

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015  
Executive Session at 5:00 P.M.  
Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.  
Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School Library**

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Julie Beatty, Dan Fleming, Patrick Leduc

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Stewart

**GUESTS**

Attorney Steve Stitzel, Stephanie Hainley

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered executive session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss legal advice on a contractual matter, labor negotiations with teachers and support staff, and a real estate proposal, and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. The board requested that Mr. Young and Mr. Stewart attend executive session. The motion was approved.

**Legal Advice on Contractual Matter**

In: 5:00 p.m.

Out: 5:21 p.m.

No Action

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

In: 5:21 p.m.

Out: 6:15 p.m.

No Action

**Legal Matter – Real Estate Proposal Discussion**

In: 6:15 p.m.

Out: 6:56 p.m.

No Action

The executive session was closed at 6:56 p.m.

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Martin LaLonde, Julie Beatty, Dan Fleming, Patrick Leduc, Nerali Desai

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

David Young, John Stewart, Delina Gilroy, Stewart Weiss, Karsten Schlenter, Susie Merrick

**GUESTS**

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**REGULAR SESSION**

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

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Item #12 will be removed from the agenda and be added to a future agenda as Joanne Godek is out ill. Mr. LaLonde ask that the board discussion on Facebook Policy be added to the agenda. Ms. Fitzgerald added this to agenda after item #5.

**MASTER PLANNING AND VISIONING UPDATE**

Mr. Young introduced Stephanie Hainley from White & Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors to provide additional information on the information that has been discussed to date on Master Planning and Visioning. Ms. Hainley provided a brief overview. Members of the audience asked several questions of Ms. Hainley.

**FACEBOOK GROUP DISCUSSION**

Mr. LaLonde discussed the information he received from the Vermont School Boards Association regarding Open Meeting Law as it relates to the newly formed Facebook group which is discussing current city and school issues. He stated the purpose of the Facebook group is South Burlington school board issues, and so a quorum of school board members joining the group would present an open meeting law violation. In essence, it would be as if the school board is sitting to hear the issues discussed in the group. Even if none of the school board members posted on the group, they would likely still be deemed as "participating" since they would read and observe the discussions in the group. Facebook isn't a warned public meeting, thus you will want to avoid a quorum of school board members joining the Facebook group.

Second, any posts that a school board member makes in the group, and any responses to that comment by a member of the public, would likely constitute a public record. This probably goes without saying given what we all know about social media generally, but is nonetheless worth remembering.

To address these problems the school board could designate one person to observe the group and make postings if/when necessary. You might like to make an announcement on the page or clear up an area of specific concern. The designated Facebooker can report to the board about the discussions on the group page. Having a designated person also helps the board be transparent about complying with the open meeting law, which is always a plus. The board agreed that no other board members would join the group and feedback from the Facebook page would be vetted through Mr. LaLonde to the school board.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Chamberlin School's Hour of Code Assembly was Monday. The district had the opportunity to thank Code.org for this opportunity to receive funding. It is important to teach our students how to code and to program as early as possible. The grant money will be used to purchase technology needed for Chamberlin School to

increase student access. For additional information, you can find videos, the press release, and a few pictures in the blog post on Vermont's Hour of Code website.

- Chamberlin Schools 5<sup>th</sup> Grade DARE Graduation is December 21 at 1:30 PM in the gymnasium.
- December 23-January 3 is school vacation.
- Rick Marcotte Central School's holiday program is scheduled for Friday, December 18 at 8:30 a.m.

### **STUDENT VOICE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Ms. Fitzgerald stated that a sub-committee of the board, including herself and Ms. Beatty, met with Student Representative Nirali Desai to define student representative roles and responsibilities, expectations, and selection process among other items. Ms. Desai provided the following outline of the meeting discussion.

