

PLEASE POST

Posted: Friday, October 18, 2019

Amended agenda posted: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 11:15 a.m.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING #1,571 - AMENDED**

**Date:** Thursday, October 24, 2019

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mt. Everett Library, 491 Berkshire School Rd, Sheffield, MA 01257

**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. **Standing Reports**
  - a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1570 of October 3, 2019
  - b. Miscellaneous Correspondence
3. **Student Representative Report**
4. **Student Spotlight**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **New Business**
  - a. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding, Unit A, Schedule C – Vote Required
  - b. MCAS Presentation
7. **Unfinished Business**
8. **Business with District Member Towns**
9. **Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears
  - b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears
  - c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – D. Travis
  - d. Negotiation Subcommittee – B. Silvers
  - e. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi
  - f. Community, Input and Outreach Subcommittee – B. Silvers
  - g. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis & P. Dufresne
  - h. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears
10. **Chairman's Report**
11. **Superintendent's Report**

12. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report**

13. **Director of Student Services Report**

14. **Business Manager's Report**

- a. Approval of Warrants: October 4, 2019 and October 18, 2019
- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts
- c. Budget Transfers

15. **Future Agenda Items**

- Superintendent's Goals –November 14, 2019 meeting
- Strategy for Continuous Improvement – November 14, 2019 meeting
- School Improvement Plans – December 19, 2019 meeting

16. **Executive Session**

Pursuant to Purpose 1 of the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1)), to consider an Open Meeting Law complaint against a public officer, namely the members of the School Committee, such complaint having been filed with the District by Jennifer Brown on October 18, 2019; and pursuant to Purpose 7 (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7)) to comply with or act under the authority of a Massachusetts General Law by receiving legal advice from counsel protected from disclosure under Massachusetts General Law with the relevant citations of law being M.G.L. c.4, §7(26); M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1); and M.G.L. c.214, §1B. and to reconvene in open session to vote on response to OML complaint.  
Roll Call Vote

17. **Vote on Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint**

18. **Executive Session:**

Motion to enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and not to reconvene in open session.  
Roll Call Vote Required.

Next School Committee Meetings:

November 14, 2019	December 19, 2019	January 9, 2020	January 30, 2020	
February 13, 2020	March 5, 2020	March 12, 2020	April 2, 2020	April 30, 2020
May 21, 2020	June 18, 2020			

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.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness.

School Committee: Jane Burke, Jonathan Bruno, Maryellen Brown, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers, Danile Kelly, Jeffrey Blaugrund 2a.

Absent: Art Batacchi, David Travis

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Peter Dufresne, Sandra Hubbard, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter, Chris Desjardins

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis – Berkshire Record

Others: Amanda Rogers-Thieriot, Doug Daponde, Tricia Zucco, Amy Carpenter, Michelle Raszl, Stephanie Graham, Vicky Russell, Lacey Zucco, Brady Carpenter

1. **Call to Order**

Jane Burke called meeting #1570 to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1569 of September 12, 2019  
Motion to approve the minutes of #1569 of September 12, 2019 with change.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Marcella Bush

Discussion: Change Mr. Dennis to Mr. Sears

Vote: Unanimous

b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that enrollment was at 683 as of October 1, 2009 down by 3 students from September 1, 2019. Also included was a report showing the enrollment from prior years as of October and June. Enrollment was down from October 1, 2018 from 697 to 683 as of October 1, 2019 and down from June 2018 from 692 to 689 as of June 2019.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

3. **Student Representative Report** – Michelle Shalaby was unable to attend to present the Student Representative Report.

4. **Student Spotlight**

Lacey Zucco and Brady Carpenter talked about their visit to the Sheffield Historical Society for a day of living history. Slide Show followed.

