



APPROVED ON JUNE 12, 2018
Special Board Meeting
Integrated Arts Academy
June 5, 2018, 6:00 PM

Attending Board Members: Chair Wool; Jeff Wick; Liz Curry; Mark Barlow; Martine Guilick; Monika Ivancic; Kathy Olwell (on the phone); Mike Fisher; Isaac Jenemann

Meeting called to order at 6:08 PM

1. Approval of Agenda [5min]

Motion to amend agenda to add 3.03 Board Member Reflections. Motion to suspend Robert's Rules on 3.02

Commissioner Fisher/Commissioner Barlow
Motion carries

Universal Greeting

2. Public Comment [20min]

Sam Beal Flynn Ave. parent discussing the process in which the agreement was made without allowing other design firms to be included as it was a closed process. Beal believes the District missed out on including multiple perspectives. The programming process that lead to offices being adjacent to preschool is not productive in the long term.

Helen Hosley Ward 7 constituent: Believes this school board inherited this project without any community engagement involved in this project. In 2008 the District was looking at a \$250 million bonding to fix our schools, after numerous iterations the community agreed to a \$10 million dollar bond, but that Board was engaging the community at various District events. Hosley does not believe the data has been shown to prove that we require more preschool sites.

Michelle Smith lives on Ira Lane. Smith did not know she would have a school go up across the street from her house. Smith doesn't believe there was enough community outreach and engagement to be this far along in the process.

Karen Rubin CP Smith parent shared that if it is in the best interest of the District she would welcome a preschool site. Rubin reviewed minutes from 2015 with the recommendation to renovate Ira Allen rather than build two new buildings.

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Veronica ___ parent of IAA preschooler and member of the community. She believes her child, who is legally blind, was supported by IAA preschool and it has impacted the child's readiness for kindergarten. She believes the Administration and Board has neglected the community's needs. Does not want to lose the preschool site at IAA.

Mohammed speaking to represent other people. Moved to Vermont in 2008 and moved to the United States in 2006. Speaking in opposition to the closing of the SA and IAA preschool classrooms. Concerns about transportation for children.

Tracy is a pre-k parent and parent of 4th grader at IAA. Heard about this plan in the middle of May. She feels this plan sparked an extreme sense of urgency. Urges the Board to pause on the changes made to the preschool site. She also has concerns about the transportation and busing of 3 and 4 year olds.

Ray Ingram Ward 7 constituent offers some suggestions for the renovations. Also speaking to transportation and busing and the negative impact on kids learning

Ed McMahon has a new plan for CP Smith that would not destroy the garden. He suggests Gosse Court to be used as the new entrance for the new building. He would like to see more plans.

Dita Decha (spelling) SA parent shared that she was not aware of the plan to remove their preschool site. She is worried about young students riding the bus. Requests the Board and Administration that the pre-k classrooms do not move from SA and IAA.

Phillip P. Parent of CP Smith students. He is concerned about the disparities between the NPA and PTO meetings. He realizes that Public Administrators have to balance engagement and efficiency.

Ralph Lewis alleges that the new parking lot will be 15 yards from his backyard and that there is a proposed wall on the property line.

Public comment closes at 7:05 PM

3. Capital Plan Conversation

3.01 Capital Plan Conversation Presentation [15 min]

The Superintendent invited Director Spaulding, Director Lavery, Director Curtis, and Director Ehtesham to join him in addressing key concerns the community expressed regarding the Capital Plan. Director Curtis was also joined by community leaders in Early Education to contribute to the narrative that Burlington is in need of more Early

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Education sites.

Statement from Vicky Smith (submitted electronically):

“I’m Vicky Smith, Executive Director of King Street Center. Our organization has a deep and abiding history of partnership with the Burlington School District’s Early Education program. We are a full Head Start Collaborative Partner program offering full day, full year early education services for families in Burlington. I can not address the concerns about process regarding how this capital plan was rolled, but what I can speak to is the strength of our partnership - how our children benefit from the interventionists who serve our children in our Center, the expertise provided by BSD staff, and importantly, the critical link this provides as we prepare our children and families for the transition to kindergarten. BSD data shows a wait list of 22 children, but I can tell you that the wait list is much higher given the number of children on King Street’s and other providers’ wait lists.

