

Alburgh School Board
Alburgh Community Education Center
Monday February 28, 2022
School Board Meeting

Present: Board Chair Mike Savage, Board Members Stacey Gould, Whitney Maxham, and Mallory Ovitt, Superintendent Michael Clark, Principal Beth Hemingway

Google Meet: Wendy Savage, Rob Gess, Heather Darby, Elizabeth Dobson, Eric Morton, **34, **86, Members of the public watching from the fire station bingo hall including the Alburgh Selectboard, Carol Behrman, JR Cox, and John Clark

1. Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Mike Savage

2. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard:

- None spoke at this time

3. Present Budget Informational Report

- a. A Powerpoint was shared. Michael Savage shared highlights followed by a question and answer session.
 - i. Carol Behrman asked where our students rank. Beth Hemingway explained that Vermont does not rank schools in this way, but that Alburgh students participate in NAEP and SBAC assessments, which measure student growth over time. The pandemic created challenges for students which staff is working to overcome (intervention, mental health services, etc.). Our students go on to successful high school careers.
 - ii. JR Cox asked about staff retention challenges over the course of the pandemic. Daily staffing has been an issue due to many absences and a short staff of substitutes. Staff has done a great job stepping up to fill other roles as necessary.
 - iii. JR Cox asked whether we could use a larger staff. Beth Hemingway explained the school structure groups (primary, intermediate, middle) which are made up of specialized teachers and interventionists to best meet the needs of all students.
 - iv. Josie Henry asked what is behind the overall spending increase over the past few years. Michael Savage explained that the biggest drivers are an increase in salaries and special education, along with a decrease in revenues.
 - v. John Clark asked why there has been a decrease in revenue. This is mostly attributed to a loss of carryforward.
 - vi. Josie Henry asked if the school would consider giving the land between the school and the gas station to the Clubhouse for building a childcare center. Mike Savage said that was a possibility for discussion at a later date.

4. Review the Australian Ballot Articles

- a. Michael Savage read the warning and articles 1-3.

5. Adjourn

Board Action:

- Stacey Gould moved to adjourn at 6:29 P.M. (2nd Whitney Maxham) Unan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Gould

Whitney Maxham

Mallory Ovitt

Trevor Creller, Vice Chair

Michael Savage, Chair