5. **Public Comment**

Amanda Rogers-Thieriot informed the school committee that the PTO, in conjunction with the Sheffield Police Department, will again be holding “Trunk or Treat” on October 25, 2019 from 4 – 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

6. **New Business**

a. Request from Michelle Raszl to establish a Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Art & Literary Magazine “The Alter Ego”

Motion to approve the Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Art & Literary Magazine “The Alter Ego”

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: Michelle explained that this club was founded in 1981 and then there was a hiatus. There are currently 12 students interested and in 2019 a graduate received a literary award from ARISIA and part of that honor was a \$150 award allocated for The Alter Ego. This money will be used for printing costs. The goal is to sell and distribute two issues of The Alter Ego each academic year.

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Request to Set June 6, 2020 at Tanglewood for Commencement Ceremonies to begin at 10:00 a.m. - Mt. Everett Class of 2020

Motion to approve June 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for Tanglewood commencement ceremonies.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Approval of the National Art Honor Society Class Overnight Field Trip to New York City from October 24-27, 2019 – S. Graham

Motion to approve the overnight field trip to NYC from October 24-27, 2019

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Marcella Bush

Discussion: Stephanie informed the committee that the group will be going to NYC and also meeting up with the students who will be visiting from China and will be returning with them.

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Graham also informed the school committee that some of our students are participating in a visual art/dance workshop in conjunction with Cave Dogs. The production Liquid States will be performed at Bard College on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

- d. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding, Unit E, Extension of Contract – Vote Required

Motion to approve the MOU, Unit E, Extension of Contract to June 30, 2021.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. **Unfinished Business** – None.

8. **Business with District Member Towns** – None.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears

Mr. Sears reported that the SBEF subcommittee had met on October 2, 2019 and the main topic of the meeting was the discussion going on between the eight towns and the two districts.

The subcommittee would like to bring forward the following motion:

The SBRSD School Committee endorses the formation of a Regional School District Planning Committee.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: Ms. Silvers reported that the decision that they came to yesterday was that both the towns and school committees have the ability to move ahead. The formation of this committee was not to begin anything, but to show in good faith that we are prepared to move ahead with our discussions by requesting approval of forming a Regional School District Planning Committee. The planning committee will become the actual planning board.

All 8 towns have expressed an interest in investigating this. Mr. Sears will check with DESE to see if it is possible to add town members to this committee and not just limit it to school committee members.

Bonnie reiterated that the purpose of this motion was only to give the authority to establish the committee, and not to name who was on the committee or take any further actions.

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears reported that no meeting was held.
- c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – D. Travis  
Ms. Burke reported that the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee had met on September 18, 2019. David Travis was unable to attend but Mr. Bruno reported on the meeting as follows:
  - The committee had reviewed and discussed the new evaluation tools that would be used for the Superintendent’s evaluation and performance and that had been recently proposed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.
  - Superintendent Regulbuto’s 2019 evaluation was also reviewed. Copies were available at the meeting and also posted on the website.
  - Progress that the Superintendent and her team have made towards the “Next Steps” that were called out in the evaluation, in particular, improved communication.
  - More opportunities have been created for various stakeholders to work together to continue to improve communication channels to strengthen the community’s awareness of the District’s priorities.
  - A calendar listing all of the meeting dates for faculty, curriculum leaders, PAC, Instructional Support Teams, etc. was distributed to all staff at orientation.
  - The committee will be looking at the Superintendent’s FY20 goals and will consider making a proposal to the full school committee at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding her contract.
- d. Negotiation Subcommittee – B. Silvers reported that no meeting was held but that the negotiation subcommittee will need to meet soon to review and approve some stipends.
- e. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi was not present, but no meetings have been held.
- f. Community, Input and Outreach Subcommittee – B. Silvers reported that no meeting was held.
- g. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis & P. Dufresne reported that no meeting had been held.
- h. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears reported that no meeting had been held.

## 10. Chairman’s Report

Jane Burke, Chair, thanked the school committee for all their hard work. On September 17<sup>th</sup> the school committee held their retreat with 2 consultants from MASC. Another session is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jane recommended that everyone communicate via the school email and to check to see if they are working. Nadine Hawver has invited the committee to attend the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also thanked the administrative team for doing an excellent job.

