

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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**

Attorney Joseph McNeil

**REGULAR SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bridget Burkhardt made a motion to enter executive session at 6:03 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 and Attorney Joseph McNeil attend executive session. Brian Minier seconded the motion.

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

In: 6:03 p.m.

Out: 6:58 p.m.

Martin LaLonde joined at 6:10 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, Patrick Burke

**GUESTS (via Zoom)**

2 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 said that tryouts for winter sports are now open and the SBHS food drive

resulted in 1,335 lbs of food being donated to the South Burlington Food Shelf. All three elementary schools recently held Scholastic Book Fairs. David Young said that at the middle and high school level, students have expressed interest in raising the Black Lives Matter flag.

### **CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

David Young said the District is exploring an impact fee study and will be meeting with a representative from RSG the city recommended. The idea will be to look at impact fees as they relate to schools. The next meeting between Helen Riehle, Kevin Dorn, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and David Young has not been scheduled.

### **SRO DISCUSSION**

Bridget Burkhardt presented a framework document to the board outlining potential questions the board would like answered regarding the SROs and their role within the schools in addition to the potential for a committee to gather information and feedback from various stakeholders. Connecting with neighboring communities, bringing in a facilitator, and conducting a survey were all discussed as options. It was requested that David Young gather the contacts from neighboring districts for a subcommittee of the board to connect with. Patrick Burke mentioned that there are parallel proposals from the student council and student justice union to raise the Black Lives Matter flag year-round. A presentation will take place at the December 16 meeting with action warned for the following meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Gary Marckres said the work around Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street is on track and going well. Bridget Burkhardt added that the city coned off several parking spots in the vicinity thus enhancing visibility.

Gary Marckres provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. An electrical engineer completed the 60 percent of the design phase required by the FAA. Four engineers visited the property Wednesday. After reviewing the 60 percent design, Gary Marckres said the District will need to consider not having any summer programs at Chamberlin School given the amount of construction that will be taking place and the fact that power will be out for 10-14 days.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The second round of voluntary Covid-19 surveillance testing will take place for teachers and staff December 8. David Young said that staff are working hard to adhere to Covid-19 guidance and attendance for students and staff has been good, indicating that many followed the directive of the Governor not to travel or have multihousehold gatherings over the holiday. There has been a change in how contact tracing occurs in that the District now needs to resource those calls. The quarantine period remains at 14 days although a change may be coming from the CDC to shorten this period. The elementary schools remain open for 4 days per week of in person instruction with Wednesdays remaining remote and the middle and high schools remain in the hybrid model. Bridget Burkhardt asked why the District chose not to ask families the screening question related to travel or gathering upon their return from break and David Young said the Governor's request was not a mandate and didn't want to get into the complications of changes to the screening app and confronting families, instead encouraging compliance with guidelines.

### **FY 2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION: REVIEW OF RECOMMENDED TAX RATE AND OTHER STATE FACTORS**

Gary Marckres reported what is known at the moment in regard to state factors. He said the property yield is down at \$10,763, the income yield is down at \$12,825, and the non-homestead tax rate is up by 10 cents. None are positive from a tax perspective. The press release from the state that showed these figures also indicates a lot of uncertainty around federal funding. Marckres said the district will not have a deficit and will have an undesignated fund balance but the final number is not yet available. It is unknown how the state will apply the equalized pupil formula this year but it is speculated that the number will remain the same.

### **CAMPAIGN FINANCE FILING DISCUSSION**

The Board received a letter in public session from a community member questioning funds used for ads related to the budget and bond vote. Elizabeth Fitzgerald made a statement regarding the campaign finance report the district filed with the attorney general's office. She made note of the perception of those filings. The VSBA and VLCT supported that the information the district put out to the public was intended to be informative. The community member was on the call and reiterated their position that advocacy ads were placed as opposed to being informative.

### **EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY REVIEW (SECOND READING)**

#### **Policy 2.1 Treatment of Students and Parents and Guardians**

There weren't any questions or comments on this policy therefore it will return for its third and final reading at the next meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING**

#### **Policy 2.7 Asset Protection**

David Young reported noncompliance, but the board deemed his compliance plan to be acceptable.

#### **Policy 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent**

The board was not prepared to review this policy and it was moved to the next meeting.

### **NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE**

Bridget Burkhardt said there was no update on negotiations with the SBEA since they are awaiting the fact finder's report. Martin LaLonde reported the administrators had submitted a letter indicating that they would like to commence negotiations. A meeting with the support staff was scheduled for December 3.

### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

David Young reported that the next community budget forum will be held December 8 via Zoom. These forums have been posted on the district website, on Front Porch Forum, in the Friday letters to families, in the city's e-newsletter, and in The Other Paper. Former members of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee have also been notified and their participation encouraged. Martin LaLonde wrote the latest board column for The Other Paper on running for the board. Both the January and February

columns will focus on the budget. Bridget Burkhardt will write the January column while Alex McHenry will write the February column.

**SET AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING**

The board removed policy 2.7 and added the Black Lives Matter flag raising to their agenda in addition to the ongoing SRO discussion.

**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 16 AND NOVEMBER 18**

With two minor edits made to the November 18 meeting minutes, they were approved.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The resignation of Krista Shea, 1.0 speech language pathologist at Gertrude Chamberlin School was removed for discussion. David Young said the bid for the cargo van for food service which will be covered by CRF funding and will assist with the delivery of meals to students. This will alleviate the need to rely on the District's school buses to transport these meals.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER #20**

There weren't any questions on the AP order.

Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve the accounts payable order to the HowardCenter in the amount of \$96,657.19, Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m. and the board reentered executive session. When they returned to open session, Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Brian Minier seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 10:13 pm.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk