

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

**Burlington Board of School Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

**Hunt Middle School Library  
February 13, 2018, 6:00 PM**

Attending Board Members:

- 1.) *Meeting Called to Order* 6:06 PM.
  - a. requested a motion to approve the agenda.
  
2. *Motion to Approve Agenda*  
(Commissioner Barlow /Commissioner Porter)  
Chair Seguino asked for discussion.

Motion to move student presentation of BLM flag up to item four and move the rest of the agenda down.

Second by Commissioner Kleman.

**3. Public Comment**

A. Comments/Questions from the Public

Fran Brock: President of BEA. Ms. Brock spoke on behalf of para-educators whose contracts remain at impasse. She explained that following her public comment, the Board will be introduced to a few para-educators that work for the Burlington School District.

Mark Van Buren: Paraeducator at Hunt Middle School.

Linda Siegle: Burlington School District teacher of English learners. Discussed the impact of parent teacher conferences. The plan to celebrate elementary learners is not equitable for English learning families.

Emily Stewart: Kindergarten teachers at IAA. She is concerned about the District's plan for celebration of learning in lieu of parent-teacher conferences. This form of meeting will not be accessible to all families.

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Chair Seguinno closes public comment at 6:18PM

#### B. Board Reflection

Commissioner Curry addressed a letter that was addressed to her that included misinformation about the paraeducator contracts. VEHI required the default health plan while in negotiations if an agreement was not met by December 31, 2017. Commissioner Curry was in a meeting with Tim Asche, he is determined to The governor is holding the ultimate threat against our kids.

Put aside the divisiveness- it is not working for anyone. We have to move forward and stop the misinformation and accusations.

Commissioner Olwell read from a statement apologizing for the disorderliness of the last Board meeting.

Board reflections close at 6:24 PM

#### A. Student Presentation BLM Flag

*Students from Burlington High School Read from a proposal to fly the Black Lives Matter Flag over BHS in observation of Black History Month, and for the remainder of the year.*

Chair Seguinno invited Joe McNeil to weigh in on an analysis in flying the Black Lives Matter flag. McNeil was not tasked with determining the political correctness of flying the flag, but whether or not it opens the flag pole up to be a place for public forum. The answer is no, it would not. The reasoning is that there is a difference between public, governmental, and private speech. The flag pole would still be under the governmental control of the administrators and the school district.

“It is our opinion that you may make this decision without fear of creating a public forum.”

Chair Seguinno wanted to confirm a conversation with Julio Jonson (AG’s office/civil rights) and Julio agreed that the flag pole would constitute government speech.

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Chair Seguíno asked if any Commissioners wish to ask Mr. McNeil Esq. any questions.

Commissioner Porter asked what would prevent an entity from making a request to the Board to fly a flag or other political hallmark during a month that is not nationally recognized as a month of awareness or observation.

McNeil responded that as a place of government speech, and the Board still has political authority over the decision.

Commissioner Porter followed up with a District wide.

Commissioner Curry offered a motion to request the Superintendent and Tracy Racicot fly the Black Lives Matter flag for the remainder of the year.

Second by Commissioner Harrington.

Chair Seguíno asked for the Student Representatives to contribute to the discussion.

Representative Jenemann called for the support and recognized the opportunity to handle discord in the community. Representative Weston offered the Board support.

Commissioner Harrington applauded the good work of the students and was thrilled to vote yes.

Commissioner Olwell agreed that the discussions would be good, and that the flag flying would be impetuous to have more discussions.

Commissioner Porter thought that the momentum from the high school could be felt at flagpoles across the District. We should also give other students the opportunity to drive awareness within their own schools, where they feel appropriate.

Commissioner McLaren expressed his pride in the Social Justice Union. Their presentation is a perfect example of the application of education we aim for.

Chair Seguíno suggested we may confine our motion to just this year, to provide more students the opportunity to continue to come to the Board for the opportunity of discussion.

Passed Unanimously.

Superintendent Obeng commended the Board for engaging in this process and in preparing our future leaders. The Board held true to the alignment of the mission the Board developed two years ago.

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#### **4. Focus on Learning**

##### **A. [BHS Update: Courses & Scheduling \(1.0\)](#)**

Principal Racicot reminded the Board the scheduling is a very complex process. The high school is exploring strategies to address the needs of all students. The orientation is student-need driven.

Representative Jenemann responded that the statistic might be a little jaded because some course enrollments will be presented as 100%, throwing off data.

Commissioner Wick wondered how to meet the demand in certain class levels. Principal Racicot said that in the new student registration process, the request will be made first, then there will be a designation of staffing.

Commissioner Curry wondered how the administration interacts with staff throughout this process. Principal Racicot explained that lead teachers work with administrators in a brain-sharing process.

Commissioner Porter inquired about the use of the software to support the data in PowerSchool.

Commissioner Harrington suggested that the progression of the Earth Science and next generation science standards are for a possible future agenda item.

Commissioner Barlow wondered about dual enrollment data- he wondered if students are seeking dual enrollment because they cannot access high school courses. Principal Racicot responded that based on anecdotal feedback, students are participating in dual enrollment to enhance their high school experience, not supplement it.

Commissioner Wick wondered about the need for students to take online courses over the traditional courses. Principal Racicot believed that once again, anecdotally, students were enrolling in online courses due to scheduling conflicts.

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## **5. Board Report**

Chair Seguíno would like to amend the Board Report to move item E up to A.  
Second by Harrington.

Approved Unanimously.

