

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020 at 1:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT (Via Zoom)**

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

**AMINISTRATION/STAFF (Via Zoom)**

David Young, Delina Gilroy, Karsten Schlenter, John Craig, Kathleen Kilbourne, Mark Trifilio, Lissa McDonald, David Hyatt

**GUESTS (via Zoom)**

1 guest

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

There were none.

**TOWN MEETING DAY AND VOTING PROCEDURES**

Bridget Burkhardt discussed the potential for a change in voting for the City of South Burlington on Town Meeting Day 2021 due to Covid 19. The city/clerk have asked the school district what we would like to see for a voting process. The city would like to do a mail voting process which would cost \$28,000. The city would like the district to split the cost of the mailing. Town Clerk Donna Kinville would like to know as soon as possible in order to prepare to mail ballots to all voters in the city.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked Martin LaLonde what the legislative feeling is on voting procedures. He said the bill will be taken up within the first week of the new legislative session. Elizabeth Fitzgerald also asked about the possibility of Federal funding for the mailing. Martin LaLonde said he would look into this.

Alex McHenry questioned whether paying for a mailing for the vote on Town Meeting Day with educational dollars is a legal expenditure. David Young will review the language of the statute with legal counsel and get back to the board. The Secretary of State and the administration are checking to see if additional funding from Covid Relief Funds could be used for this purpose.

The board asked if there is an accelerated timeline for approval of a budget and ballot warning language as well as a breakdown of the \$28,000 cost of the vote by mail option. David Young said he would check with Donna Kinville.

**SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZATION**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked that this item be added to the agenda because she has announced that she will not be running for reelection and since March/April 2020 when the Board went to Zoom meetings Bridget Burkhardt has been effectively facilitating and chairing all of the board meetings. She asked that the board consider a reorganization at this time. Elizabeth Fitzgerald added that the board would still need to reorganize again after the March Town Meeting Day.

Alex McHenry said he does not like the process or way that this is being proposed. He feels this should wait until the Wednesday after Town Meeting Day.

Brian Minier said there are other things that the chair of the board does as the public face of the board such as responding to messages and getting together with the superintendent. There are many requirements other than board meetings and so if Elizabeth feels she needs to step down from the board chair position, we should consider that request sooner rather than later.

Martin LaLonde said that there is no law that says this can not be done at this time and he does not have an issue with doing this now.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald asked that this be added to the next regular board meeting agenda for action on Wednesday, January 6.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bridget Burkhardt called for a motion to enter executive session at 2:18 p.m. to discuss negotiations with the South Burlington Administrators Association and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. Martin LaLonde made a motion to enter executive session and Elizabeth Fitzgerald seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes.

**Negotiations with South Burlington Administrators Association**

In: 2:18 p.m.  
Out: 3:37 p.m.  
No Action

The executive session was closed at 3:37 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Martin LaLonde made a motion to adjourn and Brian Minier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor. The motion passes. The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

---

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

---

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk