



APPROVED BY THE BOARD NOVEMBER 10, 2016

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Edmunds Elementary Cafeteria**  
**October 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 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 , Kathy Olwell , 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*

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

## 2. **Approval of Agenda**

*Motion ( Commissioner Judson/Commissioner Barlow ) to approve agenda Amended Agenda to move **Infrastructure and Technology Committee Report before public comment***

*.- All in favor - passed unanimously*

## 3. **Public Comments/Questions -**

### A. Public Comment

**Susan Comerford** - We love our teachers and we love our school board members, commended board for hiring Superintendent, creating new/ better systems, devoted member of faculty at UVM, encouraged both sides to go back to the negotiating table

**Thea Knight** - We know teachers work hard, doesn't understand why teachers aren't accepting the 2% raise, be cognitive about what the community can afford

**Fran Brock** - teacher at BHS, BEA President, teachers voted to strike today, teachers can not sit and be still about the treatment, teachers to strike by October 20th, thank the community, PTO groups, Board needs to come back to the table

**Chris Hood** - Treasurer of BEA, thank the board for being here tonight and thank the people for moving the location, Asks everyone to listen to their voices about moving forward, have an open mind moving forward, have new negotiating styles, asks all parties to talk and negotiate,

**JB Barna** - Parent of 8th grader at Edmunds, talked to people on both sides, conclusion is that this is hard, sad, the tension is complicated, seems there is not an easy answer, at core we are all very good people, selfishly doesn't want teachers to strike, wants people who are negotiating to look for common grounds

**Alison Segar**- A parent in the school district, tax payer, 38 years a union member , pro union, believes teachers deserve good pay, trust school board that there is no more money, please come up with peaceful resolution

**Ashley Smith**- Lives near BHS, cares deeply about kids, has talked to BHS teachers who say they don't get breaks

**Ben Boshier** - speaking on behalf of his neighbors, health care costs have risen, no one benefits by a strike, encourages BEA to accept the contract, says friends have not been given such a raise

Commissioner Cina made a *motion to extend public comment*/Commissioner Curry second motion

*Passes* extend Public Comment by 12 minutes

**Karen Ruben** - email board members all the time, knows that there is not evil intent, knows that everyone engaged in this has good intentions

**Pete Wyndorf** - Strike has been forced upon for teachers, go back and agree to give back more professional development money, go back to the table, keep talking,

**Matthew Gordon**- UVM Student, The school board imposition implies that there is no money for our students

**Nolan Rampy** - Address the money issue, the fact is the money is there but schools are not a priority, the mayor is spending millions on a new mall, addressed teachers - by making a stand the rest of the state teachers will stand and fight

**Isaac Krebman** - Burlington resident, current student teacher, saw colleges pour heart and soul into teaching, when teachers are under attack it is not good for our most vulnerable, give teachers a fair contract

**Jess Fuller**- a lot of great speeches here tonight, taxpayer in Burlington, a lot of people have shown up, seeing a lot of green shirts and community members

**Lucy Gluck** - long term resident of Burlington, wants to be proud of Burlington, glad to hear that you're going back to the table next week, feels like if we don't come up with solutions we are going to lose a lot of really good people

**Joe Patalano** - I ask the school board and Superintendent what are you teaching our students when you walk away from the table? You walk out because you can't get your way, the board hired this Superintendent to break the Union. The process is corrupt

**Mike Fisher** - President of Champlain PTO, has advocated so there is not a strike, a lot of hurt feelings, encourages both sides to go back to the table next Wednesday to go in with your heads not emotions, All need to act together, this is a shared responsibility.

**Nancy Rondeau**- came here in 1970, two students graduated from BHS, Wants to remind you to google the past strike, and see how it tears a town apart, works with students with Special needs

**Jeff Wick** - before the board imposed believes that the two sides were very close, mentioned the salary grid, move money to increase tuition reimbursement, believe there can be an agreement

**Isaac Jenerman** - Sophomore at BHS, failed negotiations has interrupted students, A strike will affect students by possibly extended year

B. Board Reflections

Commissioner Cina - A social worker, values relationships, these relationships have been damaged, believes we can reach a settlement, shared quotes about healing relationships

Student Rep Jacob Bucci - Sad about both sides, has heard blatant insults from the board and the teachers, asks the teachers and board to go into negotiations with open minds

