



APPROVED BY THE BOARD 8/9/16

BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Ira Allen Administration Building Board Room
July 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. Opening Items

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Commissioners:

Mark Barlow , Lauren Berrizbeitia , Brian Cina , Liz Curry ,
Susanmarie Harrington , Anne Judson , David Kirk ,
Kat Kleman , Mark Porter , Stephanie Seguino ,
Miriam Stoll

Student Representatives:

Jacob Bucci
Isabella Weston

Administration:

Yaw Obeng, Superintendent
Stephanie Phillips, Senior Director Teaching
& Learning
Nikki Fuller, Senior Director Human Resources &
Equity Affairs
Paul Irish, Senior Director Infrastructure & Technology
Nathan Lavery, Senior Director of Finance
Elizabeth Atkins, Accounting Manager
Henri Sparks, Director of Equity
Miriam Ehtesham-Cating, Director of ELL
Doug Davis, Director of Food Service
Marty Spaulding, Property Service Director

The Board wishes to recognize, welcome and thank those that are providing language interpretation of the Board proceedings. The Board's commitment that all children receive equitable academic services must ensure that New American parents are welcome and can attend meetings, understand the process and be actively engaged. Interpretation of proceedings honors, respects and values our New American parents and

—————**YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT**—————

students. The Board asks the public and media to respect and understand the importance of this interpretation.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion (S. Harrington/L. Berrizbeitia) to approve agenda.

Pass

3. Public Comments/Questions

A. Public Comment

1. Jeff Smith, parent 3 kids in district - spoke on behalf of Clare Wohl - requested reallocation of funding to students. Administration shake up of leadership was done without input of stakeholders creating \$500,000 in additional new expenses in administration.
2. Donna McDonald spoke to proposed cuts in librarians - focus today on collaborative leadership. Future ready librarian - Use technology to engage and empower students, embrace change, collaborate with classroom teachers, digital learning. Students faculty and staff need librarians.
3. Kevin Grace, resident, parent, employee - Spoke on behalf of Amy Truchon Tech Integration Specialist - spoke in support of librarians
4. Helen Hossley, Ward 7 - asked how transparent can the District be when they have not released full detailed budget? Spoke of hiring in Central office staff - student needs should be first. Cuts to direct student services flies in the face of what the Board claims to be first and foremost. Adding new positions, not appropriate for BSD - misappropriated funds.
5. Cara Clopton, Librarian at Flynn - need librarians to help patrons become future ready, work with students and staff. Teach Digital literacy training and safe on line practices. Help us grow strong readers - lovers in learning.
6. Kate Davie, teacher, librarian from small district - understand need to contain cuts, speak in support of keeping librarians. Research indicates having trained librarians increase student learning, literacy and computer literacy. Visited IAA and was amazed by ELL students working hard with support from librarian.
7. Judy Carpenter, resident, teacher - believe librarians support literacy. There is a misconception about what librarians do each day - support tech and staff.
8. Patty Kissel, teacher - spoke about new position and asked where was positions posted and what are the requirements? Thought there was no available money.
9. Beth Lane, teacher, librarian - spoke for Jill Allen - started petition opposing budget cuts librarians to half time. Gave Board the petition.

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

10. Sharon Hayes, librarian - allow full time librarians - direct teaching is integral to students' success. Read poem by one of her students. Will not have time to support students - less effective collaborators.
11. Deidre Donovan, parent 4 kids in district - interested in getting report card and schedules for next year. Called several times with no response. Cannot book course for dual enrollment without schedule. Cannot be college and career ready. Not informed about child's progress - need to move faster.

B. Board Reflections

Commissioner Judson said she is upset about librarian cuts - understands principal decisions. Would like to know how needs are going to be met by 50% librarians. She is shocked that the BHS students do not have schedules and report cards.

Commissioner Seguíno thanked everyone for coming for public comment.

Commissioner Porter also thanked everyone for coming. Stated he also wishes we had the solution. Financial future is tough. Time to look at needs not being met. Money is finite, scarce - wish everything we talked about was preventable.

