

Southern Berkshire Regional School District

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING #1,557 - **AMENDED**

Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019
Time: **Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.**
Open Session – 6:30 p.m. (approximately)
Location: Mt. Everett Regional School Library, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA

A g e n d a

All interested members of the public are invited to attend.

[The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.]

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session for the following purposes:
Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with or act under authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically M.G.L. c.30A, §22(f) and (g) with regard to the review, approval, and/or consideration for non-disclosure of executive session minutes from 2016 to 2017, and/or related appointment of one or more designees and to reconvene to open session.
Roll Call Vote Required.
3. **Standing Reports**
 - a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1556 of January 10, 2019
 - b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes
 - c. Miscellaneous Correspondence
4. **Student Representative Report**
5. **Student Spotlight**
6. **Public Comment**
7. **New Business**
 - a. Approval of Overnight Field Trip (March 7-8, 2019) to New York City for Frida Kahlo Exhibit at Brooklyn Museum and Tour of Lower East Side Street Art through Gotham Street Art Walks – S. Graham
 - b. MS Program Overview for 2019-2020
 - c. Greenagers: Vernal Pool Train – Elia DelMolino (Letter of Permission)
 - d. Governor’s Budget
- Letter to Senator Hinds and Rep Pignatelli Regarding Rural Aid
8. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. School Committee Meetings in Member Towns
February 14, 2019 – New Marlborough
April 4, 2019 – Monterey
April 25, 2019 – **Alford**
May 9, 2019 – Sheffield
June 13, 2019 – **Egremont**
 - b. **Blizzard Bag Program Update**

9. Business with District Member Towns

- a. Superintendent Regional Roundtable Meeting – February 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

10. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears
First Read
Policy JFABB – Admission of Exchange Students
Policy IE – Organization of Instruction
Policy EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
Policy KF and KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities
Policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee
Policy BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment
- b. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis and P. Dufresne
- c. SBEF Ad Hoc Subcommittee – D. Sears
- d. Community Outreach and Input Subcommittee – B. Silvers
- e. Executive Session Review Subcommittee – J. Blaugrund

11. Chairman’s Report

12. Superintendent’s Report

13. Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator’s Report

14. Director of Student Services Report

15. Business Manager’s Report

- a. Approval of Warrants: January 11 and January 25, 2019
- b. Vote to approve payment of prior year invoices. Notice received 12/13/18 of non-payment for softball officiating: Fran McKeever - \$189 and Bob Claffie - \$189
- c. Accept Grants and Gifts
- d. Budget Transfers

16. Future Agenda Items

17. Adjourn

Next School Committee Meetings:

February 14, 2019 – New Marlborough
March 14, 2019 (Adoption FY 20 Budget)
April 25, 2019 – Alford
June 13, 2019 – Egremont

March 7, 2019 (Open Hearing)
April 4, 2019 - Monterey
May 9, 2019 – Sheffield
June 27, 2019

Upcoming Events:

February 9, 2019	6:30-9:00 p.m.	CABARET – Elementary Café
March 22, 2019	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	High School Musical TACPAC
March 23, 2019	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	High School Musical TACPAC
March 24, 2019	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.	High School Musical TACPAC
May 16, 2019	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Grades 7-12 Spring Instrumental Concert TACPAC
May 30, 2019	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Gr 7-12 Music Banquet
June 1, 2019		Graduation - Tanglewood
June 6, 2019	6:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Gr 3-6 Chorus/Band - TACPAC

Events are continuously added on the District Events Calendar. Please check the district website for updates.

The SBRSD shall post all School Committee and Subcommittee meetings on its website (<http://www.sbrsd.org/school-committee.html>) in compliance with Open Meeting Law and pursuant to the regulations of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office 940 CMR 29.03(4). Please visit the SBRSD’s website for all meeting information. All approved meeting minutes of the SBRSD school committee are posted on the district’s website on the school committee page.

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A School Committee Meeting is a meeting of a government body at which members of the body deliberate over public business. We welcome the attendance of members of the school district community to view your School Committee as it conducts its regular business meeting.

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39 Section 23C governs public participation at open meetings of municipal government bodies.

Chapter 39: Section 23C, Regulation of participation by public in open meetings

Section 23C. No person shall address a public meeting of a governmental body without permission of the presiding officer at such meeting, and all persons shall, at the request of such presiding officer, be silent. If, after warning from the presiding officer, a person persists in disorderly behavior, said officer may order him to withdraw from the meeting, and, if he does not withdraw, may order a constable or any other person to remove him and confine him in some convenient place until the meeting is adjourned.

The School Committee believes that the school district community should have an opportunity to comment to the Committee on issues that affect the school district and are within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities. Therefore the Committee has set aside a period of time at each School Committee meeting to hear from the public. In addition, if the Committee believes that an issue requires a dialogue with the school district community, the Committee may schedule a separate public hearing on that issue.

Any citizen who wishes to make a presentation to the School Committee on an item which is of interest to him/her and within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities may request to be placed on the agenda for a particular meeting. Such request should be in writing and should be received by the Superintendent of Schools at least one week prior to the date of the meeting. Such request should contain background statements which would explain the scope and intent of the agenda item. The Chair of the Committee works with the Superintendent to formulate the meeting agendas. Together they will determine whether or not to place an item on the agenda and if the item is to be taken up they will also determine when to place an item on the agenda and all parameters to be required of the presenter.

Here are the general rules for the Committee's public comment period:

1. Public Comment shall be for a period of 20 minutes and shall generally follow the opening of the meeting. The Committee reserves the right to rearrange its agenda to accommodate scheduled presenters.
2. Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address and shall speak for no longer than 3 minutes. No citizen may speak more than once without permission of the Chair. All citizens shall speak to the full Committee through the Chair and shall not address individual members or administrators.
3. Individuals may address topics on the agenda, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. The Chair shall rule out of order any individual who fails to honor the guidelines or who addresses a matter inappropriate for public comment.
4. Any Committee member may direct questions to the speaker through the Chair in order to clarify comments of the speaker.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires citizens of the District to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee. The Chairperson shall determine the length of the public participation segment.
2. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. The presiding Chairperson may permit extension of this time limit.
3. Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.
4. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
5. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting.
6. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.
7. Written comments longer than three (3) minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members' review and consideration at an appropriate time.

School Committee: Jeffrey Blaugrund, Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers, Jon Bruno, Jane Burke, Ken Knox, Art Batacchi, Maryellen Brown (arrived at 6:04 p.m.); David Travis (arrived at 6:17 p.m.)

Absent: Marcella Bush

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Chris Regan, Peter Dufresne, Sandi Hubbard

1. **Call to Order**

Ken Knox, Chair, called meeting #1556 to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session for the following purposes:

- a. Bonnie Silvers moved to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to imminently likely litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair and to reconvene in open session. Dennis Sears seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Jeffrey Blaugrund – Yes; Jane Burke – Yes; Ken Knox – Yes;

Dennis Sears – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes, Jon Bruno - Yes

- b. Bonnie Silvers moved to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to imminently likely litigation related to the Town of Egremont and the South Egremont School, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee, as declared by the Chair and to reconvene in open session. Dennis Sears seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Jeffrey Blaugrund – Yes; Jane Burke – Yes; Ken Knox – Yes;

Dennis Sears – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes, Jon Bruno – Yes

Open Session reconvened at 6:36 p.m.

2. **Standing Reports**

- a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1555 of December 13, 2018

Jeffrey Blaugrund moved to approve the minutes of meeting #1555 as presented. David Travis seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting of December 6, 2018 (Open Session)

Bonnie Silvers moved to approve the minutes of Special School Committee Meeting of December 6, 2018 (open session) as submitted. Dennis Sears seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- c. Approval of Amended Minutes #1554 of November 29, 2018 as follows:

(Public Comment – Mr. Stewart made a request for the production of document pursuant to Massachusetts Public Records Law. Specifically, he requested executive session minutes for the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017).

Bonnie Silvers moved to approve amending the minutes of meeting #1554. David Travis seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

d. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that as of January 2, 2019 the total enrollment was at 693.

e. Miscellaneous Correspondence

Ken Knox informed the committee that the Town of Monterey had sent a letter regarding the Regional Assessment Review Committee and wished to express their gratitude to Ms. Regan for her efforts in presenting the various assessment methods. The letter also supports adding language to the regional agreement that will allow annual assessments approved at town meetings to stand even if the Commonwealth later changes its calculation of the town's proportionate shares. The Monterey Select Board and the Monterey Finance Committee signed the letter.

3. **Student Representative Report**

Mary Shalaby and Madeline Makuc gave a brief update of events that have occurred at the school.

The Juniors will be selling Donuts as a fundraiser

Finalists for Poetry Out Loud are Senior, Amber Follett; Junior Elizabeth Enoch; Sophomore Eli Hotaling; Freshman Isaiah Neski

The Senior Prom will be held at Crissy Farm this year.

The Monument Mountain and Mt. Everett school alliance will be hosting a winter ball, hosted by Monument. Date will be announced soon.

4. **Student Spotlight**

Laurel Dunsay and Benji Cohen talked briefly about the Middle School musical (grades 6-9) "Beauty and the Beast". The performances will be on January 25 at 7 p.m. and January 26 and 27 at 3 p.m. in the TACPAC.

5. **Public Comment -- None**

6. **New Business**

a. Approval of FFA Overnight Field trip to the Massachusetts State FFA Convention (March 13-15, 2019)
D. Melino

David Travis moved to approve the FFA Overnight Field Trip to the Massachusetts State FFA Convention (March 13-15, 2019). Art Batacchi seconded the motion.

Jane Burked thanked Danielle for the detailed information provided to the school committee and for her dedication to the students and district.

There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. School Committee Meetings in Member Towns

Superintendent Regulbuto asked the committee if they were still interested in holding the upcoming school committee meetings in each of the five towns. Discussion ensued. The committee agreed that it would be good to hold the meetings in each town and requested that we reach out to the towns with dates.

7. **Unfinished Business**

a. Subcommittee Assignments

Jon Bruno was added to the following subcommittees:

Collective Bargaining

Community Input and Outreach

Curriculum with Jeffrey Blaugrund as an alternate

Policy

8. **Business with District Member Towns**

a. Town of Egremont

Ken Knox stated that the District has reached an agreement with the Town of Egremont regarding the South Egremont School. The district will soon meet with the families to discuss the process of relocating to the South Egremont School.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

a. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears

Mr. Sears informed the committee that he was appointed Chair of the Finance Subcommittee and there has been no meeting since the last meeting, so there was nothing to report

b. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears

Will be bringing forth two items to the next meeting for review.

c. SBEF Ad Hoc Subcommittee – D. Sears

Mr. Sears reported that there was no quorum to hold the meeting.

10. **Chairman's Report**

Ken Knox reported that the subcommittee to review the executive session minutes would be meeting to review the minutes in order to declassify and release them as necessary.

The Community Input and Outreach subcommittee will also be meeting on January 17th and they would like teachers, PTO's and community at large to get involved and be a part of this committee.

Mr. Knox also encouraged everyone on the subcommittee list to call a reorganization meeting, if one has not already been scheduled. Mr. Knox asked the committee if they wanted to follow the written policy or change the policy on selecting members to a subcommittee.

11. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that Mr. Jon Friedman is leaving us. He has accepted a position as a School Adjustment Counselor in another district. His position has been posted and interviews will be conducted soon.

In addition, Chris Regan has submitted her letter of resignation for August of this year.

The district is preparing for the Middle School programming and this will be the topic at the next public forum.

The Town of Alford has asked the district's support in designing a flag for the Town of Alford (flags designed by the students).

12. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report** – (See attached)

Mr. Dufresne reported that the group continues to work on the middle school model and a review of the social studies curriculum has been scheduled. They are also reviewing the implementation of new digital citizenship standards and the incorporation of social emotional learning.

Further, Mr. Dufresne is working in conjunction with the Mt. Everett administration and guidance department to conduct a thorough review of the program of studies so that students meet or exceed the MASSCore recommendations for college and career readiness.

13. **Director of Student Services Report** – (See attached)

Sandi Hubbard reported that they have started budget development and is meeting with various faculty and staff members. She also reported that the School Adjustment Counselor, Susan Happ, is retiring and there is an event on January 24th at the Stage Coach.

14. **Business Manager's Report**

a. Approval of Warrants: December 14, 2018 and January 2, 2019

David Travis moved to approve the warrants of December 14, 2018 and January 2, 2019. Jane Burke seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. **Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts**

Bonnie Silvers moved to accept the grants and gifts as presented.

\$725 from the Old Parish Church. \$2,700 from the MA Cultural Council for STARS Residencies at NMC; \$2,500 from the MA Cultural Council for STARS Residencies at UME; \$2,300 from the MA Cultural Council for STARS Residencies at South Egremont School. Dennis Sears seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. **Budget Transfers**

David Travis moved to approve the budget transfer request as presented. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

15. **Future Agenda Items**

- Dennis Sears asked if a presentation on the new civics curriculum could be added at a future date.
- Maryellen Brown asked that the topic of late busses be added
- Jon Bruno – would like an update on the new security and lighting systems that were recently installed. David Travis suggested bringing this item to the Building, Grounds and Technology subcommittee agenda for discussion and bringing it back to the school committee. Beth informed that is no further update on the security other than what she has provided in her reports.
- Bonnie Silvers mentioned the Safety Summit. Superintendent Regalbuto stated that this will be reported out in an Executive Session Form – tentative date is in the spring.

17. **Adjourn**

Bonnie Silvers moved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.



Southern Berkshire Regional School District

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Teacher in Charge: Stephanie Graham Principal: Glenn Devoti
 Trip Location: New York, NY Grade Level of Students: 9-12
 Departure Date: March 7, 2019 Departure Time: 2:45 PM
 Return Date: March 8, 2019 Return Time: 6:45 PM

Purpose of Trip:

- Approach to a unit of work
- Enrichment experience related to curriculum framework
- Culminating activity to a unit
- Research for unit
- Enhancement of student learning in fine arts, world language
- Athletic event

Objectives of Trip: Analyze a body of work, or the work of one artist, explaining its meaning and impact on society, symbolism, and visual metaphor (Mass Standard 5.11). Learn history of graffiti and street art and observe work in context as well as in gallery spaces on exhibit, to be used as reference and research in a current NAHS projects at Mount Everett.

(Provide specific description of objectives and details.)

How will student learning be assessed? Through teacher observation and discussion, as well as through participation in explored ideas in sketchbook.

