

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
MAY 19, 2010 7:00 P.M.
FREDERICK H. TUTTLE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. after completion of the steering committee meeting.

PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

John Everitt, JoAn Canning, David Young, John Stewart

GUESTS

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were a number of comments and discussion about the nutrition level in our schools menu offerings.

Ms. Nancy Hellen first spoke and indicated that while we are about halfway through the implementation period of our strategic plan, many of its provisions have not been acted on. She requests that the administration take action such as limiting choices to healthy ones, focus on fresh fruit, teaching our staff to cook these new healthy items, and less packaging.

A discussion took place on the issue of the sugar content versus nutrition level in chocolate milk.

Ms. Mary Jo Reale discussed fighting a good fight to implement healthy foods. She served on the strategic planning committee and does not see anything happening.

Mr. Ron Krupp indicated that he is deeply disappointed in South Burlington. There are good nutrition programs in different parts of the state. Low income children deserve a healthy breakfast. He's disappointed that snack foods help fund the school lunch program. He gave a copy of his book to the board for review.

Mr. Steven Schmidt said students need strict boundaries when it comes to food choices. He does not allow kids to buy certain breakfast items and bring them back into the classroom.

Ms. Heather Bates said her son would be happy to have more healthy food options at school.

Ms. Tricia Kelley said that her child's teacher does not allow her child to bring unhealthy food into her classroom. She hopes that changes do come. She would rather have her daughter drink water than a drink with sugar.

Ms. Kerry Anderson said her kindergarten son gives them a hard time at home because of the food choices he has at school.

Ms. Mary Jo Reale discussed chocolate milk. She said Ms. Christine Lapointe presented her with documents about why chocolate milk is good. She said there has been much discussion over the years and nothing has changed. She added that Ms. Nancy Hellen, a nutritionist, has offered to work with the district but the offer was not heeded.

Ms. Allo indicated that this has not been discussed officially in the two years she has been on the Board, however, she does recall there were several discussions on the Farm to School Project that were raised.

Ms. Reale said she was told that there would be committees formed and said it is insulting to have no movement on the committees.

Mr. Cassidy discussed the change of the role of the board with policy governance and added that the strategic plan still has a role.

Mr. Krupp discussed having a committee working with the board. He said, at Burlington School District the food service director takes the lead. He said you have to have a committee with power and authority within the committee.

Mr. Cassidy assured them that this will be on a future agenda for discussion.

RECOGNITION OF PETER NELSON, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Board thanked Peter Nelson for his willingness to serve as a student representative on the school board and to speak his mind. Mr. Cassidy presented Peter with a plaque and gift.

CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 5, 2010

Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the Board to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting as amended. There were no objections.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Accounts Payable Orders
 #45 \$53,606.25
- b. Paper/Office Supplies Bid
- c. School Bus Bid
- d. Food Service Bids
 Milk & OJ
 Fresh Produce
- e. Comcast Grant – Permission to apply and accept

There was some discussion about why vendors do not respond. Mr. Cassidy announced a general consensus of the board to approve the consent agenda as presented. There were no objections.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Policy Governance—Mr. Everitt said Ms. Laura Soares went to a weeklong session on policy governance and wants to bring Ms. Mariam Carver to Vermont in October. He asked if the board is interested in this. He said it will not compete with the VT School Boards sessions. The Board discussed whether to support this. The board's consensus is that there is interest.

Adequate Yearly Progress— Mr. Everitt read his report. Every three years the target will jump up and many schools statewide may not meet the standard. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act is under consideration for reauthorization. New England standards will weigh heavily on this work. Mr. Cassidy commented that he does not understand the logic behind the expectation for students with disabilities to reach standards. Mr. Everitt gave a brief explanation of this.

Legislation—Mr. Everitt highlighted three areas from the recent legislative session.

1. Education fund spending for FY12 to be reduced by \$23.2 million – 2%
2. Senator Harkins has proposed a bill to save teacher jobs through sending federal funds to states
3. There are incentives to districts to merge voluntarily
4. Districts may no longer have confidential separation agreements

Champlain Valley School Districts—Mr. Everitt said letters went out to 60 school boards. Mr. Everitt asked for board members to help plan the event. Ms. Clift, Mr. Cassidy and Ms. Fitzgerald agreed to help plan the event.

