

APPROVED ON MARCH 18, 2026

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Regular Session at 6:00 pm

South Burlington School District Administrative Office

577 Dorset Street, South Burlington, VT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session for this evening was cancelled

REGULAR MEETING

Present

Seamus Abshire, Laura Williams, Jennifer Lawrence, Dan Boyer, Michelle Boyer, Emilee Hoffman, Elissa Galvez, Ally Leduc,

Administration/Staff

Dr. Joe Clark, Nicole Carter, Monica Desrochers, Jean Marie Clark, Daisy Brayton, Nick Bocchino, Deirdre Phalon, Andrea Ustianov

Guests

2 in person

5 online

Call to Order

Superintendent Joe Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Announcements and Amendments to the Agenda

Seamus Abshire said that the Executive Session was canceled.

Seamus Abshire motioned to remove the agenda item discussing the vacancy on School Board. Emily Hoffman moved. Elissa Galvez seconded. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Welcome and Introduction of School Board Members - Superintendent

Newly elected and reelected board members are welcomed: Michelle Boyer, Dan Boyer, Emily Hoffman, and Elissa Galvez (new board member).

Organization of the School Board

Election of Chair

Jennifer Lawrence motioned to elect Seamus Abshire as Chair. No objections. Seamus Abshire was elected Chair of the School Board by unanimous consent.

Election of the Vice Chair

Emilee Hoffman called a motion to elect Jennifer Lawrence as Vice Chair. No objections. Jennifer Lawrence was elected Vice-Chair of the School Board by unanimous consent.

Election of the Clerk

Jennifer Lawrence called a motion to elect Laura Williams as Board Clerk. No objections. Laura Williams was elected Clerk of the School Board by unanimous consent.

Designate a School Board member to sign contracts on behalf of the Board

Seamus Abshire called a motion to designate Laura Williams to sign contracts on behalf of the School Board. Emily Hoffman moved and Elissa Galvez seconded. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

July 8 and August 12 deviate from the usual first and third of the month schedule. Jennifer Lawrence requests to have a schedule of dates for Steering Committee meetings, when the Board meets with the City Council members.

Seamus Abshire called for a motion to set the 2026-2027 meeting schedule for the School Board. Laura Williams moved and Elissa Galvez seconded. No discussion. The motion passes.

Comments and Questions

Daisy Brayton expressed gratitude to the board for their service and congratulates them on the successful budget vote.

FOCUS ON STUDENT LEARNING

Student Representative Report

Ally Leduc and Momin Waqar presented the following information:

- Talent Night is scheduled for March 13th and 14th.
- A blood drive will be hosted on Wednesday, March 11th.
- Student artwork will be displayed at the Champlain Valley Art show in the University Mall until March 19th.

Action Items

Policy E2 – Security Cameras

This is the third reading of the revision to the security camera policy. The policy change aims to streamline the process for administrators to review footage for safety reasons.

Dr. Joe Clark went through the major changes to the policy:

- The most significant change is currently the way the process works is that the principal needs to review footage a request is put in which be cumbersome and time consuming.
- The changes remove that middleman.
- Places trust on the principals to use camera footage when necessary.
- Two major changes include:
 1. Principals do not have to request permission I advance; however, they are required to log any viewings.
 2. Administration and Director of Operations and Finance can view footage without prior approval of the superintendent.
- Law enforcement still requires permission from the superintendent and chief to view cameras.

Seamus Abshire called for a motion to approve changes made to Security Cameras Policy E2. Laura Williams moved and Michelle Boyer seconded. No Discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

Consider 2026-2027 South Burlington School District Academic Calendar

Dr. Clark reviewed the following items:

- Draft calendar is similar to the current year's calendar.
- The State mandates regions to create a calendar with 175 common student days.
- The district has 180 student days and 189 staff days.
- Early release/late start Wednesdays are for professional development, but parents find this inconvenient.
- These Wednesdays must remain to comply with the 175 common days rule.

The board asked several questions before approving the calendar. One of the concerns is the last day of school coinciding with graduation.

Seamus Abshire entertained a motion to approve 2026-2027 academic calendar as present. Laura Williams moved and Jennifer Lawrence seconded. No discussion. All were in favor and the motion passes.

Charge committee to coordinate the Board to update Ends Policy

Dr. Clark believes the board's responsibility is to set the vision for the district.

School Board members nominated for the End Policy Committee: Alissa Galvez, Michelle Boyer, and Seamus Abshere. The committee's goal is to review and revised the Ends policy.

