



# BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

**Burlington Board of School Commissioners Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 2, 2018. Ira Allen Building. 7:30 AM**

**Commissioners in Attendance: Keith Pillsbury, Clare Wool, Mike Fisher (phone), Martine Guilick (phone), Mark Barlow (phone), Jeff Wick, Stephen Carey**

**1. Call to Order 7:34**

**A. Meeting Called to Order**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**A. Motion to Approve Agenda**

**Carey/Pillsbury**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**3. Public Comment/Questions**

**A. Comments/Questions from the Public**

**No one from the public present**

**4. Approval of attached list of recommendations to hire**

*Commissioner Wick requested to pull lines 7 and 11 from the slate for individual deliberation.*

Discussion regarding Line 7 Brent Touchon:

*Commissioner Carey asked if Truchon would be replaced in his current classroom role.*

*Superintendent Obeng explained that he was originally a grant funded position, he applied for the position in question, and was awarded the position as the best candidate. His position would have been replaced without going on the Consent Agenda.*

*Commissioner Pillsbury asked if Truchon would be without a position if this particular position is not approved on the Consent Agenda. Superintendent Obeng responded that he is currently without a contract and therefore without a position.*

*Commissioners Wick and Pillsbury are worried that this position would not provide direct instruction to students.*

*Commissioner Carey explained that the cannot feel comfortable accepting and approving Truchon contract for the Consent Agenda because he does not feel that the Coaching model is the most salient support to first best instruction and direction instruction for our students.*

Commissioner Barlow expressed that he believes this is highly inappropriate to single out one specific position without regard to the person that fills the position. He explained he has never come across any “meddling” like this in his experience.

Commissioner Guilick does not like the way this feels either, at this point. She feels we have to look at the big picture about coaching structures. She would like to see a larger discussion about where we are headed with the Coaching model.

Commissioner Fisher is not concerned about the person, but he believes this is a programmatic change. According to the City Charter, the Board is required to approve licensed professionals, therefore he does not believe the Board is “meddling”.

Superintendent Obeng explained that this new position is part of the bigger picture. This is an attempt to move forward with the program and suggestions made by Nate Levenston. If the Board wishes to use the rationale that they do not have enough information about the positions, then they should apply this to the entire list.

Commissioner Wick believes the Board ought to exercise their right to determine the policies that direct these processes. He would support this list at this point, but needs more explanation in the future.

Commissioner Carey does not believe this particular position should be approved as it does not provide direct student instruction.

Superintendent Obeng does agree that it is fair for the Board to ask questions, however, his recommendation is not to hold these candidates up. This is the Board's right, but a delay in decision will have ramifications in the hiring process.

Commissioner Barlow expressed that for future considerations, the Board should work to codify its process through policies rather than ad-hoc during deliberations.

Motion to approve Brent Touchon

Wick: Yes

Pillsbury: No

Carey: No

Fisher: Yes

Guilick: Yes

Barlow: Yes

Wool: Yes

5-2



*Motion carries.*

Discussion regarding Line 11 Lauren McBride

*Commissioner Carey was unaware that the Board discussed on 7/30/18 that the contract would be changed to interim. He asked for explanation. Obeng explained interim is a limited term contract in which we have a number of options. The BAA contract does outline that the interim title can not be extended longer than 2 years without a decision being made.*

*Commissioner Wick does support the interim position, however, does not want to lose this candidate. This is a good opportunity for the Board to reconsider its hiring policies as they intersect with the Superintendent's hiring processes. He also believes there is real value in hiring from within and within Vermont.*

*Superintendent Obeng asked to clarify some rumors that were mentioned in the Board meeting.*

*Item #11:*

*Motion to approve Lauren McBride as an interim Assistant Principal at Burlington High School*

*Wick/Guilick*

*Wick: Yes*

*Pillsbury: Yes*

*Carey: Yes*

*Fisher: Yes*

*Guilick: Yes*

*Barlow: Yes*

*Wool: Yes*

*Motion carries unanimously*

*Motion to approve the remainder of the names on the List for contract approval.*

*Roll call vote: All approve*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

## **5. Adjournment**



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## **A. Motion to Adjourn**

*Motion to adjourn*

*Pillsbury/Wool*

*Motion carries unanimously.*

*8:10 AM*

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