

Alburgh School Board
Alburgh Community Education Center
Monday November 1, 2021
Regular Meeting
Alburgh Community Education Center

Present: Board Chair Mike Savage, Board Vice Chair Trevor Creller, Board Members Stacey Gould, Whitney Maxham, and Mallory Ovitt, Superintendent Michael Clark, Principal Beth Hemingway, Alburgh Staff Member Rick Baker, Alburgh Clubhouse and Planning Commission Member Terry Tatro, Alburgh Selectboard and Alburgh Clubhouse member Shawn Creller, Alburgh Selectboard Chair Josie Henry, Community Members Alton Brusio, Alburgh Planning Commission Member Carol Behrman, Islander reporter Michael Frett

Google Meet: ACEC Executive Assistant Wendy Savage, GISU Business Manager Rob Gess

1. Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Mike Savage

2. Adjust the Agenda:

- No adjustments were made.

3. Citizens and/or Staff to be Heard:

- No citizens or staff to be heard.

4. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve the minutes from 10/18/2021
- b. New hire: Mariah Mason- PreK Teaching Assistant
- c. Building use forms- Vermont Department of Health (COVID education sessions)

5. Reports:

- a. Superintendent's Report- Michael Clark shared his written report as well as his weekly community communications with the board. He highlighted the positions that are available within the supervisory union.
- b. Principal's Report- Beth Hemingway shared her written report with the board which included safe and healthy schools, building maintenance, high quality staffing, preschool, food service, and the Alburgh Clubhouse after school program.
- c. Financial Report- Rob Gess shared his financial summary and budget to actuals with the board. A 2023 budget template has been created and sent to Beth Hemingway to begin.

Board Business:

6. Approval of bill for payment- Trevor Creller updated the board on the bills
7. Alburgh Clubhouse Updates- Mike Savage updated the board on the Clubhouse:
 - Review October 12, 2021 Letter from the Alburgh Family Clubhouse to the Alburgh School District Board to 'suspend its partnership with the Alburgh Board of School

Directors effectively halting the construction of a childcare center on school district property”

- Hear the selectboard on Alburgh Family Clubhouse October 21, 2021 Letter
- Determine next steps the Alburgh School Board will take
 - Josie Henry addressed the board on behalf of the Selectboard
 - She feels that there is a communication breakdown between all of the entities involved in this project. For everyone to be on the same page, she suggested regular meetings with representation with all of the involved parties.
 - The Clubhouse is currently \$66k away from full funding. Without the school, they would lose a \$250k grant and need to re-do some work. Currently, there is no ‘Plan B’ location, although they are looking for one.
 - The school board has spent approx \$9k in attorney fees (overcoming bidding process mistakes in violation of Title 16.) Josie suggested looking for other sources of funding for attorney fees so that it's not all coming from the school.
 - Michael Clark spoke towards the suggestion that the school does not want to be part of the Clubhouse anymore.
 - He outlined the process that the school board has gone through up to this point. Initially, the board was not willing to spend attorney fees to move forward with the MOU when there was still such a large funding gap.
 - Michael Clark outlined his concerns in an earlier letter which is available on the website with the minutes.
 - Since receiving the Clubhouse’s letter, the board has directed the attorney to stop working on this issue.
 - The Clubhouse has required an MOU and a 25-year lease agreement to move forward with the partnership. However, until the procurement issue is taken care of, an MOU can not be finalized. This will continue to be a slow-moving process.
 - Greta Brunswick will need to talk to Connor Construction to see if they would like to be construction manager. If they do, they will help the school with the bid process (collecting, prequalifying, etc.). If not, the school board would need to start over with this process.
 - The board would like a response from the clubhouse unsuspending our relationship with them, and the results of the discussion with Connor construction. The board will send the clubhouse a letter requesting this. The letter may also include obstacles to the MOU being signed. The meeting recording is available online for committee members who want to hear the concerns which were raised.

8. Other- None

Closure

9. Setting the next agenda

10. Adjourn

Board Action:

- Trevor Creller moved to accept the minutes of 10/18/21 (2nd Stacey Gould) Unan.
- Stacey Gould moved to support the superintendent’s hire of Mariah Mason for the PreK Teaching Assistant position (2nd Trevor Creller) Unan.

- Stacey Gould moved to approve the 2 building use requests for the VT Department of Health (2nd Whitney Maxham) Unan.
- Stacey Gould moved to spend an amount not to exceed \$9700 for the repair of heating equipment (2nd Trevor Creller) Unan.
- Stacey Gould moved to increase the staff, adding a lunch person up to 5 hours per day (2nd Whitney Maxham) Unan.
- Stacey Gould moved to increase the primary guidance counselor position from .5 to .6 FTE (2nd Whitney Maxham) Unan.
- Upon review by Trevor Creller, Whitney Maxham moved to approve the payment of current valid invoices (2nd Stacey Gould) Unan.
- Stacey Gould moved to authorize Board Chair Savage to write a letter on behalf of the Alburgh School Board expressing our willingness to move forward (2nd Mallory Ovitt) Unan.
- Trevor Creller moved to adjourn at 7:06 P.M. (2nd Stacey Gould) Unan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacey Gould

Whitney Maxham

Mallory Ovitt

Trevor Creller, Vice Chair

Michael Savage, Chair