like to see when planning for this year. Mr. Aubin provided several scenarios for the Board using the budget development worksheet to forecast the tax rates. Mr. Aubin noted that the State sets the property yield which creates the tax rate. This has not been provided by the State yet. We also don't have the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA). Mr. Aubin is hoping to receive some information from the State within the next few weeks. Mr. Aubin put hypothetical numbers in the budget development worksheet to show how it affects the tax rate.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that this year represents an opportunity to evaluate everything old to see if it is still applicable or determine if there is opportunity to redeploy dollars. She would like to provide the community with a level of detail that demonstrates we are

justifying investments.

Ms. Burkhardt and Mr. Wisloski both felt we need to communicate how education funding works, what we can control and what we can't. Mr. Wisloski also wanted communicated that if we don't increase the budget at all, the tax rate will still increase by 5% and explain why this happens.

Mr. Aubin provided a flow chart last year which he can revisit.

The budget timeline was also provided to the Board. There was discussion and changes were made to the timeline.

Mr. Young noted that they will be providing suggested stewardship items at the next meeting for the Board to weigh in on.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that we eliminated 1.2 million in last year's budget and would like to show how we are going to reconcile those items eliminated.

As several Board members have other commitments, the Board agreed to change the December 20 School Board meeting to Tuesday, December 19.

## **EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING**

### **2.4 Financial Condition and Activities**

Mr. Aubin provided updates to 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities. The Board reviewed the report, asked several questions and provided several changes. This monitoring report will be brought to the November 15 meeting with updates.

### **2.3 Treatment of Community**

Mr. Young provided updates to 2.3 Treatment of Community for the Board to review. The Board approved the monitoring report as updated.

### **2.2 Treatment of Staff**

Mr. Young provided 2.2 Treatment of Staff to the Board for review. Mr. Young read through each detail policy for discussion with the Board. The Board asked several questions and suggested several changes. Mr. Young will bring this monitoring report to the November 15 meeting with updates. The Danielson/Marshal Evaluation Pilot will be added to Future Agenda Items for a deeper understanding of the pilot.

## **MASTER PLANNING AND VISIONING**

### **Committee Work Update/Timeline Adjustment**

Mr. Young provided a written update of the Master Planning and Visioning Subcommittee work with some suggested changes to the timeline. The timeline will be brought back to the November 15 agenda for action.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

### **Policy F4 – The Prevention of Harassment, Hazing, and Bullying of Students**

Mr. Weiss provided the Board with some data on harassment, hazing, and bullying of students. Mr. Young noted this data will be provided in policy monitoring reports each year under personal development and citizenship. The Board reviewed the policy and

made suggested changes and asked several questions concerning the language in this model policy and Mr. Young will ask the VSA and VSBA for clarification. The policy will be brought back to the November 15 meeting for a third reading.

**Policy F6 – Student Alcohol and Drugs**

The Board reviewed Policy F6 – Student Alcohol and Drugs. There was discussion and suggested changes. The policy will be brought back to the November 15 meeting for a second reading.

**Policy F8 - Firearms**

The Board reviewed Policy F8 – Firearms. The policy will be brought back to the November 15 meeting for a second reading.

**SET AGENDA FOR THE NOVEMBER 15, 2017 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

The Board discussed the agenda for the November 15, 2017 school board meeting.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board discussed future agenda items.

**CONSENT AGENDA****Hires**

James Bean, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Chamberlin School

Elizabeth Stockbridge, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at FHT Middle School

**Retirement/Resignation**

Stuart Weiss, Director of Learning, District

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

Mr. Young provided a personal message of thanks to Mr. Weiss for his work in the district. Ms. Fitzgerald, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Weiss for his years of service as Assistant Principal at the Tuttle Middle School and currently in the Central Office as Director of Learning. The Board appreciates his continued support and look forward to working with him through June.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #15**

The Board reviewed accounts payable order #15.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Martin LaLonde, Clerk