

BOARD NEGOTIATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020  
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA GOOGLE MEET

BNC members present: Sue Hamlyn-Prescott, Bill Sander, Katie Orost, Mark Nielsen, Bernard Barnes, Chasity Fagnant

Others present: Charleen McFarlane, Deb Clark, Cat Gallagher

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

S. Hamlyn-Prescott called the meeting to order at 6:02. No changes to the agenda were suggested.

**2. Board Negotiations Council – Executive Session**

B. Sander moved and B. Barnes seconded to go into executive session to discuss contract negotiations because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the school board at a substantial disadvantage, inviting D. Clark, C. Gallagher, C. McFarlane and D. Griffiths to remain, the motion was passed and the BNC entered executive session at 6:03. The BNC consented out of executive session at 7:12.

The BNC asked D. Clark to give an update on the current economic situation in Vermont. Deb said the outlook is pretty dire. The state is looking at a current year shortfall of about \$50 million dollars in tax revenue. Next year's shortfall is estimated to be \$150-250 million. Shortfalls in non property tax revenues will put upward pressure on tax rates over the next several years. We need to work to look at every dollar we spend so we can help mitigate the hit on our communities over the next several years because of the loss of other tax revenues. The education fund is one bucket for preK through college. There are shortfalls in the state college system, which is vying for support from the same revenues.

C. Gallagher thanked D. Clark for explaining the situation. She said she knows Patrick LaClair and Darcey Fletcher appreciated the explanation D. Clark gave them.

B. Sander said non property tax revenues (sales tax, etc.) are falling hard. He is concerned that property tax revenues may be hard hit too. People may not be able to pay their property taxes.

D. Clark said if the state decides to reduce their ed spending remit to us, we have a budget that is set but they can say they won't give the full amount. We would be coming out of FY21 with a deficit and going into FY22 with that amount to pay back. C. Gallagher said D. Clark educated her that it doesn't matter that we have a set budget. We may be asked to give some of that money back. Sue said anything we can do in the budget this year will put us in a better position to not have deficit spending.

S. Hamlyn-Prescott said the support staff and teacher associations were given possible meeting dates of May 14 and May 20 and they chose May 20. Based on the conversation tonight, the BNC will be contacting both groups via email to see if they are willing to meet on May 14 to talk about the current financial situation and get a response to the email

Patrick LaClair sent yesterday. The BNC agreed that the May 20 meeting can still happen as well. The meeting will be virtual.

**3. Adjourn**

B. Sander moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded and passed and the BNC adjourned at 7:20.

*Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths*