APPROVED ON JUNE 3, 2026

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, May 20, 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

PRESENT
Seamus Abshere, Laura Williams, Jennifer Lawrence, Dan Boyer, Emilee Hoffman, Elissa Galvez, Michelle Boyer

ADMINISTRATION/STAFF
Dr. Joe Clark, Daisy Brayton, Momin Waqar, Ally Leduc

GUESTS
None

Call Regular meeting to order
Seamus Abshere called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Seamus Abshere called for a motion to enter executive session at 5:30 pm to discuss Employment of a Public Officer or employee and added that premature knowledge of what they are discussing would be significantly disadvantageous to the district not to do so in executive session. Emilee Hoffman moved, and Elissa Galvez seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

IN: 5:35 pm
OUT: 5:57 pm

Emilee Hoffman moved to adjourn the executive session at 5:57 pm. Laura Williams seconded. All were in favor, and the executive session was adjourned at 5:57pm.

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

REGULAR MEETING
Present
Seamus Abshere, Laura Williams, Jennifer Lawrence, Dan Boyer, Michelle Boyer, Austin Smith, Ally Leduc, Momin Waqar

Administration/Staff

Dr. Joe Clark, Nicole Carter, Jean Marie Clark, Daisy Brayton, Nick Bocchino, Mark Gable, Oliver Coons

Guests

15 in person
2 online

Call to Order

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no announcements.

Amendments to the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed, with the Board agreeing to move items around as time allowed, including moving the school board website update earlier in the meeting and considering the financial monitoring report if time permitted.

Comments and Questions

Several community members spoke during the public comment period, primarily about student pathways, workforce readiness, community trust, and the Ends Policy process.
No board action was taken during general public comment.

Student Representative Report

Ally Leduc and Momin Waqar presented the following information:

- The student representative report included upcoming student events, including Memorial Day no school, prom, and 8th grade step-up night.
- Ally Leduc and Momin Waqar reported that two students had been selected for the junior student representative position: Oliver Kunz and Charu Magar.
- Board members commended the student reps and the selection process.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Community Forum on Ends Policy Revision

The Board held a community forum focused on revising the Ends Policy, explaining that the community's input would help shape the superintendent's strategic plan in Fall 2026.

The discussion emphasized workforce readiness, soft skills, communication, digital literacy, career-connected learning, and community partnerships.

School Board Website Update

The Board moved the discussion item on the school board website forward in the agenda. The update described planned short-term aesthetic changes, a longer-term redesign with the web vendor, and possible staff support for maintaining monitoring scorecards and other website content.

ACTION ITEMS

Policy 2.5 Financial Planning and Budgeting Monitoring Report

Emilee Hoffman moved to monitor Policy 2.5, Financial Planning and Budgeting, according to the rubric in the board packet; Dan Boyer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board then completed the monitoring discussion and scoring process for Policy 2.5, with members providing their ratings and the Board agreeing that the compliance plan discussion was not presented as a separate item.

Monitoring Report 1.0 / 1.1 / 1.3 and CIP

The Board discussed the monitoring process for the Ends-related reports, including the new approach to measuring outcomes and compliance.

Laura Williams moved to monitor 1.3 using the rubric provided in the board packet, Jen Lawrence seconded; all in favor, motion passed.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent presented a report on student expression, staff responsibilities, and legal neutrality in public schools.

The discussion focused on the First Amendment, harassment/bullying boundaries, educator neutrality, student expression, and how these issues are addressed through district policies and procedures.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve minutes of May 6, 2026

Bids

- Roof Projects

Hires

- Randi Barry, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Orchard School. Randi is being hired to fill an open position due to the resignation of Kristen Courcelle.
- Nicole Carter, 1.0 Executive Director of Learning and Student Support Services.

- Brittany Cresta, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Rick Marcotte Central School. Brittany is being hired to fill an open position due to the reassignment of Jessica Taplin.
- Melissa Holzman, 1.0 FTE English Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School. Melissa is being hired to fill an open position due to the retirement of Lori Centerbar.
- Elizabeth Koons, 1.0 FTE Assistant Principal at Rick Marcotte Central School. Elizabeth is replacing Matt Currier who has been hired as the Principal.
- Nathan Lovitz, 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor at South Burlington High School. Nathan is being hired to fill a new open position.

Resignation(s)/Retirement(s)
- Lejla Kelestura, 1.0 FTE World Languages Teacher at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School

The Board first accepted the non-bid portions of the consent agenda without objection, including the minutes, hires, and resignations.

A separate vote was taken on the roof project bid: Laura Williams moved and Elissa Galvez seconded acceptance of the roof project bid; vote failed because the bid materials were not included in the packet, and the Board agreed to revisit.

After the bid materials were discussed, Jennifer Lawrence moved to approve the bid for the roof project as presented belatedly in the board materials and Dan Boyer seconded; all in favor, motion passed.

The Board then discussed the June 3, 2026 agenda and future items, including the final community forum before the first draft of Ends revisions, a second reading of the wellness policy, continuous improvement plans, and the superintendent's other planned reports.

ADJOURNMENT

Elissa Galvez moved to adjourn; Emilee Hoffman seconded; all in favor, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Seamus Abshere, Chair

~~Laura Williams, Clerk~~

Emilee Hoffman