

APPROVED ON MARCH 17, 2010

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
MARCH 3, 2010 7:00 P.M.
ORCHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Richard Cassidy, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Agnes Clift, Janine Allo, Martin LaLonde

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

John Everitt, John Stewart, David Young

GUESTS

5

ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD—SUPERINTENDENT

Election of Chairperson

Ms. Fitzgerald moved and Mr. LaLonde seconded the motion to nominate Richard Cassidy chairperson of the school board. The motion was approved.

Election of Clerk

Ms. Clift moved and Ms. Allo seconded the motion to elect Elizabeth Fitzgerald as clerk of the board. The motion was approved.

DETERMINE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The board discussed the meeting schedule, made several revisions, and adopted the revised schedule.

DESIGNATE A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TO SIGN CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

The clerk of the board, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, was designated to sign contracts on behalf of the board.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Ms. Clift thanked Ms. Merrick for organizing the combined budget/PACT Potluck meeting.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting as presented. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Personnel

Leave of Absence

Mary Winslow, 1.0 FTE Speech/Language Pathologist, Chamberlin School

- b. Accounts Payable Orders
#33 \$239,203.80
#34 \$236,574.38

Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections.

SBAA GRIEVANCE APPEAL

Mr. Cassidy said the board consulted with counsel and they have received an opinion on the appeal filed by the South Burlington Administrators Association (SBAA). Mr. Cassidy said that the opinion received from counsel supports the view that the SBAA's reading of the contract is the better reading.

Mr. Cassidy summarized the proposed written decision that he distributed to board members. The decision says that the SBAA grievance is sustained and finds that the administrator is in a layoff status once he/she has been notified of a layoff and is entitled to exercise recall rights. It goes on to say that we express no opinion on the question as to whether the administrator is entitled to call any particular position because that is not really part of the grievance.

Ms. Clift moved that the board accept the proposed decision as presented to the board by Mr. Cassidy and Ms. Fitzgerald seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the board signed the opinion provided by Mr. Cassidy.

Ms. Fitzgerald said she is very pleased with the way this process has proceeded forward because the interpretation protects the integrity of the contract and allowed the board some additional information to consider. My observation would be that the opinion does not really address hiring decisions it address interpretation of the contract.

Mr. Cassidy asked that Mr. Everitt distribute copies of the decision of the board to the South Burlington Administrators' Association.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE—REVIEW FEBRUARY FORUM AND NEXT STEPS

Ms. Allo discussed the notes and possible action to be taken with regard to the February 10 forum. The board decided they would review all of the notes from the two forums and possibly include some of the suggestions in the ends policy to be reviewed in August. It was suggested that two board members get together to combine the lists from the two community forums. Ms. Clift and Mr. LaLonde agreed to meet to combine the two lists.

The board discussed having a panel discussion and the possibility of a survey. Student Representative Caitlyn Bishop suggested getting the opinions of recent graduates about what they feel would have been helpful to learn/do before entering college. The board also discussed the creation of a Facebook or Ning discussion group.

Ms. Allo suggested having student council members and one or two board members create a Facebook page for feedback from graduates 2-5 years out.

GOVERNANCE CONSOLIDATION—BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Everitt discussed the current legislation with regard to governance consolidation. He asked the board if they wanted to pursue this discussion. Ms. Bugbee suggested that Mr. Everitt's previous suggestion for the district to host a summit to discuss consolidation with other districts be discussed. It was suggested that a summit be held and that leaders from other school districts in the region be invited to South Burlington for the day to discuss what opportunities they see for consolidation.

Ms. Clift suggested working with the Vermont School Boards Association and Mr. Everitt suggested working with Paul Costello. Mr. Everitt said he would look for resources to discuss planning this summit/conference.

MONITORING REPORT 2.7—ASSET PROTECTION (CONTINUED)

Mr. Cassidy reviewed the revised Monitoring Report 2.7—Asset Protection item by item with the board. The board made several comments and suggested changes. The monitoring report will be brought back to a future meeting.

MONITORING REPORT 2.4—FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND ACTIVITIES—EXTERNAL AUDIT

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ends Policy Monitoring—This was included in the superintendent's written report.

Staff Retirement—Mr. Everitt said the district actuarial valuation for our support staff retirement plan is short \$122,764 because of the significant downturn in the equity market starting in late 2008. This will be included as an action item on the next board agenda.

Middle School Principal Search—This was included in the superintendent's written report.

Technology News—This was included in the superintendent's written report.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

- Mr. Everitt presented a nine year service award from the Vermont School Boards Association to Mr. Cassidy.
- Ms. Sheffield asked about the middle school principal search. Mr. Cassidy said the search is progressing as originally planned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 10:15 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining and a personnel issue and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the District not to do so in Executive Session. The motion was approved.

The executive session was closed at 10:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk

Richard Cassidy, Chairperson