## 11. Superintendent's Report (attached)

Superintendent Regalbuto reported on the following:

- Jesse Carpenter introduced Mr. Douglas Daponte the new Secondary Assistant Principal to the School Committee.
- **Student Opportunity Act** significantly helps school districts that serve high percentages of low-income students. According to the Joint Committee on Education, this Act makes an unprecedented, new \$1.5 billion investment in public education in an attempt to ensure that public schools have adequate resources to provide a quality education to students regardless of zip code or income level. Of importance to note – the Governor's Office released projected Chapter 70 estimates to the public yesterday, and the Senate President Spilka issued a statement saying that the information was incomplete and inaccurate and advised communities not to rely on this information for FY21 budget planning.
- **Rural Aid Funding** – Again this year SBRSD was not one of the 34 school districts located in western and central Massachusetts and on Cape Cod, to receive the FY20 Rural School Aid award. Superintendent Regalbuto reported that she, and the Business Manager, had spent time last year advocating strongly to have criteria 2 of the formula reviewed and changed to support the needs of the communities. She encouraged the School Committee, District and member towns to contact our legislative representatives to express our disappointment and to renew our requests.
- **After School Programing** – Ms. Julie Barros has taken on the role of After School Program Coordinator and created a survey for the school community to respond to in an effort to find out what needs and interests exist for this type of programing.
- **South County Speaker Opportunity – Vaping, Juuling & E Cigarettes**  
Superintendent Regalbuto reported that the nurse from the Town of Richmond has been working on this initiative, and Peter Dillon, BHRSD Superintendent, has reached out to all South County Districts to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring a speaker on the topic of Vaping, Juuling and E Cigarettes.  
Patrick Reynolds, the grandson of tobacco company founder R.J. Reynolds, who turned his back on the family business, is a national speaker on this topic. Mr. Reynolds' speaker fee is \$4,000 plus travel of \$1,500. This fee will cover two talks. Superintendent Dillon would like to know by October 11<sup>th</sup> if we would co-sponsor one of the talks for our community. The Administrative Team is on board with this.  
Discussion ensued. Mr. Blaugrund would like to see quantifying data after the presentation.  
Motion: School Committee approves up to \$2,000 to be used to co-sponsor a presentation by Mr. Patrick Reynolds on the topic of Vaping, Juuling and E Cigarettes.  
By: Bonnie Silvers  
Second: Marcella Bush  
Vote: Unanimous

## 12. Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report (attached)

Mr. Dufresne reported that the 2019 MCAS results are in and will be mailed out to the parents sometime next week. Also, the half professional day on October 11<sup>th</sup> will focus on educator licensure, FASTBridge software training, and a tabletop safety exercise led by Superintendent Regalbuto and Officer Zucco.

### 13. Director of Student Services Report (attached)

- Ms. Hubbard reported that the IDEA240 and Integrated PreK 262 grants were submitted and approved.
- The SEPAC meeting was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Eagles Loft.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), which is funded by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is being offered to some of our students. The goal is to assist high school students to prepare for the “world of work and adulthood” by providing career counseling, work readiness training and work based learning experiences.
- Berkshire County high school students, ages 16 (sometimes younger) to 24 currently enrolled in high school or post-secondary education established on a MRC Rehabilitation Counselor’s caseload are eligible.

### 14. Business Manager’s Report

a. Approval of Warrants: September 20, 2019

Motion to approve the warrant of September 13 and 20, 2019 as presented

By: Jonathan Bruno

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion ensued.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts – None.

c. Budget Transfers

Motion to accept budget transfers as presented (\$1,700 from Contracted Services SPED to General Supplies SPED to cover cost of furniture).

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Chris Desjardins reported that the minimum contribution for 3 towns increased by \$26,670 due to Chapter 70 adjustments. We will not be getting the money and will have to be absorbed.

