



DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED
Burlington Board of School Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Hunt Middle School Library
May 1, 2018

1. Opening Items

A. Universal Welcome

Open at 6:16 PM

Wool: Asked board to meet twice a month. Standard meeting still next week.

2. Agenda

A. Approval of the Agenda

Barlow: Amend the agenda to consider a motion to authorize the board chair to support Superintendent residency waiver

Second: Gulick

Motion Carries

3. Public Comment

A. Comments/Questions from the Public

Kristin McConel: Dual property taxpayer. Always supported budgets and supported bond. Concerned there is not enough communication. The community gets a sense there is a lot happening, but community is not sure what that means. 100% support the need, but if we are not expanding programming why build two buildings.

Karin: (Child) goes to Champlain. Doesn't want a road because it would take up green space.

Kathy Chasen: Share previous comments. Remind board that the VSBA resolutions are due July 9. Please set aside time to work on resolutions that would be beneficial to students.

Ellen Bier: Mom in NNE. Learned about proposed preschools a few weeks ago. There is a huge need and appreciate working quickly to fulfill the need, but concerned plan is arising in April but groundbreaking is this summer. Didn't get satisfactory answers to questions about staffing levels and increased needs. Would like to encourage board for advice on how to develop effective community engagement. Feels like it is happening quickly.

Karin Rubin: CP Smith. Agree with Ellen. But personally would have like to have been able to know more before the plan got going. Maybe opposition wouldn't be so bad if we communicated more and sooner. Opposition is growing. Parking lot/road biggest concern. Many on foot. Parking lot on the north side is not safe right now as well.

Joel Fitzgerald: Shares the support and the concerns.

Kristin Geal: With future Champlain Elementary students. What does the pause mean? What is going to happen? When will we know that we have gotten enough community input. Suburban solution in



an urban setting. About 50% students get there via pedestrian. What solution can we create if there is a road. Want to know if the bond funds approved are be used correctly.

Lisa Thompson: Worked at Smith for 15 years. Put in 150,000 playground. First handicapped playground gifted to the state. Right now it is graffitied and broked. Also the rush of the plan, the principle didn't know that there was a backhoe digging on the grounds on Friday and the YMCA camp couldn't use the playground. Champlain is paused and Edmunds is paused but Smith is not. Ethan Allen parkway is a mess. 6 busses and special ed busses in the area is too much. Appreciate the effort to respond.

B. Board Reflection

Martine: Ran on a platform of communication and trust and transparency, has had an issue of how this is rolled out. Personally, want to apologize on how it is rolled out. BHS committee had been better. Coming in late but would like to do more, the more I learn about the plans the more I like them and see their value but we need more communication. Would no longer like to see board meetings as the sole vehicle for communication. Slides and a statement at board meeting not good enough.

Curry: Was a former board member was involved in the plans. I'm not offering excuses, this is an example of district capacity as a result of cutting staffing. At the time this came out, we had a lot of pressures including negotiations. It would be ideal if each commissioner would go to PTO meetings. People just weren't able to carry the ball when this was raised.

Wool: Thank you for coming out and for emails. Obeng was receptive to board request to communication to the schools involved. The pause put the new and old board on teh same page. The capacity is there, but was it there in the fall? Superintendent Obeng has had meetings following up with and empowering administrators.

Orwell: Wants to reflect on VSBA Resolutions. Can I call everyone and find times to get a group to come up from some. Last year no one from the whole state did resolutions and that left VSBA to do them themselves.

4. Chair's Report

We have discussed in support of City Council's waiver to mirror the contract the school board agreed upon in December. I support that it mirror.

5. Consent Agenda

Wick: I would like to have 5C, March 29 has a minor typo. Says meeting happened on 20th. Would like to pull 5A, March 13: Miss quoted.

Fisher/Wick

Approve consent to B and D approved on consent agenda.

A. March 13, 2018

B. March 20, 2018



C. March 29, 2018

D. April 1, 2018

Wick, 5A emailed Russ, Karsen, Mike a fix to the quote. Mike to work with Karsen

Motion to pass 5C to as amended to reflect correct date.

Fisher/Wick

6. Student Commissioners Report

Students are back from break. AP tests. Today is national decision day.