Description of Itinerary: Students will travel to and around NYC via metro-north and subway. We will depart Mount Everett after school on March 7 and will arrive at Grand Central

around 6:30, check into hotel, and then head to the Brooklyn Museum to see the Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving exhibit. (The museum is open until 10:00 PM on Thursdays).

The next morning we will meet for a street art tour of the lower east side. After lunch, we will visit a few sightseeing spots before heading back to Grand Central for the journey home.

Overnight accommodations:

Facility: Holiday Inn or Similar Phone # _____

Address: TBD

(OVER)

**SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM**

Transportation: Metro North and MTA subway

Meal Plan: Dinner March 7th, and breakfast, lunch the following day is at student's expense
at a chosen location tbd

Funding Source A Berkshire Art Association grant and the Art Department will subsidize the cost of the trip. The remaining balance will be paid by the participants. _____

Overnight trips are asked to provide 1 chaperone for every 6 students.

Names & phone #'s of chaperones:	CORI
<u>Stephanie Graham 914-489-1328</u>	<u>y</u>
<u>Shawn Fields</u>	<u>y</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Attach additional sheet of paper, if necessary)

Emergency Contact (SBRSD Administrator): Glenn Devoti

(Parents' names and phone numbers are to be provided to the emergency contact to be used in case of an emergency.)

Number of students attending: 10 or less

Names of student participants (listing to be attached to this slip)
.....

Principal's Approval: *Glenn R. Devoti* Date: 1/30/19

Superintendent's approval: *Blanca Regalado* Date: 1/31/19

Nurse's Approval: *Annmarie Moran* Date: 1-30-19

School Committee approval date: _____

Comments: _____

Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving

FEBRUARY 8–MAY 12, 2019 Robert E. Blum Gallery, 1st Floor

Purchase timed and untimed tickets through Showclix. Members are encouraged to reserve their complimentary tickets in advance.

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's unique and immediately recognizable style was an integral part of her identity. Kahlo came to define herself through her ethnicity, disability, and politics, all of which were at the heart of her work. *Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving* is the largest U.S. exhibition in ten years devoted to the iconic painter and the first in the United States to display a collection of her clothing and other personal possessions, which were rediscovered and inventoried in 2004 after being locked away since Kahlo's death, in 1954. They are displayed alongside important paintings, drawings, and photographs from the celebrated Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of 20th Century Mexican Art, as well as related historical film and ephemera. To highlight the collecting interests of Kahlo and her husband, muralist Diego Rivera, works from our extensive holdings of Mesoamerican art are also included.

Kahlo's personal artifacts—which range from noteworthy examples of Kahlo's Tehuana clothing, contemporary and pre-Colonial jewelry, and some of the many hand-painted corsets and prosthetics used by the artist during her lifetime—had been stored in the *Casa Azul* (Blue House), the longtime Mexico City home of Kahlo and Rivera, who had stipulated that their possessions not be disclosed until 15 years after Rivera's death. The objects shed new light on how Kahlo crafted her appearance and shaped her personal and public identity to reflect her cultural heritage and political beliefs, while also addressing and incorporating her physical disabilities.

Frida Kahlo: Appearances Can Be Deceiving is based on an exhibition at the V&A London curated by Claire Wilcox and Circe Henestrosa, with Gannit Ankori as curatorial advisor. Their continued participation has been essential to presenting the Brooklyn exhibition, which is organized by Catherine Morris, Sackler Senior Curator for the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art, and Lisa Small, Senior Curator, European Art, Brooklyn Museum, in collaboration with the Banco de México Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, and The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection of 20th Century Mexican Art and The Vergel Foundation.

"Street / Art, Lower East Side" Manhattan art walk

Manhattan

Send an invite now via text/email



Summary

Discover how the chaos of the Lower East Side has shaped—and continues to shape—the destiny of the art world. There's an incredible amount of street art in New York City whether Banksy (English) or eL Seed (Arabic) have "residencies" here or not. See and learn who and what inspired today's fascinating mix of paste-ups, stencils, memorials, tags and throws. Get the context behind Banksy's 2013 street art blitz (& his mini-visit this year) right here in the streets where hip hop and graffiti began. Besides the latest street art, we'll explore earlier art in and about the streets, and learn how museums like the New Museum and ICP have taken note. We'll stop into a handful of art galleries along the way, comparing and contrasting street art and graffiti with art on gallery walls. Around us, historic tenements mix with bold architectural innovation in this eclectic and ever-evolving neighborhood. No tour is ever the same... and artists, curators, or gallery owners often jump into the conversation! In addition to the aforementioned street artists and samplings from contemporary art stars, we regularly stumble upon the likes of Shepard Fairey, Invader, LEE, Kenny Scharf, Nick Walker, Os Gemeos, JR, and COPE.

Gotham Sidewalks

Street Art / Gallery walks: Brooklyn or Manhattan?