The board would like to complete the updated Ends Policy by the end of August or September to facilitate the strategic plan. The committee's first action will be to determine if an external consultant should be hired to assist with the process and obtain quotes from organizations like the VSBA.

Additional Discussion Items

A proposal to was made by Seamus Abshere to add another public comment period and introductions of board members was made. Board members did not feel another public comment session was necessary. The board agreed to introduce themselves.

Board member introductions

Ally Leduc, Student Representative - Ally is a senior at the high school. She is involved in volleyball and the green team. She aims to connect students to the board.

Emilee Hoffman - One year on the board, lived in South Burlington since 1988. Her children went through the school system. She is excited to be part of the community.

Jennifer Lawrence - Lived in South Burlington for four and a half years, four children in the district. She joined the board to improve communication about the board's activities.

Seamus Abshere - Two children at Rick Marcotte. His focus is on the entire community and he hopes to build trust and increase support for school budgets.

Laura Williams - Four years on the board, originally from Rutland. Laura believes it's important to have a teacher voice on the board.

Elissa Galvez - Moved to South Burlington in 2021. Elissa saw a need in the community and has school district and operational experience.

Dan Boyer - Dan has been on the board for a year and has lived in South Brown for 17 years.

Michelle Boyer - South Burlington resident for 17 years and has two children at UVM. She wants to help make information about the schools more accessible. She is eager to work towards setting goals with the community.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Overview of FY 2027 Budget Results (Possible Action)

Dr. Clark explained the FY 2027 Budget results:

- Both items on the ballot passed
- The budget passed with 52% of the vote.

- The transfer of funds from the Fiscal Year 2025 surplus to facilities passed with 72% of the vote.

Superintendent's Report

Current status: 7 people signed up (4 teachers, 2 administrators, 1 classified); 12 ranked #1 (6 classified, 5 teachers, 1 administrator); 10 ranked #2 (5 classified, 5 teachers); 2 ranked #3 (1 classified, 1 teacher); 1 ranked #4 (classified).

The board needs to decide after April 3rd whether to go through with the plan.

A discussion was held on whether there is a maximum number of people that can be accepted for early retirement.

Update on SouthPoint and Central Office Moves

Central Office will be moving to 462 Shelburne Road, first floor suite, with a move-in date of July 1.

The goal is to put SouthPoint students in a better location closer to the high school.

Rent savings at the Shelburne Road location will be \$72,000 compared to SouthPoint.

Central Office Connection to Schools

There is concern about the distance between the central office and schools, especially the middle and high schools, after the move to the new building.

HR is implementing "HR on site," where HR representatives visit each building monthly to answer questions.

There will need to be a "more purposeful" effort to visit school buildings to maintain connection with students and staff.

SouthPoint Move

The new space is bigger than the space SouthPoint currently uses.

There is a plan to remove the walls on the second floor to create larger classroom spaces.

Update on SPED Reorganization

Kristen Romick is retiring at the end of the year and her position will not be replaced.

Nicole Carter will be in charge of the Office of Learning and Special Education Services. Nicole's goal is a three-year stabilization and best practice plan. Year one focuses on:

- Stability and compliance, aiming for 100% compliance.
- Launching evidence-based specialized instructional practices across the district, focusing on math, literacy, executive functioning, and social-emotional learning.

- Leveraging federal IDEA funds for SPED training in SEL, literacy, math and executive functioning.

Consent Agenda & Planning (Policy 4.3.3)

Approve minutes of February 4, 2026

- Approve Account Payables (AP) § Value > \$50K: Orders #:
 - 1398 for \$478,397.57
 - 1399 for \$2,968.21
 - 1400 for \$34.67
 - 1401 for \$29,464.41
 - 1402 for \$3,200.34
 - 1403 for \$35.48
 - 1404 for \$2,902.00
- Payroll Warrants #17 and #17.1

Approve AP Voucher Checks to Howard Center in the amount of \$131,398.93 (Action)

Seamus Abshere made a motion to approve the AP Voucher Check to the Howard Center. Laura Williams moved and Dan Boyer seconded. No discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

March 11 School Board Work Session

The board agreed not to have a meeting on March 11.

Review future agenda items / parking lot

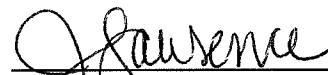
Discussion of legislative advocacy and potentially forming a committee for March 18 board meeting. Update from the Ends Committee, potentially involving an outside consultant. Discussion of school board website updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Seamus Abshere called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Dan Boyer moved and Laura Williams seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.



Seamus Abshere, Chair



Laura Williams, Clerk
Jennifer Lawrence,
Vice Chair