Comcast Grant—Mr. Everitt said this grant is to promote Child Lures and to explore future means of broadcast, via cell phones, etc.

COMMUNITY LINKAGE—STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING

South Burlington High School students Peter Nelson, Phil Charash, Asa Carter, and Marel Ravdin presented on a PIWA project called Project Citizen, relating to change in a public policy. The students presented a proposal to weight grade point average (GPA) based upon class difficulty. They said AP classes would have more weight. Almost all students polled want a weighted GPA. Teachers also believed that AP classes should be weighted.

Mr. Cassidy asked Mr. Nelson if this is where the Board should step in or rest with the judgments made so far. Mr. Nelson indicated that they received a no from the high school administration and feels the students/teachers voices have not been heard by the high school administration.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked the students about practices of other districts. Ms. Clift asked about the history of a weighted system in the district and if it changed, why? Mr. Cassidy asked about an over concern about grades vs. learning. Mr. Everitt asked the students to talk about their experience. The board ensured that it will be on the future agendas section of the agenda for consideration.

At 8:55 the board took a five minute recess.

ENDS POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. LaLonde discussed two points – disposition for lifelong learning and personal development. He said the points are consistent with what teachers are doing in report cards. Mr. LaLonde said we should focus on one piece, the academic efficiency, so that the administration can get working.

Ms. Fitzgerald thinks that the policy is very close as does Ms. Allo. The key will be how long it will take to move forward and monitor these ends policy.

Mr. Cassidy asked if it can be compressed more to make it clear to staff as to what they do. Can we be more effective by simplifying the statements? Ms. Fitzgerald indicated that some of the detail came from the public and it has been culled down already.

Mr. Everitt discussed what he has been working on with Ms. Canning about measures on ends policy, graph results, and trends. If the board thinks it is important, then we should measure. Mr. Everitt said he has to define interpretation based on level of detail provided by the board.

The board decided to have Mr. LaLonde work with Ms. Fitzgerald on the Global Ends Statement to further refine the work done already and report back in two weeks.

Mr. Everitt said we have 8-9 hours of Laura Soares consulting time left. The board would like her to come in August to address the aspects of “at what cost” in Ends Policy work.

MONITORING REPORT—2.2 TREATMENT OF STAFF

This was postponed until the second meeting in June.

4.3 AGENDA PLANNING—PLAN NEXT ANNUAL AGENDA

The board discussed the planning agenda using the big matrix.

- 2.5 Financial Planning & Budgeting May (2nd meeting) and November (2nd meeting)—The board decided to change this to two times per year.
- Ends discussion about amending policy (1st meeting in June)
- 2nd June meeting progress on ends policy will be reported
- 2.3 (1st meeting in August)
- 2.2 Treatment of staff (2nd meeting in June)
- 2.4 Financial Condition July (1st), October (2nd meeting), January, April
- 2.4 Audit in February
- 2.6 Emergency Superintendent Succession (September-1st meeting)
- 2.7 Asset Protection (December 1st)
- 2.8 Compensation and Benefits (October 1st meeting), not done this current year
- 2.9 Communication and Support to the Board planning on how to do this. Parking lot items here. Discuss this in August (1st meeting)

Strategic plan report (2nd meeting in June)

Agenda planning - Go through two meetings in June and then reconsider at 1st meeting in July.

POLICY WARNINGS

Financial Condition and Activities—The board reviewed the 2.4 Financial Condition and Activities. The board agreed to bring the policy back for a final reading at the next meeting.

Animal Dissection—The board reviewed the animal dissection policy. The board agreed to bring the policy back for a final reading at the next meeting.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

There was none.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Response to students proposal to be scheduled by Board after Mr. Everitt works on this with the students
- Energy Management Report
- F-35's – Environmental Impact
- Issues Facing Students
- Community Linkage

The board asked Mr. Everitt to have someone scan meeting minutes for past items that have been missed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Change in tax rate at State level, the South Burlington residential tax rate goes down by about 3 cents.
- Ms. Fitzgerald discussed sophomore exhibition, Dialogue Night and what impact the DARE program has.
- Ms. Allo attended the academic awards ceremony at the high school and was impressed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 10:30 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining 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 10:44 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk

Richard Cassidy, Chairperson