



Approved by the Board on December 11, 2017

Burlington Board of School Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Edmunds Middle School Library, 275 Main Street, Burlington, VT
November 28, 2017

Attending Board Members: Chair Porter, Commissioners Kirk, Seguino, Olwell, McClaren, Kleman, Wick, Barlow, Curry, Judson, Harrington

- 1.) Meeting Called to Order by Chair Porter
- 2.) *Motion to Approve Agenda*
(Commissioner Harrington/Commissioner Judson)

Motion to amend agenda to add back Board Reflections
(Commissioner Wick/Commissioner Curry)

Discussion

Discussion whether Board reflections muddies purpose of public comment - more in favor of reflection at end of meeting

Commissioner Kleman agreed with idea of reflection at end but view as good option to thank public.

Commissioner Barlow - haven't discussed removing it so supports keeping it

Commissioner Curry - agreed with Barlow

Chair Porter - always thankful for people speaking but these are comments being made as a body - when Commissioners speak we speak for the Board.

Commissioner Curry - disagrees that Commissioners speak for the Board during Board reflections.

Commissioner Kleman - agreed with Commissioner Curry.

Discussion continued regarding whether Commissioners speak for the Board or not when speaking - preference is to address this item before the meeting.

Commissioner Wick indicated that he was not aware that there was a need to.

Commissioner Judson expressed her views that Board reflections are opportunity to share information that may have come up during public comment, e.g. correct the record

Commissioner Curry - called the question

Amendment passed with 8 in favor - Chair Porter against

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Motion approved

3.) Public Comment/Questions:

Carol Livingston - works as paraeducator and has a senior at BHS. Spoke regarding tensions related to lack of contract.

Dan Cunningham - spoke to FPF post about superintendent's contract being renewed without ability for public to weigh in - lacking an open/public process.

Tyler Doggett - Testimony placed on file with the School District. Commented about email to PTO. Budget process has repeatedly sought information from public about budget while evaluation process has not reflected the same approach. Request to slow evaluation process down and include more voices; would hope that Superintendent would agree that community input on performance is important.

Clare Wool - Asking why the BEA contract is still not complete. Last meeting at Hunt had outpouring of paras to show support and voice frustration. Lowest paid educators in District.

Board Reflections (Added back into agenda- See motion in item 2)

Commissioner Wick signaled his support for public comments made

Commissioner Seguino shared info about teacher contract at last meeting. Tired of assigning blame. Delays on BEA side and delays with lawyers. No one wants delays. Regarding paraeducators, there is an issue about health care that people are trying to work out.

Commissioner Curry addressed the questions and concerns about parents and teachers not having the opportunity to weigh in on superintendent contract, explaining that this requires a 360 evaluation that must be done with fidelity, and requires a consultant which is expensive.

Commissioner Kleman offered therapeutic massage.

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Commissioner Judson expressed frustration with being attacked in many venues and being accused of not being in the schools while many commissioners either have children in the schools or volunteer to support new American families who have kids in the schools.

Motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter 6:34 p.m.

(Commissioner Kirk/Commissioner Barlow)

Unanimously supported

Motion to Leave Exec Session

(Commissioner Kirk/Commissioner Kleman)

Unanimous approval

Agreed to have next meeting Dec. 11th to discuss contract.

Motion to Adjourn 9:36 p.m.

Commissioner Kleman/Commissioner Harrington

Unanimous approval

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