What excites me about this plan is that this is a new build - facilities specifically tailored to the needs of young children. I can tell you first hand from our experience at King Street (rebuilt in 2014) that this makes a significant difference in our practice. A physical space which is respectful, safe and developmentally appropriate will mirror our message of care and nurture. The current spaces do not always reflect this at present, most especially at Ira.

For those who have expressed concern about these new centers presenting a threat to our private centers; I do not believe this to be the case. We all offer a different framework for families - a choice in terms of location, hours, structure etc. We will continue to be in partnership and work together.

I am in support of this capital plan. This is about the strength of our community and a positive launch for children which will foster a healthy Burlington. We need to take the long view - think about children yet to enter preschool, not the children who are fortunate to be in classrooms at present.”

Liz Mitchell: Director of Howard Center:

“My name is Liz Mitchell. I am the Director of Howard Center’s Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Program. I also am a Burlington resident who voted in favor of this BSD building bond, and I also reside on Ethan Allen Parkway, one block away from CP Smith.

I enthusiastically support the plan to increase and enhance the Early Educations Program within the Burlington School District. Burlington School District Early

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Education Program and Stacie Curtis individually have been wonderful partners and collaborators as we identify and support children and families in our community.

Medical research has recognized that early childhood, specifically birth through 5 years of age, is the formation of 90% of the brain. This medical fact speaks to the need for early education programs which support the social, emotional and pre-academic development of these children. Also, medical research has identified the significance of adverse childhood experiences in setting the stage for an individual's health and well-being throughout their life. Providing these early educational experiences support the building of resilience and wellness in these young children, hopefully minimizing the long term impact of these adverse childhood experiences. Lastly, we have seen an increasing number of young children obtaining diagnoses that are best supported through intensive early education.

In my role, on a daily basis, I receive calls from families who are seeking a childcare and/or pre-school experience for their young children. A growing number of these children have been expelled from community childcare and pre-school programs which do not have the capacity to meet their individual needs. Burlington community preschool programs maintain waiting lists and there is a growing number of children who do not have any pre-school experience available to them as they negotiate environmental stressors which limit their healthy development.

Last week I received 2 phone calls from Burlington families who have had their children expelled from community pre-school programs. In the past two days, I have received two additional calls with the same concern. One parent indicated that his child would be attending Burlington kindergarten this fall and was concerned about that child's ability to navigate this setting. I also received word from Children with Special Health Needs that 2 Burlington pre-schoolers had received Autism diagnoses in the past week and would require additional education and home supports.

With the development of the Early Education program, more opportunities will be available to children who currently have no early educational opportunities; who need specific and intensive services; and who may be navigating various environmental stressors in their lives. Medical research demonstrates the compelling impact of stress on young children and Burlington School District Early Education services do and can provide more support to children, so that they may enter kindergarten positively and have successful educational experiences. A recent Pew study indicated that there is a strong correlation between early childhood expulsion from pre-school settings and adult involvement in the criminal justice system. Burlington has the opportunity and I am passionate about providing young children and their families with the supports needed to lead full and productive lives. “

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3.02 Community Discussion

A message from the minute keeper:

Robert's Rules of Order were suspended by the Board during this portion of the Board Meeting. Recording minutes is a crucial component identified in Robert's Rules of Order. The Board's decision to suspend Robert's Rules of Order severely impacted and destabilized the minutes recording process. I offered to many community members the option to submit electronic statements summarizing their messages shared at the Board Meeting. I will accept and include these statements until the minutes are approved by the Board on June 12, 2018. As of June 7, 2018, I have received no such statement from any member of the community.

Motion to remove agenda item 3.02 Board Member reflection

Wick/Fisher

passed unanimously

Motion to adjourn

Wick/Fisher

passed unanimously

Burlington School District

Contact 864-8474 for questions on this agenda.

Respectfully submitted by Karsen Woods

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