

APPROVED JANUARY 20, 2010

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
JANUARY 4, 2010 7:00 P.M.  
FREDERICK H. TUTTLE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

**PRESENT**

Richard Cassidy, Theodore Manazir, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Agnes Clift, Janine Allo

**ADMINISTRATION/STAFF**

John Everitt, David Young, JoAn Canning, John Stewart

**GUESTS**

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

**CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE FY2011 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

Mr. Everitt reviewed the FY2011 budget proposal recommended by the administrations.

Mr. Manazir moved that the board approve a budget of \$41,521,044. Ms. Allo seconded the motion. The motion was not approved.

There were many comments from members of the public on the budget. Some of the comments included:

- Urging the board to provide the administration with a level-funded budget recommendation.
- The district needs to take action to reduce the budget now.
- The state employees just took a pay cut. Our teachers need to start making some sacrifices until the economic situation straightens out.
- In order to recover from the current economic situation, we need to invest in our children and our students and maintain the budget as proposed.
- Oppose budget because it represents business as usual. The budget needs structural change not just tinkering at the margins.
- How do we make education more efficient and effective with fewer dollars and fewer people?
- Voting "no" on a school budget does not effect negotiations or teacher salaries.
- The proposed budget is fair and I support it.
- The administration has worked very hard and made hard decisions on the budget presented.
- Community members can not afford to pay the taxes and will be driven out of the community.
- A budget of this size really represents a business and the board should take a hard look at making additional cuts to the budget.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked what the percentage of the material costs are that affect the budget specifically salary and benefits, operational days, class size, and materials for day to day operations.

Ms. Allo said that from what she has heard in the community she is not sure that a 4 percent budget will pass.

Mr. Manazir said he concurs with Ms. Allo, but he feels we need to reorganize or reprioritize the budget and cut additional items.

Ms. Clift said she supports education but feels we need to trim this budget back more.

Mr. Cassidy thanked the administration for this budget and hard work putting this budget together. He said that almost 80 percent of our budget is in salary and benefits. If we are going to do something different it needs to be in salary and benefits. The board needs to make additional cuts. Mr. Cassidy asked if we were to hold all compensation level at a 0% increase this year what would the district save. Mr. Everitt said approximately \$600,000. Mr. Cassidy asked how much money would be saved if the district cut five school days from the year. Mr. Everitt said \$125,000 per day.

Mr. Cassidy asked about the two contracted flex days that teachers are compensated for.

Mr. Manazir made a motion to reduce the budget by \$1,405,000 million dollars. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. The motion was not approved.

Ms. Fitzgerald motioned to approve a budget reduction of \$1,225,000. Ms. Clift seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Ms. Fitzgerald made a motion to cut the administrations recommendation by \$1,225,000 with the understanding that the administration would be directed to hold compensation level and that it would have the flexibility to find the remaining amount of the cuts from other sources. Ms. Clift seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-1.

### **OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

There was none.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Theodore Manazir, Clerk

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Richard Cassidy, Chairperson