

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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 Colin McNeil

REGULAR SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bridget Burkhardt made a motion to enter executive session at 6:02 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 Colin McNeil attend executive session. Brian Minier seconded the motion.

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

In: 6:02 p.m.

Out: 6:58 p.m.

Colin McNeil left the meeting at 6:42 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, Holly Rouelle, Kathleen Kilbourne, Karsten Schlenter, Christine Nold, Emily Gilmore, Philip Galiga, Abby Klein, and Kathy Murphy

GUESTS (via Zoom)

79 guests

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There were none.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Item 13, accountability of the superintendent was removed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The student justice union's petition to raise the Black Lives Matter flag year-round at

SBHS has 590 signatures. Chamberlin School contributed 536 pounds of food to the South Burlington Food Shelf for their food drive. Winter break will occur December 21-January 4. SBHS drama is presenting a virtual version of "A Christmas Carol." The link to the show is available on the SBHS website. The Scholar's Bowl tournament held recently resulted in the A Team placing 3rd and the B Team placing 4th. Elizabeth Fitzgerald announced that after 15 years of service on the school board, she will not be running for reelection. Martin LaLonde, after 11 years of service on the board, also will not be seeking reelection.

CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION

The next meeting between Helen Riehle, Kevin Dorn, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, and David Young has not yet been scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Gary Marckres said there was not an update since the last meeting on the Rick Marcotte Central School/180 Market Street project.

Gary Marckres provided the update on the Gertrude Chamberlin School noise mitigation/airport item. The engineers are moving toward the 100 percent design phase. Bidding for the project will begin in February. A hazardous materials sampling person was on site Wednesday. Results have not been released yet.

COVID-19 UPDATE

David Young expressed his appreciation for everyone's continued efforts in following protocols. They have helped keep the schools open.

RAISING OF THE BLACK LIVES MATTER FLAG YEAR-ROUND AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

SBHS SJU members Nyasha Rutanhira and Raphaela Sulley gave a presentation on raising the Black Lives Matter flag at SBHS year-round. The students were supported by administrators on the call including Patrick Burke who provided a statement. A robust discussion followed with board members and members of the public expressing their support, offering examples of their experiences as BIPOC individuals in the schools, and offering ideas for next steps beyond raising the flag. A question arose around raising the flag year-round at all schools. The board members agreed to put an agenda item warned for action on their January 6 agenda to raise the Black Lives Matter Flag year-round at all of the District's schools. Middle School students involved in antiracism work will also make a presentation at that meeting.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS DISCUSSION

Two weeks ago, Bridget Burkhardt presented a framing document to fellow board members outlining ideas around how the board should proceed in gathering more information about the SRO position in the District and how the board could best gather feedback. Board members have been reviewing the work of area districts that have been involved in evaluating this position as well. The board discussed developing an outline for next steps around putting together a committee of stakeholders. Bridget Burkhardt and Brian Minier volunteered to work on the outline.

FY 2022 BUDGET: DRAFT OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET

David Young and Gary Marckres presented the first draft of the FY22 preliminary budget inclusive of current and requested staff, enrollment, the District's facility stewardship plan, and the proposal for a \$2.5 million bond for facility improvements. This draft budget represented an 8.82 percent budget increase. Board members were unanimous in expressing that this level of increase needed to be reduced prior to bringing a budget before the community.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY REVIEW

POLICY 2.1 TREATMENT OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS AND GUARDIANS THIRD READING

Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve this policy, Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was held and the policy passed unanimously.

POLICY G1 TITLE I COMPARABILITY FIRST READING

There weren't any initial questions on this policy and it was moved to the next meeting for the second reading.

EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS POLICY MONITORING – 3.2 ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

This item was moved to the next meeting without discussion.

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Bridget Burkhardt said that the factfinding report has been received and is being reviewed by the board and the SBEA, but cannot yet be made public. Martin LaLonde reported that the next meeting with the support staff will occur next week.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Bridget Burkhardt will write the January board column for The Other Paper on the budget. Alex McHenry will also write about the budget for the February column. The board discussed outreach efforts that could occur around getting people to run for the open seats on the school board. A Front Porch Forum post was requested and having more diversity on the board was noted as a priority.

SET AGENDAS FOR THE JANUARY 6 AND JANUARY 13, 2021 MEETINGS

The raising of the Black Lives Matter flag at all district schools year-round was added to the January 6 agenda. The January 13 meeting will be focused solely on the FY22 budget.

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 DECEMBER 2, DECEMBER 7, AND DECEMBER 8, 2020

The minutes were approved by consensus.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hire of Kelly Knoth, 1.0 FTE Literacy teacher at FHTMS. No action was needed on this item.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #21 and #22

There were no questions or comments on the AP orders.

Account payable order check to Essex Westford Community Educational Center in the amount of \$82,382.85. Martin LaLonde made the motion to approve, Brian Minier seconded, a roll call vote was held and all were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Martin LaLonde made the motion to adjourn, Alex McHenry seconded. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed unanimously at 11:03 pm.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk