

Resolution Relating to

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PRESCHOOL AND CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDINGS

RESOLUTION ____

Sponsors: _____

Introduced: June ____, 2017

Action: _____

Date: _____

In the Year Two Thousand Eighteen

Resolved by the City of Burlington Board of School Commissioners (the “Board”), as follows:

Authority

WHEREAS, under Section 167 of Article 57 of the City of Burlington Code of Ordinances, the Board is charged with “the care and custody of all property belonging to or used for the several public schools of said city and such care shall include authority to make ordinary repairs on school property and [...] make such alterations in any school building, as said board shall deem best”; and

WHEREAS, under Section 167 of Article 57 of the City of Burlington Code of Ordinances, the Board is charged with “the management and control of all the public schools of said city”; and

WHEREAS, under Section 169 of Article 57 of the City of Burlington Code of Ordinances, the Board is charged with “hav[ing] in general all the powers and authority, and perform all the duties, pertaining to school officers in towns of this state”; and

Rationale

WHEREAS, the Board is in favor of engaging in an appropriate and meaningful community and stakeholder engagement process, involving all relevant stakeholders and the community at large, to determine whether it is in the best interest of the community and children of Burlington to invest substantial funds to construct and operate new permanent buildings to house preschools and central administrative offices, or whether other options may be more optimal; and

WHEREAS, the Board is mindful of the benefits of preserving green space and student safety on our school properties, and the impact of permanently losing green space on school campuses must be weighed very carefully against the need for further construction of buildings and/or roads; and

WHEREAS, the Board is mindful that the \$19 million bond (the “Bond”) approved by the City’s voters on March 7, 2017 was represented on the ballot “for the purpose of accomplishing capital improvements at each of the school district’s buildings in order to eliminate or substantially reduce the deferred maintenance of such buildings”, and such use of proceeds was

not represented to be used for the construction of new permanent buildings; and

WHEREAS, the Board is mindful of retaining the trust of the City's voters and is concerned that use of the Bond proceeds for such new construction rather than for capital improvements at existing district buildings may compromise such trust; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that a fuller, deliberate, data-driven, and meaningful school board and administrative process, with community and stakeholder engagement as part of the design process, is due before deciding upon multi-million dollar construction projects , and whether such new construction, or other solutions, may be the most optimal way to meet the needs of the City's preschoolers and their families; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

(a) The Superintendent is directed to halt spending on and development of the North and South End Early Education and central office construction projects at this time; and

(b) The Superintendent is directed to present to the Board at his soonest reasonable convenience a proposed plan of action to continue with the other deferred maintenance and accessibility projects which are a part of the school district's 10-year capital plan, and to report to the Board on other "swing space" alternatives.