### 15. Future Agenda Items

- Superintendent’s Goals – October 24, 2019 meeting
- MCAS Presentation – October 24, 2019 meeting
- Strategy for Continuous Improvement – November 14, 2019 meeting
- School Improvement Plans – December 19, 2019 meeting

### 16. Executive Session

Pursuant to Exception 3 - Motion to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee and District, as declared by the chair and not to reconvene in open session.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Jonathan Bruno

## Roll Call Vote

Jane Burke - Yes, Jonathan Bruno - Yes, Maryellen Brown - Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Dennis Sears - Yes, Bonnie Silvers - Yes, Danile Kelly – Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes

### *Documents presented at this meeting:*

- *Agenda Meeting #1570*
- *Minutes meeting #1569*
- *Request to establish The Alter Ego student activity account*
- *National Art Honor Society Class Field Trip*
- *Approval of MOU, Unit E, Extension of Contract*
- *Superintendent Evaluation*
- *Superintendent's Report*
- *Curriculum & Professional Development Report*
- *Director of Student Services*
- *Warrant of September 20, 2019*
- *Budget Transfers*



**THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
AND  
THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, UNIT A  
(TEACHERS)**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

This **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee (“the School Committee”) and the Southern Berkshire Regional Education Association, Unit A (“the Association”) on the dates set forth below.

**WHEREAS**, the School Committee and the Association are parties to a Settlement Agreement and Addendum to its 2015-2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement dated September 29, 2016 relative to the inclusion of certain extra duty position connected to its Drama program (hereinafter “the 2016 Drama Stipend Agreement”); and

**WHEREAS**, since entering into the Drama Stipend Agreement the Parties entered into a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement that is effective from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2021 (“the CBA”); and,

**WHEREAS**, through oversight of the Parties, the Amendments to the CBA agreed to pursuant to the 2016 Drama Stipend Agreement were not incorporated into the CBA; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Parties wish to address the issue of the continuing application of the 2016 Drama Stipend Agreement as well as address certain changes to such stipends; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Parties’ bargaining representatives have met and negotiated in good faith over these aforementioned changes to the Drama stipends; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of mutual promises and covenants, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

- 1. The CBA is amended by adding a new Schedule C to Appendix B in the form attached hereto.

**WHEREFORE**, the Parties have caused this **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** to be executed by their duly-authorized representatives.

**For the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee:**

**For the Southern Berkshire Regional Education Association, Unit A:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane Burke, Chair  
Duly Authorized  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Barrett, President  
Duly Authorized  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
AND  
THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, UNIT A  
(TEACHERS)**

**APPENDIX B – SCHEDULE C – DRAMA PROGRAM  
EXTRA DUTY DIFFERENTIALS  
September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2021**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Effective September 1, 2018</b>	<b>Effective September 1, 2019</b>
Director	\$2,375.00	\$2,375.00
High School Musical Director	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
High School Pianist	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00
Choreographer	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Elementary/Middle School Musical Director	\$1,250.00	\$1,750.00
Elementary/Middle School Pianist	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Stage Manager and Props	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Costume Designer	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00
Pit Band Director	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Master Carpenter	\$750.00	\$750.00
Lighting Design	\$750.00	\$750.00
Sound	\$525.00	\$525.00
Scenic Design	\$525.00	\$525.00
Playbill/Ads	\$350.00	\$350.00
Box Office Manager	\$300.00	\$300.00
Costume Assistant (Elementary/Middle/HS)	N/A	\$300.00
Musician	\$300.00	\$500.00

# SBRSD MCAS PERFORMANCE REPORT



## SBRSD MCAS REPORT

- [For more information go to School and District Profile Reports](#)
- Process of developing school and district rankings is incredibly complex
  - Some scores are from Legacy MCAS and some from Next Gen MCAS
  - As Next Gen has moved its way up the grade levels some accountability determinations are based strictly on subgroup data (School Leaders Guide, pg 36)
  - There are normative and criterion based components within the Next Gen performance structure. It is still loosely based on Legacy MCAS Indices
- This is a simple snapshot view of a sophisticated data picture



# COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE INDEX EXPLAINED... SORT OF.

## Composite Performance Index

The CPI is a 100-point index that assigns 100, 75, 50, 25, or 0 points to each student

- Each student (Legacy MCAS) takes the MCAS and falls within a certain band
  - Exceeds Expectations (100)
  - Meeting Expectations (75)
  - Partially Meeting Expectations (50)
  - Not Meeting Expectations (25)
  - Did not participate (0)



# IF 40 STUDENTS TOOK THE MCAS AND SCORED:

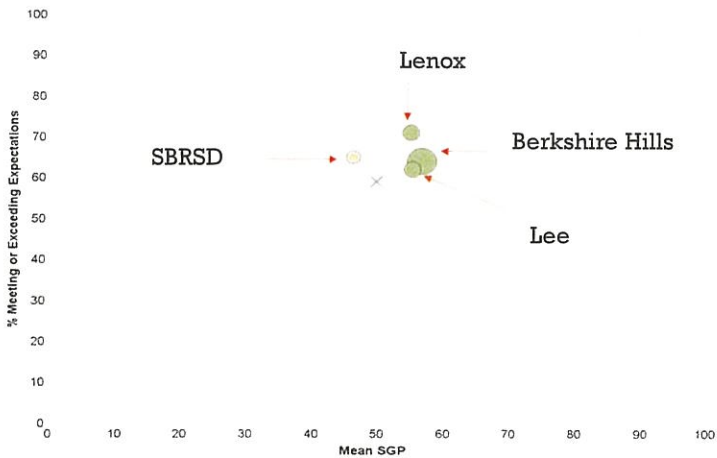
Legacy MCAS Achievement Level (Scaled Score Range)	MCAS-Alt Achievement Level	Points per Student	# of Students	Total Points
Proficient or Advanced (240-280)	Progressing (certain disabilities)	100	25	2500
Needs Improvement - High (230-238)	Progressing or Emerging	75	5	375
Needs Improvement - Low (220-228)	Awareness	50	5	250
Warning/Failing - High (210-218)	Portfolio Incomplete	25	4	100
Warning/Failing - Low (200-208)	Portfolio not Submitted	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>3225</b>
<small>CPI (3225 ÷ 40)</small>				<b>80.6</b>

Of course this is a made up example. The Next Gen MCAS uses subgroups/normative and criterion based data, plus student growth.

[Here](#) is our District Profile, currently SBRSD is making Moderate Progress towards our Improvement Targets

