

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
APRIL 7, 2010 7:00 P.M.
SOUTH BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, CAFETERIA I**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

John Everitt, JoAn Canning, John Stewart, David Young

GUESTS

2

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Dan Emmons spoke about comments he posted recently on Front Porch Forum regarding his son's teacher at Orchard School. He asked why teachers are not judged on performance instead of seniority. Mr. Cassidy thanked Mr. Emmons for his comments.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 17 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2010

Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting as presented. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Personnel

Retirement

Maurice Mahoney, 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teacher at South Burlington High School

b. Accounts Payable Orders

#37 \$230,667.63

#37A \$ 85,820.99

#38 \$572,910.34

#38A \$ 105.00

#39 \$217,762.89

#39A \$ 960.00

c. Consider Hardware Bid for Power Supply

d. Accept Clean Energy Development Fund Grants

e. Foley Distributing Contract

Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections. Mr. Cassidy said Mr. Mahoney is a wonderful teacher that the board accepts his retirement with regret.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE—CONSOLIDATION OF FORUM INFORMATION

Ms. Allo suggested that she and Ms. Fitzgerald redraft the Global Ends Statement and bring it back to the board for discussion and approval. Mrs. Clift suggested that the redraft, when complete, would be good to distribute to the community members that participated in the forums. The board agreed to bring the redraft of the Global Ends Statement back to the second meeting in May. Mr. Cassidy asked Mr. Everitt to include in the conversation for that meeting what other communities do for adult education opportunities.

ENDS POLICY—GLOBAL POLICY INPUT

Mr. Everitt and Ms. Canning gave a PowerPoint presentation based on Scott McLeod's, Director of the UCEA Center for the Advanced Study of Technology Leadership in Education (CASTLE), presentation to regional educators, "Shift Happens." The board had a brief discussion about district assessments and how to compare them to other districts in and out of Vermont, with the same general demographics as South Burlington.

GRANT DISCUSSION—EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Everitt asked the board what they would like him to bring forward in terms of grants. The board had the following suggestions.

- What resources are required to qualify for grants and what future resources would be needed.
- If it does not move the district forward there is no point in putting anything into it.
- Grants should be run through our Ends Policy before applying.
- Know what it actually costs us to accept a grant? (financial management, operations, capacity for grants, and impact of the grant on the budget)
- Priority should be technology grants (e-learning).
- In the world of "grant writing" do we need to be more targeted to seek out grants that support our Ends Policy?
- What is the long-term commitment?
- Are the costs going to be net positive for the district?
- Are there any mandates for the future?

Mr. Everitt said he needs to know from the board what limits the board wants to place on his authority to seek grants. The board asked that Mr. Everitt provide the following:

- A list of the grants the district has received and the dollar amount.
- A list of grants applied for that the district did not receive and the dollar amount of each grant.

MONITORING REPORT 2.7—ASSET PROTECTION CONTINUED

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

4.1.6 BOARD PROCESS REVIEW

Mr. Cassidy asked if the board wanted to do a self evaluation. Mr. Everitt will send the board a Google Forms self-evaluation documents to complete individually based on board self-assessment, "Sample One." The board agreed to review the compiled self-evaluation as a group at the next meeting. They agreed to focus on looking at the gaps between the self-evaluation and board job description, Policy 4.2.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Clean Energy Grants—This was discussed earlier.

Legislative Report—Mr. Everitt discussed the "Challenges for Change" study discussed recently in the legislature. He said the state will credit Vermont schools with \$5 million of the \$20 million already made cut by districts for 2010-2011. The larger issue for the district to watch is for 2011-2012 when Challenges for Change calls for a savings of \$40 million in special education and administration. Mr. Everitt reviewed the charts he distributed. The board agreed to have Mr. Cassidy draft a message to the legislative leadership about the proposed Challenges for Change legislation. Following are a list of items the board agreed to include in the letter.

- Further reductions can not be absorbed without serious loss in quality of education.
- Reductions in special education should not be considered reductions unless they are cuts and not cost shifts to local districts.
- Utilize some of the funds from the "rainy day fund" to soften the current tax burden.
- State should recognize that many school districts, including South Burlington, have already voluntarily reduced our budgets for 2010-2011.

The board agreed to adopt a resolution opposing further reductions. Mr. Cassidy agreed to draft the letter.

Reduction in Force—This was discussed earlier.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

- Mr. Cassidy made some additional comments to Mr. Emmons about reduction in force and administrator compensation.
- Ms. Allo asked about the jet noise information the board received. Mr. Everitt will research this issue and it will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Ms. Clift asked to have committee assignments on a future agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sheila Burleigh, girls high school basketball coach, was named New England's top girls basketball coach for the season.
- Mr. Everitt read an email from Jennifer Russell-Bergeron, Regional Director of Health and Safety, American Red Cross, about the Career Expo held at the high school. She said it was one of the most well organized events that she has every attended and felt the students were well behaved, respectful and gracious.
- Mrs. Clift said several of the area preschools have open houses next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 9:50 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 10:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk

Richard Cassidy, Chairperson