

Southern Berkshire Regional School District  
Mt. Everett Regional School Sheffield, MA  
March 28, 2014  
Buildings, Grounds, and Technology Sub-committee Meeting

## **D R A F T**

Sub-committee members: Jennifer Sahn, Maria Rundle, Vito Valentini, Bonnie Silvers, Kenzie Fields

Others present: Fred Finkle, Dennis Sears, Chris Thompson, and Bruce Turner

Meeting brought to order at 5:03pm

Ms. Silvers made a motion to approve the notes from the January 28, 2014 discussion. Mr. Valentini seconded and the notes were approved

### **Discussion of submission to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (SBA)**

In order to submit a request by the deadline of April 11th, BG&T needs to vote the submission out of committee and bring to the full School Committee at the April 10th meeting. Mr. Turner, Mr. Finkle, and Ingrid Borwick have updated the submission from last year for the three community schools (*see attached documents*).

The SBA did not give any feedback with their rejection of last year's submission. The district is only allowed to do one SOI per building and the Sheffield campus had already submitted a request for the accelerated repair program so there will not be an addition submission this year.

Mr. Valentini requested that Mr. Turner include a cover letter with the submission that reminds the SBA that we have many need in this district and that there are multiple needs for the Sheffield building alone.

Ms. Rundle asked about contacting the Monterey select board to revisit the changing needs of the Monterey School building. She will talk with the selectmen on Monday and get back to Mr. Turner next week about any changes to the submission.

Ms. Silvers asked to have page 6 of the submission for all three schools include more detail on how these community schools fit into the larger facilities plan of a unified district. Mr. Valentini suggested that the submission mention that the towns are willing participants in renovation or erection of a new school and that there is community support for doing so. He offered to write something up to include in either the submission or cover letter.

Members of BG&T will come up with suggestions to send to Mr. Valentini who will meet with Mr. Turner to make amendments to the submission. There will be a BG&T committee meeting at 5:45pm on April 10th to vote on the SBA submissions before the full committee meeting.

### **Update on Capital projects in the FY14 budget**

Mr. Finkle shared with the committee that the New Marlborough Central School woodwork has been re-stained, the bathroom and the bathroom ceilings painted, and the hallways painted, all within the FY14 budget. He's getting a price on fixing the snow-slides on the back of the building. The light at the front of the building has been installed and the fence around the playground is

being fixed and the railing on the front steps is going in soon. The NMC kitchen floor is in the FY15 budget and Mr. Valentini requested that we get an estimate this year to get that project started. Ms. Silvers requested better entrance and exit signs.

At the Sheffield campus, the counters in the elementary school will be replaced when school gets out. The high school cabinets were done over February break. The stair treads are here and will be put in over April break. Mr. Finkle mentioned that they are also getting more motors for vents and door hardware.

*Ms. Fields and Ms. Sahn joined the meeting at 5:30pm*

The Marshmallow busses are working well and cost \$46,000 apiece. They seat 15, including the driver. Mr. Valentini asked about what the maintenance plan for the busses is. Berkshire GMC will service them and the mileage is tracked by the drivers. There is money in the line item to cover service costs and Mr. Turner will set up a revolving account to pay for oil changes.

The pricing on replacing the greenhouse is done and money is still available. The high school band room tiles will be replaced over April break. One or two high school classrooms will be carpeted. The bathrooms have been painted. The water fountains will need to be replaced a couple at a time because of the cost.

NMC has an issue with drain pipes that will be replaced once school is out.

Insurance will pay for the repair but not the replacement of NMC's leaky boiler. There is \$69,000 in the insurance recovery account. All 3 boilers need to be replaced as it does not make sense to repair them. Mr. Valentini asked if we can get insurance money for the second broken boiler and for quotes on how much it would be to replace all three. This might be helpful in the SBA submission process. Ms. Silvers asked about an appeal process and it was decided not to pursue that option. Mr. Finkle will shut down one of the boilers after this week, once the temperature is above 30 degrees. The quote for a new boiler, installed, is \$135,000. It would be less per boiler to do all three. Mr. Finkle will talk to the mechanical engineer about the project and take this project out to bid to find a better price. After getting bids we can talk to the SBA about an accelerated repair application.

### **Discussion on upgrade of District signage**

Mr. Valentini expressed a desire to unite the district with matching signs and logos displayed at each school. There was unanimous agreement to this suggestion.

There was discussion of adding a sign to the entrance of the Sheffield campus that would give the district the ability to advertise news on the side of the road. The town does not approve of backlit signs. Mr. Thompson suggested adding flags to the lampposts coming up the driveway and this suggestion was met with approval. Mr. Turner added that they are currently working on a welcome sign that uses solar energy. Mr. Turner offered to get some renderings and quotes on different options.

There was agreement that the marquee sign in front of the Sheffield campus needs to be bigger, higher up off the ground, and allow more creative expression. Mr. Valentini offered to research the sign regulations of Sheffield, Mr. Turner of South Egremont, Ms. Fields of New Marlborough, and Ms. Rundle of Monterey.

### **Update on Technology projects in the FY14 budget**

All the computers except those in the high school library have been updated to Windows 7. The library lab computers are too old to take the upgrade from XP and will be fine until new computers are purchased for September.

The TacPac has a new sound board (and would like a new light board). The TVs are changing over to flat screens. We are on track to be ready for online PARC testing next year.

The committee requested that Mr. Thompson host a school technology meeting at the beginning of the school year to educate parents about the technology their children will use at school.

### **Discussion of the South Berkshire Environmental Center (aka: SBEC; “Yellow House”)**

There are trout inside the SBEC, the pipes are fine and made it through a cold winter. The inside of the house is bare and the kitchen floor and downstairs floors need to be done.

Ms. Sahn and Mr. Valentini had a meeting with Will Conklin who is interested in being involved in using the center for environmental education. He envisions use of the space as a local learning laboratory, focused on sustainable agriculture, environmental science, vocational connection, and a farm to school food program with campus-based food production. (*See attached document*)

It was suggested that the high school include an education track in sustainability to engage academics with these other opportunities and to investigate a tie-in with BCC for accreditation. Ms. Fields, Ms. Sahn, and Ms. Silvers will take this proposal to Dave. Hastings and Kerry Burke.

### **Discussion on air conditioning for MEHS second floor**

Mr. Turner clarified that it is possible to proceed with the air conditioning project separate from the new roof project. Affirmation that doing all the air-conditioning work at once is the most cost effective solution. Estimate is \$150,000 for A/C and installation. With interest at 2%, we can get financing for 5-7 year bond that doesn't encumber the annual capital budget by more than \$30,000 a year. (\$25,000 is appropriated for FY15.) BG&T needs to approve a resolution to borrow and then get approval of all five towns. The actual installation takes a couple of weeks.

Sheffield expressed interest in having the borrowing come in as debt exclusion, out of the town's levy. Each individual town can exclude it or not.

Mr. Turner will get the financing figures and official wording for the town's approval. Mr. Valentini moved to authorize the business manager to proceed with the plan to be presented to the full committee on April 10th. Ms. Silvers seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Miscellaneous updates and information**

Ms. Fields shared that the students in the Appalachian Trail program had created pictures of invasive species that were being made into cards and sold to benefit environmental projects at school. It was requested that the logo be included on the back of the card.

Ms. Silvers shared that Berkshire Hills and Dales will take the Ag program's alpaca hair to weave and spin into yarn.

Ms. Fields moved to adjourn; Ms. Silvers seconded. Meeting adjourned 6:50pm.