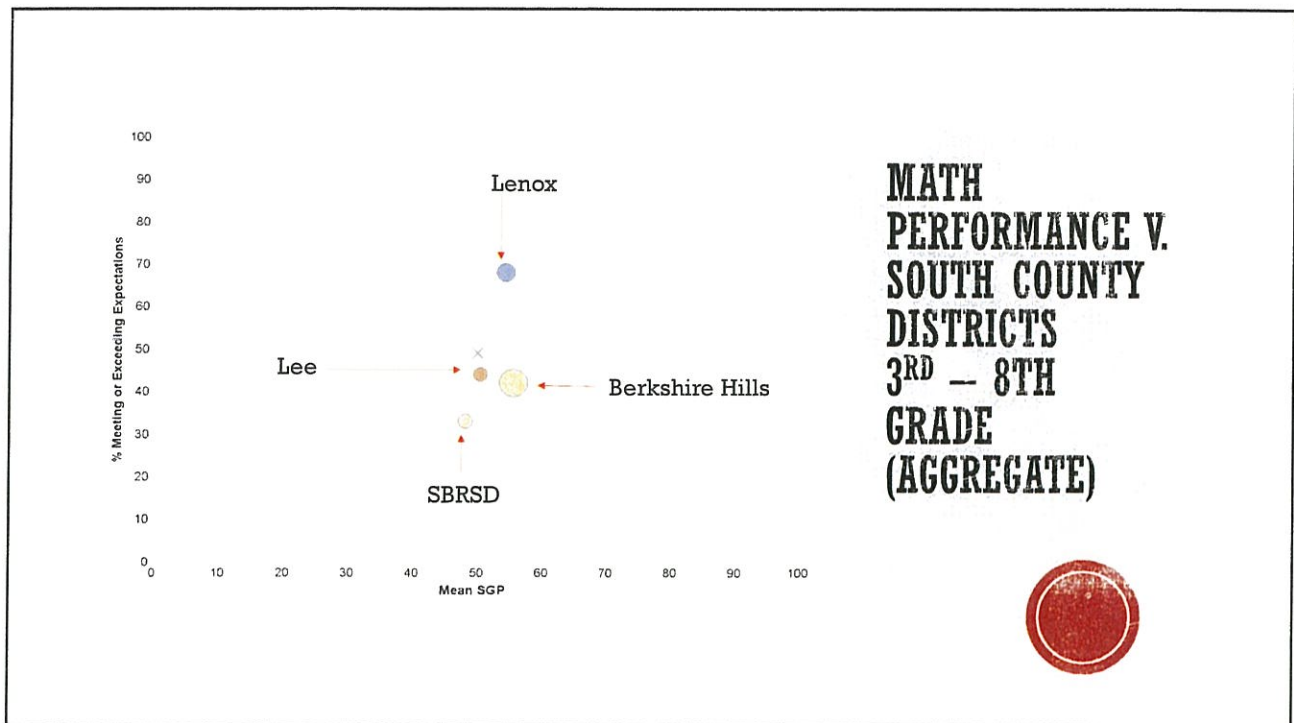
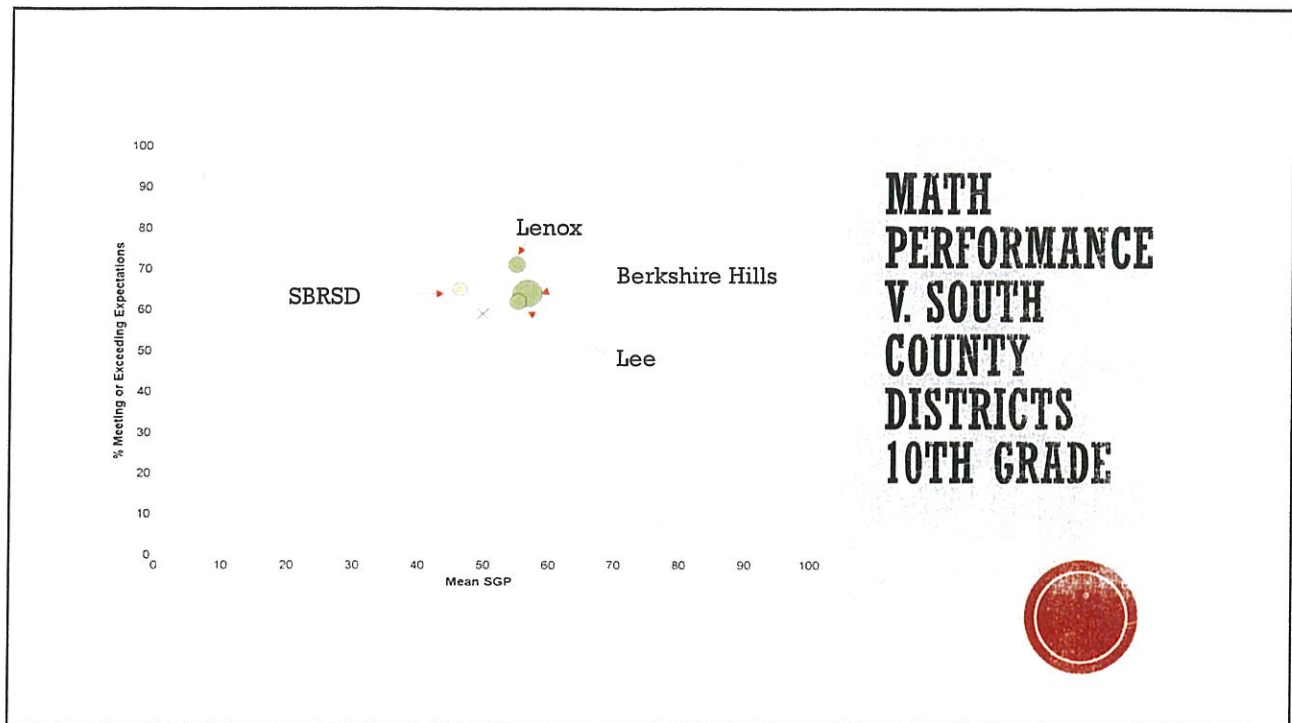