**4. Board Report**

A. Policy Governance Progress to Date/Announce Date for next Retreat

Commissioner Curry - looking for third retreat, don't have a date, possibly a Saturday in November

Board Chair Mark Porter announced - Five minute break while people leave - 8:11 pm - resume 8:16 pm

C. Superintendent Goals - Commissioner Judson, met today ( 10/13/2016) wants all commissioners to look at document in Board Docs - Commissioners looked at goals on Board docs

Commissioner Cina - read Superintendent's goals out loud to public

Comments/Questions about Superintendent goals:

Commissioner Curry -

- What is ESSA- Every Student Succeeds Act
- Commissioner Curry - Wants to add students, staff, and community, under Goal 2 or change language to consistently use word "stakeholder" rather than "constituents". All agreed to change
- Under g2.2 - Reports need to take place before March - would like 2 reports

*Motion to vote on Superintendent's Goals -*

*( Commissioner Harrington, Commissioner Sequino)*

*Unanimously passed*

D. Presence at VSBA & VEHI Meetings - Next week Lake Morey. *Superintendent Obeng, Commissioner Sequino, Board Chair Porter attending*

E. Student Report - Jacob, boys soccer team 11/0 , school musical, dress code policy, Bella - there was a vote for dress code but does not know the results

Commissioner Stoll supports what students are doing about Dress Code

## **5. Superintendent's Report**

A. Update on Performance Improvement Plan - shared document that is also on board docs

Question by Commissioner Stoll - how was plan created? Superintendent replied that he based it on experience and model plans that he is familiar with.

Commissioner Seqino - teaching on this today at UVM, thank the board members for taking this on, Question: How will you collect data?

Superintendent Obeng's response - with check ins, reports in HR, keep you updated, and are open for suggestions on how we collect data.

B. Strategic Plan Recap & Update - Scheduled to do a public meeting tonight but needed to reschedule because of the board meeting, showed slides and shared what has happened thus far of past forums, plan is to share this presentation at additional forums , Next Public Strategic Planning Community Forum will be November 17th

C. Budget Timeline - Shared document with timelines, will be forming a committee of staff for budget process, wants to hear voices from all staff and students

D. Good News - Last week SA was chosen as a "Cool School" by channel 44 - showed video

## **6. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

A. *Motion (Commissioner Sequino / Commissioner Kirk) to approve Consent Agenda.*

*Passed Unanimously*

B. Board Minutes of September 13, 2016

- C. Board Minutes of September 15, 2016 - continuation of September 13 meeting
- D. Infrastructure & Technology Minutes of September 20, 2016
- E. Finance Minutes of September 20, 2016
- F. Governance, Policy & Advocacy Minutes of September 27, 2016
- G. Curriculum Minutes of October 4, 2016
- H. Planning Minutes of October 4, 2016
- I. Diversity & Equity Minutes of October 4, 2016
- J. Taft Fund Authorization

**7. Infrastructure and Technology Committee Report** - meeting minutes is on Board Docs

**8. Curriculum Committee Report**

- A. Role of Committee - send Susan comments on Role of Committee

**9. Infrastructure and Technology Committee Report** - Committee received tour at Champlain School to see new windows, heat pumps, and other improvements.

**9. Diversity & Equity Committee Report** - learned about SRO data in schools from resource officers, first time there has been a report and dialog about revising the data so that it reflects what's actually happening with SRO's and students

**10. Governance, Policy & Advocacy Committee Report** - minutes are available on Board Docs.

- A. Combining Committees  
Considered merging ITC with Finance, have discussed at prior committee and Board meetings; asked Commissioners if anyone sees a reason why not, any feedback on why they wouldn't merge with Finance should be sent to Commissioner Curry.

**11. Finance Committee Report** - On Board Docs, next Tuesday presentation at Finance Committee meeting,

**12. Executive Session**

- A. *Motion ( MP /MB ) to consider Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations where premature disclosure could place the School District at a substantial disadvantage at 9:31 p.m.*

*Motion (Seguino/Cina )to enter Executive Session at 9:31 p.m.  
approved unanimously*

*Motion ( Kirk /Harrington ) to come out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m.*

approved unanimously

**13. AFSCME Contract**

Motion (Porter/Stoll) to approve contract with AFSCME bargaining unit  
Approved unanimously

**14. Adjournment**

A. *Motion (Cina /Berrizbietia) to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.*