Rich was born in Cleveland in 1980. He spent his formative years exploring, playing sports, goofing off with friends, and making art. He studied hard enough to attend Fordham University in the Bronx, where he reveled in New York City's art and history. He met his future wife, graduated, then moved back to Ohio for a few years. Here he had his first art studio, managed an apartment complex, and studied more art and history. He moved back to NY and took work in the Brooklyn Museum's education department. Freelance cultural tours and art education followed, as did a wedding in 2009. Since that time, his art has focused on found-object collage, and he's enjoyed scattered art shows. Rich now lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two young kids. He divides his time between family, doing his own artwork, and planning creative tours for his company, Gotham SideWalks.

Show All

Mt. Everett Middle School

SBRSD believes that a true middle school model is necessary to meet the unique needs of middle-level learners. A true middle school allows teachers to leverage their time and talents to assist our students in maximizing their potential and provides a learning model that responds to their unique social-emotional and cognitive needs.

Current Middle School Experience	Reimagined/Redesigned Middle School Experience
A mini-high school-like experience with a limited ability for middle school teachers to make a connection between subject areas	Thematic units of study that connect across all subjects
A shared schedule with the high school	A stand-alone schedule that is geared towards the needs of middle-level learners
Faculty who are shared with the high school	Faculty dedicated to just middle school students and their needs
Without a formal curriculum to teach middle school students to leverage their ability to maximize their potential	Middle school specific success skills classes that teach organization, study habits, and how to leverage tools to succeed
Middle school discipline is not able to be specialized to meet the unique developmental needs of middle-level learners	A discipline system that better aligns to the developmental needs of middle school students (restorative justice)

Each grade will have its own theme through which students, using project-based learning, will begin to view the world.

Key component of the program is a stand alone student success skills class.

Grade 6 Theme	Grade 7 Theme	Grade 8 Theme
<p>Know Yourself-The students will begin to learn personal responsibility, including gaining an understanding of how they learn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Based Learning through Interdisciplinary Units • Student Success Skills Class • Use of Self-Reflective Learning Instruments • Web 2.0 Technology Skills Implementation 	<p>Know Your School – The students will begin to learn to use the school as a tool to further their learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to use the school as a tool for their success • Post-Secondary Planning Begins • Study Skills will be taught in our Success Skills Class • Academic Risk-Taking 	<p>Know Your Community – The students will begin to learn community-based responsibility through service learning projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Service Learning • Stress Management Skills • Financial Literacy • Student led teacher conferences

Mt. Everett Middle School

Faculty Experience	Student Experience
<p>Common Planning Time So that thematic units of study can be developed Students who are falling through the cracks can be addressed.</p>	<p>SEL Program Advisory Curriculum Standalone Supports</p>
Grade Level Specific Teams of Faculty	Flexible Scheduling of Classes
Team Leaders	Structured Support
Consistent Discipline and Support across the MS	Advisory & Real World Experiences
Middle School Model	Grade Level Specific Success Skills Class
Single Middle School Administrator	Project Based Learning/Field Trips Real World Experiences

The core of our work in the reimagined Mt. Everett Middle School will be centered around our student success skills class. This class will include time and resources to give our students the skills they need to leverage their talents. Topics will include:

Leadership/Citizenship Skills	Study Skills/Note Taking	Financial Literacy
Current Events	Organization	Digital Citizenship Skills
Coping Skills/Stress Relief	Team Building	Integrity



SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 14, 2019

Beth L. Regalbuto

Superintendent

Christine Regan

Business Administrator

E. Bonnie Silvers

School Committee Chair

Françoise Lartigue

School Committee Vice Chair

School Committee Members

Arthur J. Batacchi, Jr.

Maryellen A. Brown

Marcella Bush

Ken Knox

Tim Schroepfer

H. Dennis Sears

Carl Stewart

David Travis

Senator Adam Hinds
24 Beacon Street, Room 309
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Smitty Pignatelli
Room 448, State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Hinds and Representative Pignatelli:

First, we want to thank you for your efforts in getting additional aid to rural school districts in the FY19 budget. As you are so very much aware, districts such as ours are struggling greatly due to the additional costs and challenges small, rural districts must face.

Our understanding is that *“a school district shall be eligible for rural school aid if a school district has a student density of not more than 21 students per square mile and an average annual per capita income of not more than the average annual per capita income for the commonwealth for the same period, as reported by the United States Census Bureau; provided further, that school districts serving fewer than 11 students per square mile shall be given priority for rural school aid.”*

Southern Berkshire Regional School District was included in the list of anticipated recipients in the analyses that Mike Buoniconti originally provided to us. We were anxiously awaiting official news regarding the amount of aid we would be receiving. When the press release came out about the announcement of awards, we were surprised and disappointed that SBRSD was not among the recipients.

Since we have only 4.3 students per square mile and our average per capita income in the Department of Revenue and in the DESE Chapter 70 formula calculates at just over \$29,000, we got in touch with Rob O'Donnell from DESE, via phone and email, to discuss this with him. He pointed out that the law requires the use of the US Census Bureau data, which only includes tax filers and their listed dependents.

The per capita figures provided by the DOR and shown in the DESE Chapter 70 minimum required contribution calculation sheets uses the entire population. Total population for our five towns in 2015 was 7,322. Total income was approximately \$214,409,000. This results in a calculated per capita income figure of \$29,283.

The population figure that DESE used, based on the 2015 US Census data, is only 5,449 (excluding 1,873 members of our communities). Rob indicated that DESE could only attribute the income to the people listed in the filed tax returns. This indicates to me that 1,873 people within our five communities did not file a tax return in that year. Alternatively, could it be possible that many people who do file their returns but have PO boxes/addresses in a non-district town are not included in our data? Whatever the cause, by using this calculation, our per capita income rose to \$39,276, making us ineligible for the FY19 rural aid.

We do not know why there is such a large variance between the total number of people who live within our communities and the total number of people who were included in the tax returns that our residents filed that year. However, it seems that counting only income tax return filers and their listed dependents in the Rural School Aid formula would penalize communities with a large number of residents who earn under \$8,000 don't wish to claim any refundable tax credits, and who therefore don't file. We have no idea which communities this might effect, but it seems a bit inconsistent with the intent of the law.

There may have been a great deal of discussion about these two different methods of calculating per capita income when the law was being written. If so, we would be interested in hearing about the decision to use the US Census data. However, because there is such a wide variance in the results of these two methods of calculating per capita income, we would like to ask that your office look into this issue before future awards are given. It may be possible that SBRSD would not qualify for aid if all communities' per capita income were calculated using total population, but an analysis that the District did when trying to sort this out indicates that this may not be the case. We compared SBRSD and our neighboring district, Berkshire Hills Regional. Berkshire Hills *did* qualify for the FY19 rural aid, but even though our per capita income using total population is about 24% lower than theirs, SBRSD surprisingly did not.

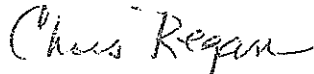
2015 Income/Capita, per DLS At-A-Glance Reports							
	Population	Income/Capita	Calculated Income		Population	Income/Capita	Calculated Income
Alford	495	\$ 40,075	\$ 19,837,125	Great Barrington	6907	\$ 39,330	\$ 271,652,310
Egremont	1210	\$ 27,009	\$ 32,680,890	Stockbridge	1938	\$ 35,392	\$ 68,589,696
Monterey	948	\$ 27,466	\$ 26,037,768	West Stockbridge	1274	\$ 38,656	\$ 49,247,744
New Marlborough	1478	\$ 24,041	\$ 35,532,598				
Sheffield	3191	\$ 31,438	\$ 100,318,658				
S Berkshire RSD	7322	\$ 150,029	\$ 214,407,039	Berkshire Hills RSD	10119	\$ 113,378	\$ 389,489,750
		average	\$ 29,283			average	\$ 38,491

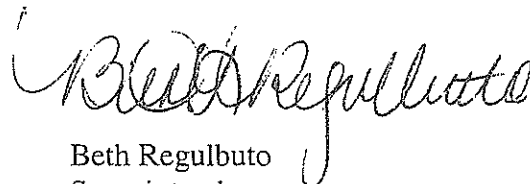
2015 Income, Per DESE Chapter 70 Minimum Required Contribution Data

	Total 2015 Income for DESE Chapter 70			Calculated Income/Capita	Total 2015 Income for DESE Chapter 70			Calculated Income/Capita
	Population	Formula			Population	Formula		
Aiford	495	\$ 19,837,000	\$	40,075	Great Barrington	6907	\$ 271,655,000	\$ 39,330
Egremont	1210	\$ 32,681,000	\$	27,009	Stockbridge	1938	\$ 68,590,000	\$ 35,392
Monterey	948	\$ 26,038,000	\$	27,466	West Stockbridge	1274	\$ 49,248,000	\$ 38,656
New Marlborough	1478	\$ 35,533,000	\$	24,041				
Sheffield	3191	\$ 100,320,000	\$	31,438				
S Berkshire RSD	7322	\$ 214,409,000	\$	150,030	Berkshire Hills RSD	10119	\$ 389,493,000	\$ 113,379
		average	\$	29,283		average	\$	38,491

We thank you in advance for considering this information. We would like to invite you to meet with us and other SBRSD representatives so that we can understand the rationale behind this. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Christine P. Regan
Business Administrator


Beth Regulbuto
Superintendent

Cc: SBRSD School Committee Chair, Ken Knox

Senator Adam Hinds' District Office
100 North Street, Suite 410
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Representative Smitty Pignatelli
Lenox Town Hall
PO Box 2228
Lenox, MA 01240



Blizzard Bags

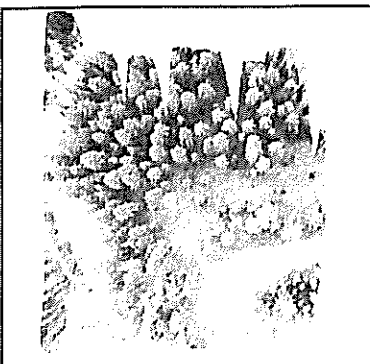
What are they and should we plan for them in the SBRSD

The Why?

