

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Executive Session at 5:00 pm

Regular Session at 6:00 pm

South Burlington School District Administrative Office

577 Dorset Street, South Burlington, VT

REGULAR MEETING

(Executive Session portion)

PRESENT

Seamus Abshire, Laura Williams, Jennifer Lawrence, Dan Boyer, Emilee Hoffman, Austin Smith, Michelle Boyer

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

Dr. Joe Clark

GUESTS

Joe McNeil

Call Regular meeting to order

Seamus Abshire called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Seamus Abshire called for a motion to enter executive session at 5:03 pm to discuss Employment of a Public Officer, to receive confidential attorney client communications for the purpose of providing legal services to the board, labor negotiations and real estate, and added that it would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. Laura Williams moved, and Austin Smith seconded. The motion passes.

Employment of a Public Officer, to receive confidential attorney client communications for the purpose of providing legal services to the board, labor negotiations and real estate

IN: 5:03 pm

OUT: 6:00 pm

The board returned to the regular meeting at 6:00 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT

Seamus Abshire, Laura Williams, Jennifer Lawrence, Dan Boyer, Emilee Hoffman, Austin Smith, Michelle Boyer, Ally Leduc

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF

Dr. Joe Clark, Daisy Brayton, Jean-Marie Clark, Nicole Carter, Nick Bocchino

GUESTS

Joe McNeil

DIGITALLY PRESENT

Olivia Kane, Tim Jarvis, Taylor Farnsworth, Deirdre Phalon, Bryan Companion, Ryan Doyle, Gerry Silverstein, Sarah Pineda, Media Factory

Guests

5 in person

9 online

Call to Order

Chair Seamus Abshire called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

- **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

- **Amendments to the Agenda**

The board removed Monitor Report 2.9 (communication and support to the board) from this meeting and agreed to reschedule it to a later date.

Chair Abshire stated the board would continue working with the superintendent to prepare this for a later date.

- **Comments and Questions**

No comments from the public.

FOCUS ON STUDENT LEARNING

- **Student Representative Report**

Ally Leduc presented the following information:

- Winter Break 2/21/26-3/3/26
- Middle School is hosting their FHTMS Olympics, which are inspired by the Winter Olympics
- Momin and Ally will be presenting their kitchen table discussion findings to the high school staff
- The high school is holding voter registration for students

ACTION ITEMS

- **Williston Road Streetscape Project**

Seamus Abshire called for a motion:

The School Board finds that the Williston Road Recreation Path Project, along with the improvements proposed, to be beneficial and not adverse to the school district by providing better and safer pedestrian and student access along Williston Road, and to school district schools, and accordingly approve the grant of the proposed warranty deed of easement to the City of South Burlington, and authorize the Chair of the School Board to execute the same and any other necessary documents relative to the grant.

Laura Williams made the motion. Austin Smith seconded the motion.

Public comments:

Ryan Doyle cautioned against describing the project as a safety improvement and suggested written agreements on future safety improvements; district counsel said including “safer” language did not create liability, and board members noted additional safety aspects (e.g., higher fencing and buffer area).

All were in favor and the motion was passed.

- **Monitoring Report 2.9 Communication and Support to the Board**

Delayed to a future Board meeting

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- **Update on Special Education**

The board received a K–12 special education primer and discussed how to monitor both compliance and student outcomes without creating unnecessary additional reporting burden.

Nicole Carter described eligibility under IDEA (13 categories), the relationship between MTSS and IEPs, funding sources (census block grant, IDEA-B, and local funds), and “maintenance of effort” requirements.

- **Professional Development Overview**

Dr. Clark outlined current professional development (PD) structures and a future model focused on evidence-based, job-embedded learning aligned to district priorities.

Current PD includes district-led in-service/Professional Learning Communities (PLC) work, school-based PD aligned to school improvement plans, and teacher-initiated PD supported through contractual reimbursement.

Future direction emphasized 2–3 district-wide instructional focuses, reduced dependence on one-time external speakers, clearer role-specific pathways, and identifying measures/KPIs to evaluate impact.

The superintendent said regional calendar requirements limit full-day in-service flexibility, making short releases more feasible.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **How to monitor Special education**

The board reviewed current district Individual Education Plan (IEP) prevalence (19% of enrollment) and discussed data limitations for local longitudinal trend reporting; the superintendent stated the state issues an annual special education compliance monitoring report each May and agreed it should be shared with the board (including prior years if available).

Board members discussed potentially updating executive limitation equity reporting to explicitly include disability/special education status for longitudinal outcome trend monitoring, while also expressing concern about “over-monitoring” and staying out of operations.

- **Policy E2—Security Cameras (Second Reading)**

The board completed the second reading of Policy E2 updates to align with law and improve timely access while adding internal logging.

Dr. Joe Clark, the superintendent, said building leaders need faster access in real time; the change allows the designated administrator/designee to view footage without superintendent pre-approval, while keeping limits on police access.

The policy also adds a requirement to log who accessed footage, when, and for what purpose.

- **FY 2027 Budget Communication Plan**

The board reviewed ongoing budget communications and agreed on additional informational outreach steps (without advocating for passage).

The budget communications group discussed creating an easy-to-read flyer with a QR code linking to the budget website and adding polling location information; the superintendent indicated polling location links are easy to add and that a QR code can be generated.

The board noted early voting is already underway and must be completed by March 3.

The superintendent and finance team confirmed an upcoming call on Thursday, February 26, 10–11 AM to address budget methodology/accountability questions, with one additional board participant slot available.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approve minutes of February 4, 2026
- Approve Account Payables (AP) § Value > \$50K:

Orders

- 1380 for \$395,199.82
- 1381 for \$1,554.88
- 1382 for \$45,192.44
- 1383 for \$8,559.38
- 1384 for \$2,725.14

- **Approve AP Voucher Check to Procare in the amount of \$67,094.98**

Laura Williams moved to approve an AP voucher payment to ProCare in the amount of \$67,094.98. Emilee Hoffman seconded.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Note: The board asked the Central Office to examine high-cost external service invoices (including Howard Center, KidLogic, and ProCare) to ensure value.

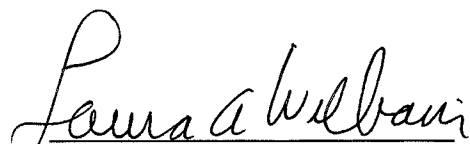
Apparently duplicate UVM Medical Center line items were resolved as separate invoices tied to an annual/open purchase order for different monthly charges.

- Resignation - Kristin Romick, 1.0 FTE Executive Director of Educational Support Systems, District effective July 1, 2026
- Set agenda for March 4, 2026, regular meeting
- Review future agenda items / parking lot

Agenda Planning – The board reviewed the agenda for the March 4, 2026 school board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Seamus Abshere called for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Laura Williams moved and Jennifer Lawrence seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.


Seamus Abshere, Chair
Laura Williams, Clerk