



APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON MAY 9, 2017.

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
Hunt Middle School Library
March 21, 2017
7 PM**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m.

1. Opening Items

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Commissioners:

Mark Barlow , Lauren Berrizbeitia , Brian Cina ,
Liz Curry , Susanmarie Harrington , Anne Judson , David Kirk
,
Kat Kleman , Kathy Olwell , Mark Porter , Stephanie Seguino
,
Miriam Stoll

Student Representatives:

Jacob Bucci
Isabella Weston

Administration:

Yaw Obeng, Superintendent
Minute Recorder, Executive Assistant Brittany Nevins
Stephanie Phillips, Senior Director Teaching & Learning
Nikki Fuller, Senior Director Human Resources & Equity Affairs
Paul Irish, Senior Director Infrastructure & Technology
Nathan Lavery, Senior Director of Finance
Elizabeth Atkins, Accounting Manager
Henri Sparks, Director of Equity
Miriam Ehtesham-Cating, Director of EL
Doug Davis, Director of Food Service
Marty Spaulding, Property Services Director
Erik Wells, Communications Specialist

Hal Colston, Architect of Equity X
Victor Prussack, Assistant to Director of Curriculum & K-9 Registration
Coordinator X
Miriam Ehtesham-Cating, Director of EL Program X
Laura Nugent, Student Support Services Director, X

The Board wishes to recognize, welcome and thank those that are providing language interpretation of the Board proceedings. The Board's commitment that all children receive equitable academic services must ensure that New American parents are welcome and can attend meetings, understand the process and be actively engaged. Interpretation of proceedings honors, respects and values our New American parents and students. The Board asks the public and media to respect and understand the importance of this interpretation.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion (Commissioner Barlow/ Commissioner Seguino) to approve agenda

3. **Public Comments/Questions**

A. Public Comment

Megan Carlisle- Member of BLM Vermont: At request of a Board member they are coming again to this meeting. Suspension data shows that a disproportionate percentage of black students are facing suspensions compared to their make-up of the student population.

Emma Jenkins- 2nd/3rd grade teacher at Flynn, member of BLM Vermont- States that the District and the Board believes that Restorative Practice is a priority, but that the process is not entirely transparent and lacks a sense of urgency. There has been an introduction to the principles of Restorative Practices, but those teachers were only present on a volunteer basis.

Dierdre Yee- BLM Vermont- Reiterates lack of transparency on the process of suspensions and expulsions. They believe that there should be documentation of each incident to start. They spoke with a family in the process and that parent hasn't been updated on the status of their child. This was used as an example to their point.

B. Board Reflections-

Commissioner Judson- Ann mentions that she will be attending the NSBA conference next week and she is planning to attend the only workshop on this

topic. She was surprised to see that there weren't more workshops being offered on this topic.

Commissioner Seguíno- Expresses that she feels the sense of urgency. She says that there is much work already being done and that institutional change does take time as this is a complex issue. She appreciates their attention to this and keeping the Board on time.

Commissioner Berrizbeitia- She would like to chat with the group and continue the conversation.

4. Board Report

A. Departing Members

Remarks were made by Board members thanking Commissioner Stoll and commissioner Cina for their work.

Superintendent Yaw Obeng presents Commissioner Stoll and Commissioner Cina with plaques thanking them for their service on the School Board in the City of Burlington.

Commissioner Stoll makes final remarks.

The Board needs to keep working on these three issues:

- 1.) Continued fiscal responsibility
- 2.) Issues of our physical locations- We have to pass the next bond to ensure that we have a safe, fully responsible high school.
- 3.) As the Board faces pressures, we cannot make cuts that impact our most vulnerable students.

Commissioner Cina makes final remarks.

Commissioner Cina shared that this has been a very challenging time, where he hasn't always been liked, but at the same time he has never felt as appreciated as he has during this time. It has been a great road, with the work on many budgets over time. He reflects on how much the school district has achieved during his time on the Board and that we are on a great path. He reflects on the Superintendent search process and how difficult that was, but that it was worth it to have selected Superintendent Obeng in the end. There are difficult times ahead regarding an upcoming threat to the very essence of public education, but he is confident that this Board is capable of pulling through and thriving.

B. Budget and Bond Thanks

Public note made from Chair Porter that the Board is very thankful that these ballot items had passed.

Also made an announcement that future Commissioner Ryan McLaren has had a serious injury recently. He just had surgery and is on the road to recovery. The Board will be flexible as he is recovering and make any attempts to have his input as he is recovering.

C. Student Report

Representative Bucci is excited that the *All are Welcome* group is presenting during the meeting tonight and sports are starting for the Spring.