Two main factors in considering a move to Blizzard Bags:

- Mandatory hours and days of school
- The increasing number of weather related cancellations

ALPINE SKI HOUSE 2



MA DESE MANDATES FOR TIME ON LEARNING

MA General Law, CMR 27.06 states:

the school is providing at least 180 days for students

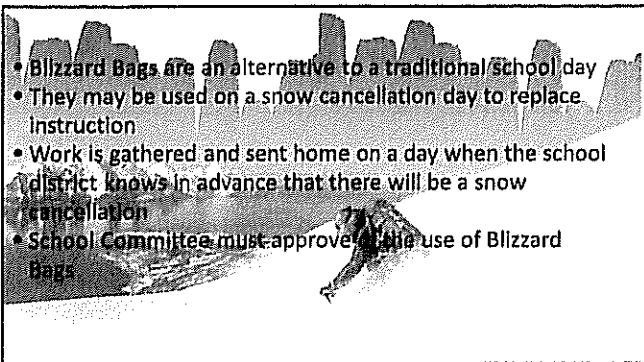
- 900 hours for elementary schools
- 990 hours for secondary schools
- 425 hours for kindergarten

ALPINE SKI HOUSE

MA DESE STATES THAT

- School districts can approve locally the use of "Blizzard Bags" or E-Learning Days to count towards their hours of instruction.
- As the number of snow days increases the traditional school year extends.
- While possible to go past the end of the fiscal year it is not advisable.
- If the 180 days + hours mandates are not met within the framework of a traditional school year several things are happening across the state.
 - Days may be taken out of the annual spring break.
 - Cancellation of traditional long weekends.
 - The school year may extend into July.

ALPINE SKI HOUSE 4



- **Blizzard Bags are an alternative to a traditional school day**
- **They may be used on a snow cancellation day to replace instruction**
- **Work is gathered and sent home on a day when the school district knows in advance that there will be a snow cancellation**
- **School Committee must approve the use of Blizzard Bags**

Potential challenges to consider

- **What if not all students perform the work in the Blizzard Bags?**
- **What are the thresholds/consequences for not performing the work?**
- **Time to develop the Blizzard Bags must be considered**
- **Faculty must be "on call" to answer questions during a Blizzard Bag Day.**
- **Certain employee contracts would need to be discussed in terms of the Blizzard Bags**

Proposed new version of JFABB - ADMISSION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

The School Committee may grant approval for non-US residents to attend district schools through programs under whose sponsorship foreign students will reside in the district. The School Committee will also, as part of such approval, determine whether such students will be admitted with no tuition or under tuition amounts approved by the School Committee.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District Curriculum Report

1.31.19

STRATEGIC

This month begins planning for SY 19-20 in terms of curriculum, instruction, and professional development. Curriculum in the areas of mathematics and science have been reviewed and ordered. Additionally, the roll out of our FASTBridge formative assessment system has begun. A team from Undermountain Elementary visited the Pittsfield Public Schools on 1.23.19 to view how the assessment system is utilized during an open test window. The early feedback on the visit was positive. The entire district underwent a webinar training on FASTBridge on 1.18.19 as well. Moving forward we will begin the process of opening the test window ourselves and moving through an iteration of the testing cycle.

OPERATIONAL

Our work on reviewing and fine-tuning the Mt. Everett Program of Studies continued this past month. I have met with department heads and secondary administration to ascertain what aligning our coursework more closely with the MASSCore curriculum will do for our students. This discussion could have schedule implications as well. The Mt. Everett guidance counselors are reviewing different programs of study and visiting several schools in order to glean best practices to incorporate into our course work.

Further we have contracted with Dr. Chris Weber in order to better align our Response to Intervention (RTI) protocols to research based best practices. Dr. Weber has worked in both the Los Angeles and Chicago public school systems and is a recognized leader in RTI implementation. Dr. Weber will be working with our RTI leadership teams on 3.8.19 in the morning and our entire faculty in the afternoon.

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALFORD • EGREMONT • MONTEREY • NEW MARLBOROUGH • SHEFFIELD

14

OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

Sandra Hubbard - Director

P.O. Box 326 - Sheffield, Massachusetts 01257

Phone (413) 229-8265

Fax (413) 229-7863

January 31, 2019

To: Superintendent Regalbuto, School Committee Members, and the SBRSD School Community

From: Sandi Hubbard, Director of Student Services

Re: January 31, 2019 Director's Report for School Committee Meeting

Hello!