7. Board Report

No board report

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Commissioner's School Profile

Thank you for supporting residency. One of the things we have tried to do is gather school profiles. Some of that we can get ourselves, but we really want the opportunity to get commissioner perspective. This is a document I would like to share with you to allow this to happen, but I want to spend some time going through.

See slide one.

We need

Pausing superintendent report. MOved to #9.

Continued: Trying to make this an explicit process and eliminate bias.

Slide 2:

Competencies used at many different levels. We don't just make up questions, they are really designed to hit on different competencies.

Obeng goes through the slide, "I didn't make these up. These are research based and I have had experience uses these, tried and true competencies." Part of work is to find top 3 competencies in each school.

In the document, you'll find competency selection priorities, qualities and schools, candidate questionnaire,

This could be the first way for commissioners to do community outreach. We are happy to help but this can be your way of getting input. Please get responses by June, that would be great. If not, that is okay too. We will keep them and you can do them again.

Curry: Thanks for the assignment, sounds cool, like "getting to know your school". Are we mostly talking to parents/neighbors? Or building administrators too? Obeng: We've done it with staff before, but I'm not putting restrictions on this. We are giving commissioners latitude to talk with who they want to so that we can compare it with other surveys we've done.

Fisher: Goal is to provide feedback/info that is used by decision makers for when building administrators are selected? Fisher says PTO wants to participate in the process of the hire. Is this exclusive of individuals participating? Obeng: We want people engaged, but having community members on the interview team is an entirely different question. We want to find a way to have the community involved but I don't feel like the final interview is the place.

Olwell: In years past we have had commissioners and school stakeholders involved in the interview of the final interviews. With this exercise, if we are not asking the right questions on this, then we are not going to get a full picture of what is needed. This is totally different. Obeng: This is different, you are right. When I first arrived, I asked what is working. They said, we this is isn't working so I am saying we should do something different. Just because we have four candidates, doesn't mean we have to hire them. We want to make sure we are hiring on competency. I want to make sure we have someone that fits into the mission and vision and directions. I am the one who evaluates them, and I want to feel comfortable with them.

Olwell: You misunderstand. The people involved in the interview don't make the hire, the just provide feedback.

Curry: Allows commissioners to be involved without getting into the actual hiring process, which is operational. District was unable to implement systemized and standard approach in the past. It's appropriate for the board to be able to share about the schools and how that can influence the decision.

Gulick: We do have the ultimate say. It goes to the board for our stamp of approval. To Curry's point, we have to stay impartial because we may end up needing to make legal decisions.

OBeng: I hope

B. Good News - International Programming Research-China

We are trying to expand many options including funding and increasing diversity. This is a good example of raising the bar for enrichment and vigor. Also good for staff and board. My vision is to have a BDS in China offering dual diplomas. This is a real possibility. The interest for them is to have students come to America so they can go to college here. They are intune to things we are doing and want to learn more about RP and cooperative learning. Their culture is changing. There is no more Saturday school.

We had a great visit. Had a group from Swanton that we came with. WE were well received. Visited both public and private schools. Couldn't tell difference between what they offer. They are building 10 news schools.

Bonnie, Tracy Raciot, and Yaw went on the trip.

Assemblies are lead by the students. We also engaged in the curriculum.

Facilities: Multipurpose room is used by the community as well as the school.

Every school we went to was really prepared. There was an African Drumming club, again signaling shift to learning other cultures. Dubbing is an idea we can use for our language immersion.

History is part of all of the learning and we can do a better jobs.

They are ready to send us 12 kids next month, but we are not ready.

We had 12 hours days, sighed 6 or 7 agreements for exchanges. Could be administrator exchanges. We could also do some PD. Send staff to China to go do it.

Pre-K really looking at farming sustainability. Really doing a great job connecting community with education.

Great natural lighting.

International Education Forum: I was a keynote speaker, had an opportunity to talk about education. One Chinese representative did 5,000 years of education, and I did 100 years of education in North America. Safety is number one concern of parents.

When I came to Burlington I talked about Burlington has potential to be the one of the best districts in the nation. This is a great way to start looking at things we can do to model education for others. WE are not limited to China. There are other students we can welcome here as well.

