

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

**Burlington Board of School Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

**Burlington High School Cafeteria  
September 13, 2018, 6:00 PM**

Attending Board Members: Liz Curry, Jeff Wick, Clare Wool, Mike Fisher, Monika Ivancic, Stephen Carey (video), Martine Gulick, Mark Barlow, Jeanie Waltz, Kathy Olwell, Keith Pillsbury

Attending District Staff: Yaw Obeng, Karsen Woods, Victor Prussak, Nathan Lavery, Nikki Fuller

**1. Opening Items**

A. Welcome

**2. Agenda**

A. Swearing in of New Board Member

B. Items to pull from Consent Agenda

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion to remove item 4B, add item 3B Board Reflection, move the consent agenda to item 2B.

D. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion carries

**3. Public Comment**

A. Comments/Questions from the Public

1. Jenna Peterson: Editors of BHS Student Newspaper. Made statements in response to BHS Registrar publication removal.
2. Rita Markley: Parent of BHS students. Made statements in response to the BHS Guidance Department. She noted that the college application process had significant obstacles. Asked the school board to send a message that the students do, and always will come first.
3. Patty Wesley: Burlington Resident, Former BHS Guidance Department Head. Spoke over a year ago at a School Board Meeting regarding guidance concerns when multiple employees resigned. Asked the Board who should be held accountable in this instance. Asks for reassurance from the School Board and District Leadership.

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4. Jan Shamberger: Former BHS employee. Worked alongside former BHS guidance employees. Hopes that allegations made over a year ago will be addressed.
5. Nancy Comstock: BHS Alumni, parent of Alumni, and Burlington resident. Attended a BHS tour.
6. Caroline Crawford: Parent of BHS students. Spoke in response to challenges with the Guidance Department. She expressed that there are multiple unanswered emails she has sent Mr. Macias. She is disappointed in the operations of BHS.
7. Jennifer Tomsick: BHS Alum, parent of BHS alums, Burlington resident. Concerned about the BHS Guidance Department and allegations made by the AOE and the impact on students.
8. Tracy Dangler: Thanked the Board for the Community Engagement Committee. She is interested in seeing the Board establish an ad hoc Community Engagement Committee for Pre-K
9. Lisa Cannon: Parent of Hunt 8th grader. Spoke about bullying in schools and the system as a whole. She expressed that we should be listening to students. She believes there is an aversion to conflict within the schools. Would like to see our schools create and build community.
10. Spoke in response to the BHS Registers and the censorship made by Principal Green. VPA and NEFAC are asking the District to take corrective steps in response to this censorship. He believes this is an opportunity to educate other Vermont administrations on the Vermont “New Voices” Law.

#### B. Board Reflection:

Commissioner Olwell reassured the audience that she is listening and all comments will be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Pillsbury expressed pride in the courage and professionalism of BHS students. He thinks the student's voice is very powerful.

Commissioner Gulick is proud of the work of the BSD students.

Commissioner Ivancic thanked all who spoke. She responded to the challenges within the Guidance Department.

Representative Jenemann would be happy to explain to community about the need for renovations at BHS other than lockers.

Commissioner Fisher requests the understanding of the public body to follow the process. The right things need to happen in the right way.

Commissioner Wick responded that the censorship issue is a learning opportunity and that he cannot discuss the personnel items.

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Commissioner Curry thanked the public body for speaking. She recognizes the trust that is in the question of the public body, but she asked for patience from the public. As public institutions we face many challenges, building community is a challenge when we are faced with pressures imposed on our society today.

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

##### **A. Elementary Staffing**

Victor Prussack presented on the allocation of FTE through a look at class sizes. Superintendent Obeng brought the Board's attention to this process in relation to the conversations that the Board was having in April/May about the FTE allocations. The reason this new Kindergarten class was possible was that we chose to wait for the allocation of this position. These students and families have been done a great service and are now able to have their kindergarteners in a neighborhood school.

Commissioner Curry asked about IAA having the highest student/teacher ratio based on the need of the students.

The reason the numbers are high, Prussack explained, is because that's the most popular school in the District. Additionally, they did receive extra staffing to IAA. The allocations of staffing might not necessarily mean additional classroom, but they will use it as a resource/classroom support. This is how schools and Principals have their autonomy.

Commissioner Olwell asked for clarification on the algorithm or weight-values for unique backgrounds of students. Superintendent Obeng told Commissioner Olwell that there would be a presentation on the Equity Index.

#### **5. Chair's Report**

##### **A. Meeting mechanics**

#### **6. Superintendent's Report**

##### **A. IAA Therapeutic Art Space Financial Non-Compliance Report (2.8)**

Commissioner Lavery presented a non-compliance report to the School Board.

Commissioner Curry asked why we could not use Capital Funds. Director Lavery explained that we could potentially, however, we should be

##### **B. Good News**

#### **7. Superintendent Monitoring Reports**

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A. Monitoring Report 2.6: Superintendent Succession Plan

Motion to accept Superintendent's Monitoring Report as In Compliance

Fisher/Curry

B. Monitoring Report 2.8: Communication to the Board

\*\* Add school year to all Monitoring Reports \*\*

Motion to approve report 2.8

Barlow/Ivancic

**8. Consent Agenda**

A. Licensed Employment Contracts

B. Routine Financial Reports

C. August 14, 2018 Minutes

D. August 21, 2018 Minutes

E. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Minutes 8/28/18

F. Community Engagement Committee Meeting 8/23/18

**9. Committee Reports**

A. DE&I

B. Policy Governance Committee

Commissioner Wick excited about the first Policy Governance Committee meeting. They will be meeting once a month. Commissioner Fisher asked about the process for updating a policy. Commissioner Wick is going to confirm the process with Joe McNeil and solidify the process.

C. Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Fisher is working on a toolkit for the Board and the District in how to engage the community. Adhok pre-k committee for public engagement, similar to the BHS ReEnvisioning committee.

Commissioner Barlow asked for clarification that the BHS ReEnvisioning committee was organized by the Superintendent and not the Board.

**10. Executive Session**

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A. Motion to consider Executive Session under 1 V.S.A. 313 (a) (1) (A), (B), (C), (E) and (F) because pre-mature general public knowledge would put the District at a substantial disadvantage to discuss the following: one or more personnel matters

Motion to enter into Executive Session

Wick/Fish

Motion carries.

**11. Adjournment**

A. Motion to Adjourn

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