# ELA PERFORMANCE V. SOUTH COUNTY DISTRICTS 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



# ELA PERFORMANCE V. SOUTH COUNTY DISTRICTS 3<sup>RD</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE (AGGREGATE)





13

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

**OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES**  
**Sandra Hubbard - Director**  
P.O. Box 326 - Sheffield, Massachusetts 01257  
Phone (413) 229-8265  
Fax (413) 229-7863

October 23, 2019

To: Superintendent Regalbuto, School Committee Members, and the SBRSD School Community  
From: Sandi Hubbard, Director of Student Services  
Re: October 24 Director's Report for School Committee Meeting

Hello!

This report may be short, but there is some important information to share. So sorry that I cannot make tomorrow's meeting (as of this moment). An unavoidable conflict recently came up.

The Title III Consortium Grant has been approved and funds will be used to support our English Language Learners. Fun and informative family literacy activities and tutoring will be offered in the coming months. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in this consortium with 17 other school districts!

Our second Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC) meeting is scheduled to be held today, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6pm in room B5. The focus will be an informational activity that includes supporting families by making helpful binders with pertinent information regarding educational plans, evaluations, and more. We will provide a follow up soon. All are invited!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our students, families, staff, and programs!

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi



## FY20 WARRANTS SIGNED

October 4, 2019 and October 18, 2019

Date	Voucher #	Total Amount:	General Fund		
			Amount:	Other Funds	
10/4/19		\$ 384,024.73	\$ 338,928.07	\$ 45,096.66	
10/4/19		\$ 375,917.58	\$ 327,515.02	\$ 48,402.56	
		<u>\$ 759,942.31</u>	<u>\$ 666,443.09</u>	<u>\$ 93,499.22</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
10/4/19	1002	\$ 373,267.42	\$ 142,937.70	\$ 230,329.72	
10/18/19	1003	\$ 81,982.24	\$ 49,511.99	\$ 32,470.25	
10/18/19	9005	\$ 139,556.17	\$ 139,513.24	\$ 42.93	
		<u>\$ 594,805.83</u>	<u>\$ 331,962.93</u>	<u>\$ 262,842.90</u>	
Total of all Warrants: 10/4 & 10/18			<u>\$ 1,354,748.14</u>	<u>\$ 998,406.02</u>	<u>\$ 356,342.12</u>

Submitted by The Management Solution, Inc.





14b

PO Box 217  
Auburn, MA 01501-0217



(855) TMS-0411  
info@themanagementsolution.com

Helping schools succeed

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Judy Houle and Chris Desjardins, Business Management Services

DATE: October 21, 2019

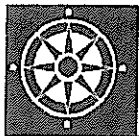
RE: Gift to SBRSD

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We received the attached letter and a check for twenty-three thousand (\$23,000.00) from the Alice Pederson Educational Trust. We respectfully request approval of the receipt of this generous gift from this trust.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attachment (1)



William Cullen Bryant House  
390 Main Street, Suite 2  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

phone: 413.528.0630  
fax: 413.528.5287  
www.mccormicklegal.com

October 9, 2019

Southern Berkshire Regional School District  
PO Box 339  
Sheffield, MA 01257

Attn: Ingrid Borwick

Kathleen M. McCormick, Esq.