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Report on Superintendent Goals for March (ESSA, Research & Data, Restorative Practices)

Superintendent Yaw Obeng introduces Superintendent Goal 1 Report (Available on Board Docs)

- **ESSA Presentation**

Director of Curriculum, Stephanie Phillips, gives presentation on ESSA.

Commissioner Barlow- Replacing replacement for NECAP assessment?

Stephanie Phillips says that we will be administering the test this spring, but there could be a pilot test next year and likely there wouldn't be the NECAP during the pilot. More to come.

Commissioner Kirk- Are we currently following what students are doing after college?

Stephanie says that it is unclear if this will be required at this time, but there are some efforts currently being made, though not many.

- **Research and Data Presentation**

Victor Prussack, Assistant to Director of Curriculum & K-9 Registration Coordinator and Miriam Ehtesham-Cating, Director of EL Program give a presentation on Research and Data.

Commissioner Seguinto - Working on issues of data quality?

YES- This brought many folks into the team in fact.

Commissioner Stoll - Should have interpretation of the data on the website as we create the new website. Cost-effectiveness in education was a tool that the Board looked at at one point, but she is thrilled that this has been started.

- **Presentation on Restorative Practices**

Hal Colston, Architect of Equity gave a presentation on Restorative Practices.

Commissioner Olwell- How long is this going to take to be implemented in all schools?

This is first being incorporated into the high school and then will be incorporated in other schools over time. The work had already started in the High School so it seemed like a great place to start and continue this important work.

B. Property Services Vehicle Purchase

- a. *Motion: Approve the purchase of the one (1) Chevrolet Express Van 2500 for the amount of \$22,927.00 and two (2) Chevrolet City Express Vans for the amount of \$21,626.00 from Shearer Chevrolet under the Vermont State Contract Bid totaling the amount of \$66,179.00.*

*(Chair Porter/Commissioner Judson)
Unanimous approval*

C. (Got moved to B) Burlington High School International Club “All are Welcome” Project

The Burlington High School International Club gave a presentation

Commissioner Cina- Comment- Very proud to see them in the state house. Great Work.

6. Committee Reports

A. D & E Report

- a. *Motion to the Board to reaffirm its commitment to equity and inclusion for all students in the form of the public statement and letter below, and this statement, in form of a letter and otherwise, shall be widely distributed to ensure that it reaches all District and community stakeholders.*

(Commissioner Stoll/Seguino)

The letter can be found on Boarddocs.com and will be incorporated into district communications.

Student Representative Bucci reads first portion of letter.

Commissioner Stoll reads second portion of letter.

Student Representative Bucci states the importance of having the school be a safe space. The work that the International Club has done with the “All are Welcome” symbol has been great.

Commissioner Barlow asked what the Communications Plan is for getting this statement out?

Commissioner Stoll reinstates that the distribution is just as important the content. Perhaps we could utilize our new Communications Specialist Erik Wells to work on this.

Commissioner Cina thinks it is great for the Board to come together around the “All are Welcome” theme.

Unanimously passed.

No other updates regarding the D & E Committee

B. Finance Report

- a. *Motion to authorize Finance Committee to approve the awarding of contracts regarding the VOIP and internal wiring.*

Commissioner Barlow clarifies the origin of the motion.

(Commissioner Barlow/Cina)

Unanimously passed

C. GPA Report (Motion Within)

- a. *Motion to Approve the First Reading of Proposed Conflict of Interest Policy.*

(Chair Porter/Commissioner Berrizbeitia)

Nathan Lavery helps to clarify as Commissioner Curry (Chair of GPA Committee) and Commissioner Harrington were unable to attend this meeting. Superintendent Obeng reminds the Board that we are in a transition given that the Policy Governance structure was just passed. This policy in particular has been brought forward as there is a large sum of money that will be awarded to the

District regarding special education, but this policy needs to be in place in order to receive those funds.

BSD Board Policy B20- Unusual situation- given that this policy is mandated and the district is under time constraints.

Motion to waive the second reading of the Prevention of COI, due to unusual circumstances.

(Chair Porter/Commissioner Judson)

Amendment to add that it is unusual because this policy is mandated and the district is under time constraints. *(amended by Commissioner Stoll)*

Modified original motion to remove second reading.

Unanimously passes.

D. ITC Report

None.

E. Curriculum

None.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion to Approve Consent Agenda

(Commissioner Barlow/Commissioner Berrizbeitia)

Unanimously Passes

8. Executive Session

A. Motion to consider Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations where premature disclosure to the public could put the District at a disadvantage.

(Chair Porter/Commissioner Judson)

Unanimously Passes

B. Motion to consider employee performance review

(Chair Porter/Commissioner Berrizbeitia)

Unanimously Passes

9. Adjournment

- A. *Motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.*
(Commissioner Cina/Commissioner Judson)

Respectfully Submitted by Brittany Nevins