



NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Robert Miller Center, Community Room**

**May 2, 2017**

**5:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order at  5:42  p.m.

*In Chair Porters absence, Vice-chair Stephanie Seguino has taken on the role of acting Chair.*

**1. Opening Items**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

**Commissioners:**

Lauren Berrizbeitia  X , Liz Curry  X , Susanmarie Harrington  X ,  
Anne Judson  X , David Kirk  X , Kat Kleman  , Mark Porter  X ,  
Stephanie Seguino  X , Jeff Wick  X , Ryan McLaren  , Kathy  
Olwell  X , Mark Barlow  X

**Student Representatives:**

Isabella Weston    
Jacob Bucci

**Administration:**

Yaw Obeng, Superintendent  X   
Brittany Nevins, Minute Recorder, Executive Assistant  X   
Stephanie Phillips, Senior Director Teaching & Learning  X   
Nikki Fuller, Senior Director Human Resources & Equity Affairs  X   
Paul Irish, Senior Director Infrastructure & Technology    
Nathan Lavery, Senior Director of Finance  X   
Marty Spaulding, Property Services Director    
Erik Wells, Communications Specialist

**Guest:**

Michael Healy, Consultant \_X\_

*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 Harrington/ Commissioner Kirk) to approve agenda  
Unanimously Passes*

**3. Public Comment**

A. Comments/Questions from the Public

Angela Smith-Dieng- Parent of 3rd grader at Sustainability Academy. - Shares support for librarians. Believes in equitable support for Librarians.

Kate Seitz- 2nd Grade Teacher at Sustainability Academy- Shares support as well for librarians.

Cara Clopton- Full time librarian at Flynn Elementary School- What date will the librarian positions be released? Shares in support for librarians as well.

Shannon Wolters- Currently librarian at Integrated Arts Academy. Encourages the Board to look at the full NEASC report for the high school to understand the need for Librarians across the district.

Ebony Nyoni- Co-founder and Executive Director of Black Lives Matter Vermont- The group has started a research team to get a better understanding of the disciplinary policies within the District. Ebony proposes a variety of questions to the Board regarding minority representation in the District and Board meeting location, for example.

Bob Abbey- Teacher at Flynn School. Discusses the need for Librarians at the high school and believes the District should fund a full time position at the high school.

## B. Board Reflection

Vice-chair Commissioner Seguino has given Chair roles back to Chair Porter upon his arrival at the meeting.

Commissioner Judson shares that there is funding at each school for a librarian.

Commissioner Wick shares that he is in support for full time librarians.

Commissioner Berrizbeitia shares similar sentiments to Commissioner Wick and also points out that the Board tries to meet as centrally as possible.

Commissioner Olwell also shares that she supports full time librarians.

## 4. Introduction to Ends Policy Creation

Commissioner Harrington gives an introductory presentation around the Ends Policy Creation and agenda for tonight's meeting (See [boarddocs.com](http://boarddocs.com) for presentation).

## 5. Superintendent Input

Superintendent Obeng gives a presentation on his input for the Creation of the Board Ends Policy (see [boarddocs.com](http://boarddocs.com) for presentation).

The Board discusses how to take the work that has already been done and translate it into the Policy Governance structure.

## 6. Discuss Draft Proposal

Consultant Michael Healy transitions to the discussion around Draft proposal.

Commissioner Barlow shares that the three big rocks are means to implementing the mission statement.

Chair Porter shares that if we can't connect work back to the mission statement then perhaps we aren't doing what we need to be doing.

The Board discusses the connection between the Mission and the Ends Statement. Consultant Michael Healy shares that the Ends statement is meant to be an internal agreement. Values are expressed through governance policies (Ends and Limitations). There are many ways to create Ends that incorporate the "means" to that end. Limitations can be a strategy/means to that end. What is the Board trying to accomplish?

The Board deliberates if they should start with the Mission statement as proposed or if they should start from scratch. Chair Porter reminds the group that a lot of community-driven work has already occurred and that the Mission/Vision/Goals went through that process already.

Michael Healy reminds the group that until the Board decides what the Ends will be, the District will work according to the current Ends statement.

#### **7. Dinner/Small Group Discussion**

Board members ate dinner and discussed the Ends Draft Statement in small groups.

#### **8. Report Outs from Groups**

Board members reported out one by one on their specific thoughts regarding the various sections, word changes, amount of direction needed, etc.

#### **9. Large Group Discussion**

Superintendent Obeng describes given the draft statement how he might interpret the ends statement. This interpretation is based on many conversations he has already had with the Board. He also states that he'd like to know what the Boards comfort level is with the interpretation process.

A discussion occurs regarding transitions of Superintendents. Does this Ends statement adequately express what the Board wants? The Board expresses that there is good cohesion between Superintendent Obeng and the Board, but given if a transition occurs there might be a gap.

Strategic Plan aligns the Ends policy to actions that are occurring. That alignment is important.

The driving force behind the adoption of Policy Governance was to stray from having too many policies.

Many items of concern (Financial Health of School District, for example) are already in the Policy Governance Policies. These policies will be monitored on a regular basis as determined by the Board.

## **8. Wrap Up/Next Steps**

Suggestion on the table put forward by Michael Healy given conversation:

Adopt ends at formal meeting soon and attach policies with dates on them that can be analyzed and critiqued over time as they are monitored.

Superintendent Obeng would have the first shot at developing the indicators and interpretation of the policies.

Develop a Board calendar for the Board to do it's monitoring by.

Draft Ends Indicators presented by Superintendent Obeng at the Board Summer Retreat (TBD)

Public facing explanation to be more positive in nature (the policies are in the negative form).

Possibly bring back at the May 9th Board Meeting to make a decision on the Ends Statement.

Questions to be answered:

- If Superintendent Obeng is given the go ahead, what is the timeline for receiving indicator ideas?
- What is the timeline for drafting indicators/monitoring report for the Ends statement if approved?

- How does this group articulate and incorporate the belief in inclusion and diversity in policy governance? (The Diversity & Equity Committee is charged with helping with this)

**9. Adjournment**

A. *Motion to adjourn at \_8:47\_ p.m.*

*(Commissioner Kirk/ Commissioner Seguino)*

Respectfully Submitted by Brittany Nevins

DRAFT