Please join me in wishing our colleague, School Adjustment Counselor Susan Happ, all the best in her retirement. Susan leaves us after 33 years of service and her last day was today. Over the course of the years, she has been committed to providing students, families, and staff with programs and support that go way beyond the scope of her position. Susan was recognized by the students and staff at a gathering yesterday during the Character Assembly. Thank you so much for everything, Susan! You will be greatly missed!

A Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting is being scheduled for late February. All families are welcome and we will be working on developing binders that contain information that can be helpful to parents as they work with the schools to support their children. This should be a very informative and productive meeting. The SEPAC leadership will be sending out more details very soon.

We are reviewing last year's budget and this year's needs. Beyond the general budget, special education grants support our programming. The IDEA 240 is a federal grant that we receive each year and typically is used for individual student program placements. In FY19, we received \$262,000 and anticipate a similar allotment in FY20. We will share more information at upcoming finance meetings.

Have a great weekend and stay warm!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi

FY19 WARRANTS SIGNED
WARRANT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING, 1-11-19

	Date	Voucher #	Total Amount:	General Fund Amount:
Manual Warrant	12/31/2018	1205	\$ 141,644.79	\$ 141,621.43
Health Insurance Warrant				
Vendor Warrant	1/11/2019	1301	\$ 247,709.33	\$ 193,611.35
P-Card Warrant	10/31/2018	1006	\$ 3,490.08	\$ 2,239.10
Payroll Warrant	12/20/2018		\$ 373,371.72	\$ 350,182.80
			<u>\$ 766,215.92</u>	<u>\$ 687,654.68</u>

FY19 WARRANTS SIGNED
WARRANT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING, 1-25-19

	Date	Voucher #	Total Amount:	General Fund Amount:
Manual Warrant				
Health Insurance Warrant	12/1/2018	1203	\$ 311,778.00	\$ 291,560.00
Health Insurance Warrant	1/1/2019	1302	\$ 310,980.80	\$ 290,344.24
Health Insurance Warrant	2/1/2019	1401	\$ 311,803.20	\$ 291,420.16
Vendor Warrant	1/25/2019	1303	\$ 78,555.31	\$ 61,844.66
P-Card Warrant				
Payroll Warrant				
			<u>\$ 1,013,117.31</u>	<u>\$ 935,169.06</u>

15a.

GRANTS FUNDER	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	YES	10/25/2018
DESE - TITLE I (305)	\$ 194,531	Assistance to district to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Funding is based primarily on census poverty estimates.	YES	10/25/2018
DESE - TITLE IIA (140)	\$ 33,394	Teacher Quality - mentoring, professional development	YES	10/25/2018
DESE - TITLE IV-A (309)	\$ 13,828	Safety supplies, Professional Development, Technology - Supplemental resources to build capacity to help ensure that all students have equitable access to high quality educational experiences.	YES	10/25/2018
DESE - CONNECTING ACTIVITIES	\$ 3,500	Supports college and career readiness for all students. Connects schools and businesses by providing structured work-based learning experiences that support both their academic and employability skill attainment.	YES	10/25/2018
MA DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH - ESSENTIAL SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES	\$ 3,000	Nurses' training, supplies	YES	10/25/2018
COLLEGE CLUB	\$ 575	Commercial Design Studio Service Project (Culinary)	YES	11/29/2018
DESE - PERKINS (400)	\$ 14,286	Vocational classroom supplies, travel/conference	YES	11/29/2018
MA Cultural Council	\$ 2,700	STARS Residencies Grant - NMC	YES	1/10/2019
MA Cultural Council	\$ 2,500	STARS Residencies Grant - UME	YES	1/10/2019
MA Cultural Council	\$ 2,300	STARS Residencies Grant - South Egremont School	YES	1/10/2019
MA Cultural Council	\$ 1,200	STARS Residencies Grant - Mt. Everett Middle and High School	YES	1/10/2019
GRANTS	\$ 653,143			

15c

**BUDGET TRANSFER REQUESTS
JANUARY 31, 2019 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

FUNCTION	TRANSFER OUT	TRANSFER IN
2415 Instructional Materials	\$ (472)	
2440 Other Instructional Services		\$ 472
4230 Maintenance of Equipment		\$ 2,000
4450 Technology Maintenance		\$ 1,175
5200 Insurance - Active Employees	\$ (105,175)	*
9110 School Choice Tuition Expense		\$ 102,000
	<u>\$ (105,647)</u>	<u>\$ 105,647</u>
		\$ -

*** NOTE: Due to lower than anticipated claims:**
Berkshire Health Group will be giving the district and our active employees on our active health insurance plans a one-month premium holiday. These funds will cover a projected increased cost in school choice tuition expense over what was budgeted for FY19, along with some other smaller adjustments.

December 2017 State Projection for School Choice Tuition Expense	\$ 552,405
FY18 Budget for School Choice Tuition Expense	\$ 555,000
December 2018 State Projection for School Choice Tuition Expense	\$ 656,924