4. Board Report

A. Fact Finding Meeting Report - Commissioner Seguíno

The School Board presented its position on contract negotiations with the BEA to the fact finder in a hearing held June 30, 2016. The BEA also presented its position. BSD teacher compensation is currently in the middle of the middle in Chittenden County. Board's position is that salary increase levels requested by BEA would have to come from reallocating other components of the contract in order to be financially sustainable over time. Testimony can be found on Negotiation web page.

Commissioner Seguíno also spoke to Helen Hossley's comments. Staff is overstretched and will respond in timely manner. Need administrative staff to support teachers and there are math errors in some of the discussions about administrative costs.

Commissioner Judson spoke about the timeline - fact finding report is due within the 30 days after session, by July 30 - both parties have 10 days to review findings by Aug 10. 20 day period parties may enter further negotiations by August 30 if either side is not happy.

- B. Special Election will be held on August 9. There are 2 people running, Kathy Olwell and Tom Derenthal. Ballots are ready this week. If you wish a mail in ballot, call City Clerk.

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

- C. Student Report - Student Rep Bucci reported tht BHS students have not received report card or schedules. He hopes we get a date soon.

5. Superintendent's Report

- A. Capital Planning Update
Superintendent Obeng spoke about the timeline for the community to support capital plan to put on City Ballot in November - looking at bonding.

Property Services Director Spaulding stated there is a link on the webpage to the presentation at the last Board meeting by Michael Smith. There is also a link to the assessment report done by EMG. There are 3 options to bring forward for bond vote:

- Option 1 \$65M includes deferred maintenance
- Option 2 \$114 includes deferred maintenance and \$65M dedicated to BHS
- full demolition of BHS - reconstructing \$95M - for a total of \$146M total capital bond

Superintendent Obeng summarized - website has all information we spoke about. Some things we have no choice such as ADA compliance. School by school videos will be on website beginning of next week. Need to bring to community information to see what people want to invest in. This is a 10 year plan not all one shot at a time. We are working on the tax dollar amount.

Commissioner Barlow asked how do you decide which plan to bring to Board? Superintendent Obeng said he will share information with community. Illustrate what will happen - community can make decision on what option they want. Gather input online and community consultations and come back to Board.

Commissioner Cina asked if we plan to present tax scenarios for each option to the public? People need concrete numbers - long term projection of cost to know what they are investing in.

Superintendent Obeng said yes, the community needs to know what the dollar value is going to give them. We will provide Commissioners with packets of information for NPA meetings and other events to share. You can also direct people to our website - keep updating with information.

- B. Strategic Planning Process Summary & Next Steps
Strategic Planning update - June 13 had staff day to identify priority areas - about 350 staff participated; generated documents of feedback topics they felt should be

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

included. We are gathering information. Three major cluster areas identified; sustaining facilities and finance, inclusive teaching and learning, equity and community engagement. Looking at next steps in planning process.

Board worked on mission, vision and core values - staff had opportunity to contribute to these. Will be iterative process with Board reviewing staff strategy topics and plans. Hope to have draft before school starts when he meets with staff to give them another crack at how to make it better. Got names and emails of people interested and their areas they are interested in.

Next phase development of operational plan - will invite people interested to be part of teams. Have something lined up something for January - aligning budget process with this. Chance to reset some things for next year to have a budget process that is student needs based and driven strategically by broad-based planning process. Need to have conversation with staff earlier in year - engaging at BHS early in fall to get data to put into budget.

Developing budget formula. We currently have little to no metrics on allocating dollars - the current budget process is done on an advocacy basis. Board has asked about metrics around equity index; ELL, FRL and Special Ed. Should be doing projected enrollments and put into the planning process. Plan to focus on priorities that come out of staff and Board strategic planning work to allocate dollars. Will continue updates.

Commissioner Seguino said mental health and libraries emerged from groups. She asked how are these fitting into these three categories?

Superintendent Obeng stated the topics were first decided from a staff survey that was done but there was room left to add another topic or two. Mental health rose to the top even though it was not in the survey. Another was Libraries. The Library group was all librarians and one teacher - conversation about how the connection to literacy and intervention works. We need to do a better job of promoting the librarians role and how these functions can be redesigned during times of lean staffing. There is no central person in curriculum that aligns with library services - no support from centralized leadership. Has spoken to Senior Director of Curriculum Phillips about integrating into curriculum.

