

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD
NOVEMBER 17, 2010 7:00 P.M.
FREDERICK H. TUTTLE MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

PRESENT

Richard Cassidy, Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Agnes Clift, Janine Allo (arrived at 7:54 p.m.), Carly Hall

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

John Everitt, John Stewart, David Young, Stuart Weiss, Delina Gilroy

GUESTS

12

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

ROWING CLUB PRESENTATION

Rowing Club Members Vika Bespalov, Ethan Jones, Heather Sheltra, Liz Backus presented about the rowing club at the high school and how it relates to the Ends Policy. Mr. Chuck Soule and Mr. Patrick Phillips were also in attendance with the students. Mr. Cassidy thanked the students for their presentation.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Auriel Gray, .80 FTE Guidance Counselor at Rick Marcotte Central School leave of absence for 2011-2012 school year

- b. Accounts Payable Orders
 - #18 \$547,718.02
 - #19 \$ 62,560.40
 - #2TP \$ 1,679.50

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

Mr. Everitt asked that the agenda be amended to add discussion of a legal matter and personnel matter.

YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Ms. Mariah Larkin presented on the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Developmental Assets Survey. The board and the community asked several questions. Mr. Cassidy asked if there are things the administration can do to improve the issues with students. Ms. Larkin suggested making the high school a closed campus instead of an open campus. She suggested additional health classes in the middle school and requiring students to take health classes earlier in high school. The Board requested a follow-up meeting by mid-March. Mr. Cassidy thanked Ms. Larkin for her presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH PROCESS

Ms. Mary Jane Shelley distributed the draft superintendent search process and explained the process outlined on the flow chart. The board asked several questions and made revisions to the process as outlined. Mr. Cassidy thanked Ms. Shelley for the presentation.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

State Math Assessment—Mr. Everitt shared a chart showing fourth grade student's scores in math on the 2007 state assessments together with the internationally benchmarked common standard.

Second Language Learning—Mr. Everitt discussed the article he distributed to the board on Second Language Learning and the importance of exposure and live interactions with native speakers at early ages.

Superintendent Search Process—This was discussed earlier in the evening.

Support Staff Retirement Plan—Mr. Everitt said the next step in the process would be to transfer our current support staff into the VMERS Group A program and retain our retired staff in our own existing program. At the start of this program, the district would continue to pay both the employer share (4%) and the employee share (2.5%) of covered payroll. The coverage of the employee share would become the subject of future negotiations.

Mr. Everitt recommend that we structure the finances of this move by transferring approximately \$3.6M of our existing assets into VMERS and retaining the remaining funds, of about \$1M, in our existing plan. The district would fund the remaining amount due to VMERS with either a loan direct from VMERS or a pension obligation bond, depending on the favorability of the terms.

The action requested from the board was a decision for the district to move forward on this recommendation by seeking a detailed funding proposal for the board and by including the change in support staff negotiations.

The board decided they wanted a broader look at the options. They asked if employees could be bought out of the current system and the current plan practice could be terminated. They also asked the administration to determine what this would cost the district.

VERMONT SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

The board reviewed the process for submitting resolutions to the Vermont School Board Association. The board discussed submitting a joint resolution from multiple districts. Mr. Cassidy suggested a joint meeting with area school boards on this topic.

Mr. Everitt suggested the board also consider a resolution on the transfer of ADM funds at the state level instead of the district level. The board asked Mr. Everitt to bring them a proposal about transfer of ADM funds.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS

- Ms. Clift said she attended the Veterans Day presentation at the high school and it was well done.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- F-35 Environmental Impact Study

- Board Actions for Community Linkage 4.2.1/Community Outreach (Beyond the Ends Policy) (*Presentation by Mr. LaLonde*)
- Federal Department of Education Plans and Direction and Alignment with Vermont Direction (*Superintendent to talk with the commissioner about this*)
- Act 66—specifically consolidation and student/teacher ratios (*Superintendent will get the board information on this*)
- Strategic Plan (*How will the district move forward on the Strategic Plan? Inspect the relationship of the Ends Policy and the Strategic Plan.*)
- Review Policy 2.1—Treatment of Students and Parents/Guardians, Detail #6 (*Superintendent suggests February 2.*)
- Nutrition Program Report (*to be scheduled after nutrition article comes out in the Other Paper*)
- Follow-up to Café (*meeting with board chairs to identify future projects*)
- Vermont School Boards Association resolution on legislative changes
- SBSD State of Education (*Have principals highlight some of the items happening in each school*)
- Prevention (Assets Survey, closed campus, and training—Act 51) (*review in mid-March*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Cassidy announced the death of Mr. Randall Munson, a long-time supporter of the school district, and expressed condolences on behalf of the district.
- Mr. Everitt said he, Ms. McDonald, and Mr. Young spent two days at a mindfulness conference last week. He said it was a very powerful experience and reaffirms for him that what the district is doing in this area is the right thing to do for students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 9:23 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining, a legal matter, and a personnel matter 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 10:38 p.m. and the regular session was reconvened.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Clerk

Richard Cassidy, Chairperson