Selection/Onboarding Process (Training and Content)

- *Should sophomores apply at the end of the year?*
- *Differentiate Junior and Senior roles?*
- *Training on Robert's Rules of Order, Policy Governance, etc.*
- *Board member mentor*
- *VSBA training videos, shadow Board of Education student rep*
- *Determine distribution list which includes student reps*
- *Set agenda with student rep input in mind as needed/desired*
- *Develop application process for future student representatives*
- *Student committee with faculty supervision can present top two candidates to Board for interview? Or should Board member serve on selection committee?*

Roles & Responsibilities

- *Represent student voice*
- *Make themselves available to student body*
- *Proactively approach groups of students for differing perspectives*
- *Improve student communication across all 5 schools*
- *Participation in school board's Other Paper column*
- *Participation in budget presentations*
- *Solicit and encourage student feedback (on critical issues)*
- *Student rep should bring "information" to the Board (issues and recognition)*
- *Represent Board on Board Recognition Award selection committee?*
- *Exit interview; feedback on what was learned, useful, difficult and opportunities to improve experience*

The next steps are to identify an administrator to participate on the committee, to build an application and process, and get applications out as soon as possible. Ms. Fitzgerald suggest that for this year the process be modified in order to get a junior representative on sooner rather than later.

### **CITY AND SCHOOL COLLABORATION**

Mr. Young and Ms. Fitzgerald meet regularly with Pat Nowak, City Council Chair, and Kevin Dorn, City Manager. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday. Mr. Young provided an overview of the recent community meeting held on the possible legalization of marijuana.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – Two years ago a group of South Burlington School District staff members engaged in a year-long training offered by the Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) entitled “We All Belong.” The work supported efforts in inclusion, diversity, and culture competency.

This initial group of 10 staff members – in roles from all over our school district – has renewed their commitment to the work this year with the addition of Healthy Schools Coordinator Susie Merrick.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of Healthy Schools – programs our school district has identified as contributing to *the well-being of our students, staff, and families*.

From the moment people enter our doors – that onboarding stage – we want them to immediately gain knowledge of our commitment to diversity/equity/inclusion as well as to mentoring, mindfulness, and wellness – the other branches of Healthy Schools.

Ms. Merrick provided a brief update on the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee’s work in this school year, the commitment to onboarding, to the sustainability of the work, and to advocacy with integrity so that any communication shared is done so in a transparent way. The board thanked Ms. Merrick for the update.

**Chamberlin Neighborhood Planning Update** – Mr. Karsten Schlenter provided a brief update on the work of the committee. With regard to the noise levels, particularly at Chamberlin School, the revised noise level study has not changed but the way the noise study is calculated has changed. Mr. Schlenter discussed the grant the airport has applied for to mitigate the noise level for homes immediately surrounding the area. The board asked if the committee/administration will be looking for grants associated with noise mitigation issues for Chamberlin School. The board suggested that information be added to the stewardship plan which addresses noise levels at Chamberlin School. Mr. LaLonde suggested a letter be sent to Federal Congressmen regarding the noise issues at Chamberlin School.

## SOLAR ARRAY AT SOUTH BURLINGTON LANDFILL

Mr. Young said the Solar Array Project is a collaborative project between the city and the school board near the landfill. The board will not take action as the district attorney is looking at questions the board has on the project. This will be added to a future agenda.

## BUDGET

Mr. Young and Mr. Stewart presented the highlights of the Draft Budget for FY 2017. Including increases, decreases, program changes, comparative staffing levels, and current and projected enrollment including tuition and school choice students. The board suggested the following:

- The administration mark items with an asterisk that are controlled by the cap.
- Mark items with an asterisk by the dollar amount if it has an offsetting revenue.

- Can social services items within the budget be pulled out? (i.e. Howard Center)
- If we decided to present the budget at the 1.69% threshold allowed by the Act 46 cap, the board needs to communicate the strategy to the community.
- Consider a district software audit or a stewardship plan for software.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

#### **Special Education Services and Funding**

The agenda items will be added to a future meeting.

### **REVIEW TOPIC FOR *OTHER PAPER* ARTICLE**

The board discussed possible topics for the next School Board article to be published in the *Other Paper*. Mr. Fleming will draft the next article which is "Role of School Board member." The board discussed/assigned future articles.

### **SET AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2016**

The Board discussed the agenda for the regular board meeting on January 6, 2016.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board discussed future agenda items.

### **CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2015**

Ms. Fitzgerald announced general consensus of the board to approve the minutes of December 2, 2015. There were no objections.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDERS #22 and #23**

The Board reviewed accounts payable orders #22 and #23.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ORDER CHECK TO THE HOWARD CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$156,962.43**

Mr. Leduc moved that the board approve the accounts payable order check to The Howard Center in the amount of \$156,962.43. Mr. LaLonde seconded the motion, all were in favor. The motion was approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Martin LaLonde, Clerk