C. Good News

VT Nursing Association honored Louise Mongeon for her great work. Will be posted on BoardDocs.

BTC Grant - Tracy Racicot and Adam Provost put together proposal and was awarded a national grant in the \$200,000 CTE Makeover Challenge. BTC is one of ten tech centers nationwide awarded \$20,000 each to create a Makerspace.

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

Their product will be videotaped and presented. Great step in establishing BTC as an integral part of BHS. Kudos to Adam and Tracy for putting forward.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. *Motion (L Curry/K. Klemen) to approve Consent Agenda.*
All in Favor
- B. Board Minutes of May 10, 2016
- C. Governance, Policy & Advocacy Minutes of May 31, 2016
- D. Curriculum Minutes of June 14, 2016
- E. Board Minutes of June 14, 2016
- F. Finance Minutes of June 27, 2016
- G. Governance, Policy & Advocacy Minutes of June 28, 2016
- H. Planning Minutes of July 5, 2016

7. Infrastructure and Technology Committee Report

Commissioner Kirk gave the ITC report
Following through with capital plan which Superintendent Obeng spoke about earlier.
ITC next week cancelled due to presentation of capital plan to stakeholders.

8. Curriculum Committee Report

Commissioner Harrington gave the Curriculum report.
Committee met and outlined the calendar plan for the year, dual enrollment, library services reimaged and changes in district.

9. Diversity & Equity Committee Report - did not meet

10. Governance, Policy & Advocacy Committee Report

- A. Mandatory Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Policy for First Review
- B. Procedures for Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Motion (L. Curry/S. Seguino) to approve first reading of Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Policy and accompanying Procedures.

Commissioner Cina said as a social worker this law has caused a lot of confusion and stress. Asked if supervisors can assist people in interpreting this law?
Commissioner Curry said the procedures state there is mandatory training.
Superintendent Obeng stated the training is about 2 ½ hours on-line. We are moving to electronic format process so we can better track staff .

—————**YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT**—————

Commissioner Cina - The law doesn't clarify volunteers - need to make sure they are taken into account and make sure something is added - want higher threshold. Commissioner Curry asked if Commissioner Cina is requesting language to that effect in the policy? Commissioner Cina stated we have a legal obligation to think about that. Superintendent Obeng said he will check with HR. They may have something that obligates in policy. Include in minutes to capture request. Will bring back to committee meeting in July and look at language revisions.

Motion Passed with entering concerns in the minutes that Commissioner Cina brought up.

11. Finance Committee

Commissioner Cina gave the Finance Committee report

- Discussed fund balance - talked about reviewing internal policy in comparison to the law
- Update 2017 implementation - Superintendent will report details at August Board meeting
- Next steps for committee - Superintendent, Senior Director of Finance Lavery and Commissioner Cina will meet to chart out yearly routine of district finances having it translated into policy governance practices. Need to be clear with community about opportunities to communicate.
- Suggested not meeting in July - come to Capital Planning Stakeholders meeting instead.
- Need to get together with Superintendent, Senior Director of Finance before August meeting.

12. Executive Session

A. *Motion (M. Porter/D.Kirk) to consider Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations where premature disclosure could place the School District at a substantial disadvantage at 8:18 p.m.*

Pass

B. *Motion (M. Porter/A. Judson) to consider Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter where premature disclosure could place the School District at a substantial disadvantage at 8:18 p.m.*

Pass

Motion (S. Seguino/D. Kirk) to enter Executive Session at 8:19 pm

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

Motion (D. Kirk/M. Barlow) to come out of Executive Session at 10:02 p.m.

13. Adjournment

A. *Motion (D. Kirk/B. Cina) to adjourn at 10:04 p.m.*

YAW OBENG SUPERINTENDENT

150 Colchester Avenue, Burlington, Vermont 05401 ☎ Phone: 802-865-5332 ☎ Website: www.bsdt.org ☎
Twitter: @BTVSchools