### E. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Report

Motion to accept the [following](#) resolution in support of the Montpelier School District

The Motion passed unanimously.

### B. Burlington City Council Liaison Report

### C. State Legislature Liaison Report

Commissioner Curry recognized the extensive line item budget that is available on the Burlington School District website serves well in explaining debts and expenditures. 7:26 PM.

### D. PTO Report

Commissioner Curry was invited to and attended three PTO meetings at Hunt, IAA, and SA. These meetings included restorative circles, budget discussions, and equity discussions.

## **6. Student Commissioners Report**

Representative Weston shared that today was nationwide “Blackout Day”  
Representative Jenemann elaborated on the distribution of posters by the Junior Republicans Club

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## 7. Superintendent's Report

### B. [Suspension of Black Students Decreased \(1.1\) \(2.1\)](#)

We reached a milestone, based on the data in the most recent years that we've looked back at. This is significant because it is a representation and demonstration of our strategies at work. We did it, and that means we can do it again. The Board's efforts in pushing us has bore fruit.

Commissioner Kleman recalled that December is a challenging month that is usually reflected in suspension rates.

Commissioner Barlow wondered if restorative practices are playing a role in this data. At this time, the hard data is not available, but to attribute this statistic to restorative practice using anecdotes.

### C. [BHS Graduation/ PLP Update \(1.0\)](#)

Presentation that shows BHS does not currently have flexible pathways to graduation for all students. All students are expected to graduate on the same path. More students more opportunities for different electives will provide more flexible pathways

McLaren: how does the year suggestion translate to the demonstration of proficiency ? They will demonstrate proficiency at the end of four years.

Commissioner Olwell wonders how one would be proficient in speaking another language in one year. Principal Racicot responded that the presumption would be the language education journey begins in the middle school. Students are sitting in spanish one classes because we don't a tool to measure proficiency of students who speak multiple languages.

Commissioner Curry mentioned that more and more colleges are eliminating SAT testing requirements due to equity discussions.

Attitudinal change requires a shift and to implement change. Collaboration. We are fortunate to have Tracy leading at this time accounted for by her past experience.

### D. [Financial Questionnaire \(2.3\)](#)

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Executive Director Lavery explained the financial questionnaire. This is the tool that we are required to complete, even though yes or no is not always the most fitting answer.

E. [Annual Report \(2.8\)](#)

F. [Budget Update \(2.4\)](#)

Commissioner Barlow wondered if it was laid out in the same format for comparison purposes .

G. [Good News](#)

*“We are excited to begin the invitations for the district-wide **Beyond Black History Month** event with a personal invitation to all BSD staff. The broader community will also be invited to this event, featuring performances, art, reflections, and presentations led by students through work with the inclusive curriculum. Our classrooms are active, safe spaces used not only to study history but also to promote dialogue, ask difficult questions, and confront present day injustices. On March 9th we will bring together student work inspired and encouraged by BSD teachers and administrators to share with one another and with the entire community.*

*On behalf of DEALT and the Superintendent, we'd like to thank the schools that have come forward to provide fascinating participation proposals.*

*We look forward to an evening of learning and solidarity.”*

## 8. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Olwell would like to request the January 23rd minutes be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Chair Seguino removes item G from the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve A-J except G.

Passes unanimously.

Returning to item G

Commissioner Olwell does not think it reflects what she said or the end of the meeting correctly.

Commissioner Curry explained the process to the Commissioners to request the change to reflect your comments.

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B. Routine Financial Reports

B. Minutes for approval

Consent agenda closes at 8:23 PM

**9. Board Monitoring of Superintendent-Prepared Reports**

A. 2.5 Asset Protection

Chair Segunio invited a motion to find the Board in compliance with the Monitoring report 2.5.

Commissioner McLaren/Harrington

Passed unanimously.

**10. Board Monitoring on its Own Policies**

A. 3.2 Accountability of the Superintendent

Motion to declare the Board is mostly in compliance. Motion approved, Commissioner Harrington/ Commissioner Barlow.

Discussion around the Board Monitoring.

Should there be a poll at the end of Board Meetings to discuss the upcoming Board Monitoring Report surveys?

Finding time making reflections, how do we want to do better, these are just some pieces.

We try, on our next agenda we discuss whatever Board Monitoring report will be coming during next months meeting to feel better prepared to vote.

Porter asked that Harrington share

Harrington suggests we simply discuss the policies.

Passes unanimously.

**11. Meeting Evaluation and Follow Up**

A. Review and Evaluate Meeting

Chair Segunio asked for reflections on the quality of the meeting.

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Commissioner McLaren is enjoying coming back to the ongoing work of the District.

Commissioner Porter passed

Commissioner Kleman was excited to see the students happy.

Commissioner Olwell passed.

Commissioner Harrington passed.

Commissioner Curry is excited by the student activism. She believes this might be the best meeting since she's been on the Board.

Commissioner Barlow also admires the students. He also continues to find valuable to Superintendent reports.

Commissioner Wick echos the high level Superintendent report. BLM flag raising was a moment of joy.

Representative Weston was happy to see her peers.

Representative Jenemann hopes the trend continues and students remain active at Board Meetings.

Chair Seguíno thanked the Board members for all the work that goes into the preparation of successful meetings.

#### B. Future Agenda Item Suggestions

Science Presentation- next generation- Harrington

Content of Board Meetings- Porter

Explore Flexible pathways discussion further

The Board needs to flesh out the strategic plan

Motion to enter executive session. Chair Seguíno/Olwell

Passes unanimously.

#### **12. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn. Motion approved by

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