Olwell: We need to start up the language program again at younger levels. I hope we can get it going again so that when our kids are going to China they can know a little bit. I want our kids to have as much enrichment as their kids.

Obeng: Agreed, there are some opportunities. The memorandums were about supporting each other.

Jenemann: what is the timeline?

Obeng: I would love to have students here by September. We are not ready for next month. BHS already has the accreditation piece to allow international students to come here. We are meeting with partners in a few weeks.

9. Board Monitoring on its Own Policies

A. Board Officers and Their Method of Selection (4.4)

Part of POLicy Governance is that we review existing policies. This is just to continually improve ourselves.

Curry: Underlying framework is that all of the policies are living documents that provide a framework to think about the limits of authority and what the goals are. We also have our own policies through this. THIS is an opportunity to look at our own policies and make adjustments.

Barlow: For prior board we have evaluated whether or not we are in compliant with our own policies. If not, discuss why.

Fisher: Circulated existing policy and made tweaks. Goal tonight would be to review big changes and proposals, and vote on those another day. Would like to send the policy to to the community before it is voted on.

- 1) Elect the clerk. The current policy says clerk is appointed, but doesn't say by who.

Olwell: Says the charter clarifies this.

Curry: City charter dictates this, we consulted with attorneys. We would want council to let us know when we can and cannot depart from charter.

Wool: We have that as part of May 8 meeting, to go over city charter with McNiel.

- 2) Clarification around first organizational meeting. Longest-standing Commissioner.

Curry: This is in city charter as well.

- 3) Clarify that after election of Chair, the chair runs the meeting.

Olwell: Either in city or in roberts rules

- 4) Officer

5) Vacancies: Doesn't say when

- 6) Allow for removal of an officer by $\frac{3}{4}$ a vote by sitting commissioners.

Wick: Cross check against Roberts Rules and City Charter. WE have a right to vary a bit, but we can talk about what that looks like. Would like to know what the default is.

- 7) Making clerk responsible for publishing recording of meeting

8) Use gender-neutral terms.

Fisher: My takeaway is that I have more research to do.

Wool: Appreciate you are taking your role seriously



Back to Board Report.

Chair Wool read a statement on tentative agreement being reached regarding Para Educators.

10. Michael Healy - Good Governance session 7pm - Training Room C-2

Board moved to C2 to participate in School Board Workshop

Point of Clarification: IS the board beholden to Policy Governance? It needs to use the system and/or how agreements are made until/unless the current board decides to move to new systems.

Discussion on whether or not we should revisit committees. Healy said you can have committees or not, but if you decide to have committees, you need to be careful not to accidentally delegate power to more than one party, particularly when you have already given it to someone. So if you have a budget committee, you need to make sure not to accidentally give power of that committee to Finance Director, because it is already given to the Superintendent but Finance Director is the Superintendent's employee. It makes it difficult for staff to know who they are really beholden to.

If committees do come back, we need to have good conversations around what role each committee has and what the expectations are.

Wool: The board feels like, work is there and we want to contribute.

When you write a policy, make sure that the person you hand it over to can repeat back to you what the policy means to them.

Reflections: Board learned about how to view PG as a flexible operating systems. Like that nothing is set in stone. Appreciated learning about the pillars of governance and the Empowerment Stream.

Enter into Chair Report:

May 22 is the new Diversity and Equity. I would like to appoint Liz Curry and Monika to co-chair that, to combine new board members and old members to work together and learn from each other.

Curry: The policy does not give the authority to the Chair to create co-chairs.

Discussion: this has always been past practice. But we can look at it in the future. Curry is okay with the current arrangement, but we should talk about this when we review policy.

Obeng suggests keeping track of things that we can put on our agenda in the future before deciding on committees.

Things are messy, but you shouldn't let it stop you from trying.

Paraeducators:

OBeng: Needs to be ratified. BEA has asked us not to share details until it is signed. Obeng thanks Sue, Nate and Nikki to get us to this point. And thanks to our Chair today for being a part of the process today.

BEA has election on Thursday.

11. Adjournment

A. Motion to Adjourn

Wick/Fisher

All in favor.



BURLINGTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

DRAFT