Re: ALICE PEDERSON EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Dear Ingrid,

Please be advised that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is a remainder beneficiary in the Alice Pederson Educational Trust. The Trust has been terminated. Please find a check in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$23,000.00) enclosed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darlene Balestro or myself.

Sincerely,

McCormick, Murtagh & Marcus

  
Kathleen M. McCormick

KMM/dmb  
cc: Cheryl Raifstanger, Trustee

Enclosures





# OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108

Please note that all fields are required unless otherwise noted.

## Your Contact Information:

First Name: jennifer Last Name: brown

Address: 636 Campbell Falls Rd

City: Southfield State: MA Zip Code: 01259

Phone Number: 9199067026 Ext. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: jenniepez@yahoo.com

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?

(For statistical purposes only)

Individual  Organization  Media

## Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

City/Town  County  Regional/District  State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee, Sheffield, Berkshire County

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Jane Burke, Chair

Date of alleged violation: October 7, 2019

## Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

October 7, 2019, Jane Burke sent an email to the members of the SBRSD School Committee from her personal email that read:

From: Jane Burke <janesburke@gmail.com>  
Subject: Newspaper Story  
Date: October 7, 2019 at 10:10:54 AM EDT  
To: Arthur Batacchi <batacchirebar@aol.com>, Jon Bruno <jon.bruno@gmail.com>, Jeffrey Blaugrund <jrblaugrund@gmail.com>, Marcella Bush <marcellabush5@gmail.com>, David Travis <cdtsynapse@gmail.com>, H Dennis Sears <hdennissears@gmail.com>, Bonnie silvers <ebsilvers@verizon.net>, Mary Ellen Brown <mbrown007@earthlink.net>, danile Jordan <jordandanile@gmail.com>

Dear School Committee Members,  
Since my school committee account is inaccessible today I am wondering if yours might be to so I am sending this to your personal emails because it is urgent. He is the message I got from Terry Cowgill yesterday. I have obtained a copy of a lawsuit filed Oct. 1 by Kurt DeGrenier against SBRSD and other district officials named individually. I would like to give the district a chance to respond to it before I file my story tomorrow around 4 pm. As you can imagine, I have many questions. Let me know if someone would like to be interviewed or if the district would like to at least make a statement.

The attorney has given us this statement to use in response to any inquiries from the public.  
"In general, the District does not comment on pending litigation or personnel matters due to the privacy rights of all involved. The District denies the allegations contained in this complaint and intends to vigorously defend against these baseless claims. The central mission of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is to serve the educational needs of all of our students, and we will continue to do so."  
Beth sent this statement to Mr. Cowgill. I know he is very aggressive and this is a great story that he can break. The school committee is named in the suit. It is especially important that we all use the statement above in response to anyone who seeks comment from us. While we had heard a threat that the story would be given to the press it is never the less very disturbing to be faced with this. Let's stand strong in support of Beth and Sandy. There is good work to do for students.

I will keep you posted on any new developments. I am home today and will look at email regularly. If you want to call me use 229-3321. Texts are iffy on rainy days.

Best,  
Jane

When elected, Jane was sworn in to her position and signed a statement saying she received and understands the Open Meeting Law. She is aware that she cannot discuss business matters outside of a public meeting, yet she blatantly disregards that here. She has made it clear that she is of the opinion that the public may not be kept informed of this matter.

On October 11, each member of the school committee received a phone call stating that email will no longer be used because this information was "leaked." This would indicate that they think that this should be kept secret.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

I want the SBRSD School Committee to place on the agenda to openly discuss with the public (with ample time for public comment) why they feel they should "stand strong in support of Beth & Sandy."  
I would like Jane Burke to issue a public apology, announce that she will no longer be deliberating via email, and desist from any deliberation with a quorum of the school committee without proper public notice.

## Review, sign, and submit your complaint

### I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

**Public Record.** Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

**Publication to Website.** As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

### II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

### III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to [openmeeting@state.ma.us](mailto:openmeeting@state.ma.us).

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For Use By Public Body  
Date Received by Public Body:

For Use By AGO  
Date Received by AGO: