

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Buildings, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee
Mt. Everett Regional School, Sheffield, MA
Meeting Minutes • May 22, 2014

Subcommittee members present: Kenzie Fields, Jennifer Sahn, Bonnie Silvers, Vito Valentini

Absent: Maria Rundle

Administrators present: David Hastings, Bruce Turner, Fred Finkle

Note-taker: Jennifer Sahn

NOTE: Some items on the agenda were taken out of order.

- (1.) Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m.
- (2.) Approval of Minutes – The minutes from the BG&T Subcommittee meeting on April 10, 2014 were approved as written.
- (4.) Batting cage donation – Someone has offered the school a batting cage that could be installed in the Mt. Everett gymnasium. It would be hung from the rafters in the fitness center and would be motorized and retractable to the ceiling. Acceptance and installation of the batting cage would not impede scheduling for, access to, or emergency egress from the gymnasium. A motion to accept the donation of the batting cage was made, seconded, and passed.
- (5.) Discussion of plan for proceeding with boiler issues – The district received \$68K from the insurance company to fix the broken boiler at the Sheffield campus. A new boiler would cost \$130-150K, but it would also represent a 20% savings in annual fuel costs relative to the one it would replace, due to increased efficiency. The district spent \$200K on heating fuel this past winter. The subcommittee is in agreement that it makes good sense to replace, rather than repair, the broken boiler. The question is how to find the extra \$60-80K. Taking \$30K out of the stabilization fund was suggested as a way of closing the gap, as was tabling part of the plan to replace ceiling tiles at the Sheffield campus.
- (3.) Discussion of plan for financing and installing air conditioning on the second floor of the high school – The estimate for this project is \$150K from start to finish. The subcommittee chair requested a list of all current encumbrances, including the truck and mini-buses, before a conversation about financing can proceed. There is \$25K in the current budget for the air conditioning. Financing the balance of the project will be necessary. Rolling part of the cost of the new boiler into the loan for the air conditioning was suggested. Figures were presented for three- and five-year loan scenarios. The subcommittee asked to see a workup for a seven-year option as well.

(6.) Discussion of progress and use of SBRSD environmental center (yellow house) – The aquaculture program was a big success this spring. There are currently trout in two of the tanks. An inquiry was received from the foreign languages department about using some of the office space in the building. This discussion item was tabled for a future meeting.

(7.) Update on progress for new district signage – New signage for all four locations incorporating the district logo is underway. The subcommittee asked to see renderings of all signs as well as proposals for where they would be installed at each school before plans proceed.

(8.) Suggested future agenda items – The subcommittee needs to meet in the next week or two in order to further discuss the financing plan for the air conditioning project, and also to revisit the agenda items concerning the environmental center and district signage.

(9.) Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.