

## **BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS**

August 23, 2007

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ira Allen Administration

150 Colchester Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401

#### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Fleury called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

#### **2. PRESENT**

##### **Commissioners:**

Vince Brennan X, Marris Caldwell X, Katharine Chasan X, Katherine Connolly X,  
Barbara Crook X, Wallace Elliott X, Thom Fleury X, Chris Haessly X,  
Jurij Homziak X, Bob Hooper X, Fred Lane X, Jenn Lazar X, Keith Pillsbury X,  
Amy Werbel X

##### **Administrators:**

Jeanne Collins, Superintendent X  
Sara Jane Mahan, Human Resources Director X  
Scott Lisle, Business Manager \_\_\_\_  
Julie Cadwallader-Staub, District Grants Coordinator \_\_\_\_  
Paul Irish, District Technical Director X  
Bonnie Poe, Special Services Director \_\_\_\_

#### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion (Werbel/Hooper) to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Brent Sclafani – 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Champlain. Read a letter supporting the implementation of SEI from the BEA Action Committee.

Sarah Gordon – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at Wheeler. Urged the Board not to leave the issue of class segregation behind. Believes that it will feel like the teachers are left behind as well if nothing is done.

Barbara Beals – Ward 6 resident. Objects to economic classification of children.

Rebecca Smith – BEA President. Spoke in favor of livable wage for the District's paraeducators.

Rena Dunlop – Representative of Vermonters for Better Education. Discussed Legislature's Commission on Child Poverty.

James Hasslim – Works with Vermont Workers Center. Spoke in favor of livable wage.

Heather Riemer – Parent of two Barnes students. Spoke in favor of livable wage. Also spoke in favor of the Unity Plan and keeping Barnes open.

## **5. BOARD DISCUSSION ON EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY IN BURLINGTON SCHOOLS**

The Board held a general discussion regarding the issue of excellence and equity in the Burlington Schools.

The Board conducted an informal poll regarding various issues related to excellence and equity, and then took a brief dinner break.

The Board reconvened at 5:32 p.m. During the break, Paul Irish tabulated the results of the straw poll and presented them to the Board.

The Board continued its discussion of excellence and equity.

The Board agreed to reschedule the Agenda Committee meeting to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, when further steps will be discussed.

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **a. Approval of Technology Plan**

Motion (Pillsbury/Connolly) to approve the consent agenda. Request by Commissioner Caldwell to pull the minutes for approval at the next full Board meeting. Commissioner Fleury agreed to do so by consensus. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **8. EXECUTIVE SESSSION**

Motion (Lane/Connolly) to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiation matters, the premature disclosure of which would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. The motion passed unanimously and went into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m.

Motion (Lane/Elliott) to come out of Executive Session. The motion passed and the Board came out of Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. The Board took no action.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 8:45 p.m.