

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Mt. Everett Regional School  
Sheffield, MA  
February 25, 2016  
Meeting # 1504

School Committee Members: Mr. Stewart, Ms. Silvers, Ms. Rundle, Mr. Valentini, Mr. Batacchi, Ms. Bush, Mr. Sears, Ms. Lartigue, Ms. Sparhawk, Mr. Flynn

Absent:

Administration: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Turner

Press: CTSB; Julie Ruth, Berkshire Record

Student Representatives: Ava Garrett, Ryan Meyer

Others: Jesse Carpenter, Karen Frighetto, Alice Tortoriello, Asha VonRuden, Lynette Gagnon

1. Mr. Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes**  
*Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the minutes of School Committee Meeting #1503 and Review of the Preliminary FY17 District Budget.*  
*Motion carries 8-1 (Mr. Flynn opposed).*
3. **Communications from the Audience**
  - A. Student Representatives Ava Garrett and Ryan Meyer talked about:
    - The SWAG Fashion Fundraiser held at Dewey Hall and was very successful and received a lot of support from the community.
    - The blood drive on March 8<sup>th</sup> and open to the community.
    - Girls Basketball Team are in the Western Mass Semi-Finals.
    - SADD breakfast was a success. The group is raising funds for after prom.
    - National Honor Society. Letters were sent out to 36 eligible students. Induction ceremony will be in April.
  - B. Presentations:  
Mr. Jesse Carpenter gave a brief overview of EXPO 2016 which is in its' 32<sup>nd</sup> year. This year Grade 7 focused on Egypt and Grade 8 on science. Some of the projects are being displayed at the Stone Store in Sheffield, so that the public may view them. There was a lot of positive feedback from the community. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of exhibits being displayed longer and also making videos of the presentations available on line, so that they are available for future years. Mr. Carpenter liked the idea of the video presentations and will look into that for next year.
4. **Business**
  - A. Approval of Overnight Field Trip to Tampa, Florida – April 18-21, 2016.  
Asha VonRuden requested approval to take 21 students to Florida during April Vacation. The trip will provide students with hands-on science experiences relating to aquatic habitats.

*Mr. Flynn motioned, seconded by Ms. Lartigue to approve the overnight field trip to Tampa Florida during April vacation.*

Mr. Sears stated that per the chaperone guidelines one more chaperone was needed. Asha VonRuden mentioned that there was a person in Florida, with the tour group, and wondered if this person could chaperone. There was further discussion regarding CORIs and fingerprints for chaperones. Mr. Valentini did not think that someone in Florida would be suitable chaperone, being out of state, it would be difficult to obtain a CORI and fingerprints. Mr. Flynn stated that we could waive the policy, 2/3 vote at this meeting and then another vote at the next meeting. Asha VonRuden stated that she will have her husband, Curtis VonRuden, be the fourth chaperone.

*Motion was then approved unanimously.*

B. Approval of Business Administrator and SPED Director Contracts. This item was suspended because the contracts were not yet approved.

C. Status Update on Theatre Issue

Mr. Stewart stated that there is a meeting scheduled with the Union Rep on March 7, 2016 to try to resolve this issue and that everything is going ahead as planned. The only issue is with Kathy Jo Grover doing the work on a volunteer basis, hopefully this issue will be resolved at the meeting.

D. Superintendent Report

Community Outreach:

- a. **Mt. Everett Culinary and Sheffield Historical Society** have partnered up to provide baked goods and Spring baskets with homemade candy and other products to benefit scholarships for Mt. Everett students. Last year, the class was able to raise \$600 in scholarship money: two \$300 scholarships March 25-26 - Stone Store, Downtown Sheffield - 9am-noon.
- b. **The Bold Eagle** was featured in a recent article in the Berkshire Record.
- c. **Gulotta Donation:** We received a **\$500.00 donation** from **Gulotta's Mobil** which will be applied to the purchase of materials for **Pat Barrett's new elective Man and his Environment**. The **Kelty Sports Equipment Company** provided, almost at cost, 12 *backpacks*, 12 *0-degree sleeping bags* and 12 *rain covers* with the donation money. Mr. Barrett has nine students who will hike and camp as part of the course requirements. His class will do a short (5 mile) hike this week on the Appalachian Trail (Homes Road to Lake Buel Road to Route 23. In the future, the class will complete 3-day and 5-day hikes.
- d. **Band Uniform Fund:** We received an additional \$1,000.00 in donations this week - \$500.00 from an anonymous school committee member and \$500.00 from Trinity Lutheran Church. We are now \$3,800.00 from reaching our goal. We're almost there! There is still time to donate to this important cause. **150 Uniforms by Memorial Day!**

Staff:

**Courtney English** sang this week with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as a member of the chorus. All of the singers' eyes were on her, sitting front-row center of the chorus, because she was responsible for "standing" the chorus when it was time to sing. It was great the BSO recognized her leadership skills.

Students:

- a. The following students will be participating in this year's **World Education Alliance Symposium in Germany** They are scheduled to depart on February 26th at 2:00, and return March 4th—likely back to school on the 5<sup>th</sup> around noon.

Eli Gold            Eliza Maggio    Charles Kerzner            Lily Duval            Samantha Twing  
Ava Garrett            Simon Salzmatt            Jesse Smerechniak

- b. **The Robotics teams** will be competing in the state championship this weekend in Natick. There will be a presentation from Chris Thompson at the March meeting.
- c. **Girls Basketball** finished the season with a record of 16 wins and 4 losses. Unfortunately, one of the losses came Wednesday evening at the South County Championship game against Mount Greylock. They will play in the Western Mass Tournament next week. This has been an exciting season for the team.
- d. **AAU Volleyball.** Kayla Krom was named to the Western Massachusetts Volleyball All-Star 2<sup>nd</sup> team. She also received another honor earlier. With her AAU team, she has traveled as far as Philadelphia.
- e. **Cheerleading** The Mount Everett Cheerleaders just recently competed in their first ever competition on Sunday, February 14th at the **Eye of the Tiger Cheer Invitational at South Hadley High School.** Mount Everett placed 4th in the co-ed division against some of the region's toughest teams. Then, on Saturday, February 20th the Cheerleaders traveled to compete in the **Holyoke Cheer Invitational at Holyoke High School** with a new routine, instead competing in the newly-created Game Day division, only just introduced in Massachusetts this past year. **The routine placed third and qualified for Mount Everett to go straight to the Game Day State Championship at Sheperd Hill Regional High School on March 6th.**
- f. **Wrestling: Patrick Fosby** finished in **third place** in the Western Massachusetts Division III tournament.
- g. **Baltimore and Washington, DC Trip.** Next Wed-Friday (March 2-4) inclusive, 16 students in Honors Economics (grade 10) will be on a fieldtrip to Baltimore, along with the 8th grade and a select few 12th graders who are going to DC.
- h. **Black History Month Assembly:** Mount Everett conducted a Black History Month assembly today that featured the Jazz Band and Chorus musical selections related to contributions of African Americans in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

E. Report on the Budget Meetings with Sheffield and Monterey

Mr. Valentini stated that they met first with the Town of Monterey, Ms. Rundle joined them at the meeting. It was an informative meeting, pleasant with intelligent questions. One of the questions asked was how the state calculates the assessments to the towns. Mr. Valentini said that he had spoken with Mr. Roger Hatch at DESE and was given links to explanations on how the formulas are calculated, and this was emailed to everyone.

The next meeting was with the Town of Sheffield. It was a lively meeting. Ms. Silvers asked if they will hold a special meeting before May, Mr. Valentini replied that it never came up in discussion.

F. Subcommittee/Representative Reports

a. Finance Subcommittee

Mr. Valentini had nothing to say. Everything was discussed and covered at the 5:00 p.m. Public Hearing meeting. However, there was a conflict regarding the date of March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Finance Subcommittee Meeting. The date has been changed to Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 6 p.m.

b. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee

Mr. Valentini stated that the Building, Grounds and Technology had a very productive meeting. The district will be replacing the van with a 10 passenger Ford Transit (State bid). There are many items on the list of projects to be completed that are part of three/five/seven year plans. Over the last four or five years there has been a lot of terrific work done at the facilities. The Roof and Boiler project is completed there is just a little tweaking to be done. The sprinkler system will probably be completed sometime in May.

c. Policy

Mr. Sears stated that this will be second reading on Policy JFBD with the changes that were recommended at the last meeting. (Copy of policy attached)

Mr. Flynn wanted to know why the Monterey School was not mentioned in the Policy. Ms. Sparhawk mentioned the intent of this policy was to deal with the schools that had issues with too many choice students. Ms. Silvers explained that the intent of the policy was that Monterey students would have the same priority for enrollment in NMC as New Marlborough students. Mr. Sears stated that this policy was developed to handle specific situations in the two schools where there is a potential for a problem with enrollment. Further discussion ensued. Mr. Sears recommended that the School Committee pass the policy as it stands and then modify it at a later time.

*Ms. Silvers motioned, seconded by Mr. Valentini to approve the Second Reading of Policy JFBD Motion passes 8 to 1 (Mr. Flynn – No)*

G. Financial Updates/Transfers – Nothing to report.

Mr. Stewart stated that he had sent out the minutes from the Berkshire Task Force meeting.

Ms. Lartigue requested that the meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> start at 7 p.m. because of literacy night which runs from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Silvers distributed a copy of the letter she had sent to the editors of the Berkshire Eagle, Berkshire Record and Berkshire Edge. This letter was as a follow up to a motion made at the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding the Charter School Cap. Ms. Silvers thanked Mr. Sears and Mr. Valentini for their assistance.

Mr. Flynn motioned, seconded by Mr. Lartigue to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Voted Unanimous.

***Documents presented at this meeting:***

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1,504*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1,503*
- *Overnight Field Trip to Tampa, Florida*
- *FY17 Budget compared to Approved (May 2015) FY16 Budget*
- *Second Reading of Policy JFBD*
- *Copy of letter regarding Charter School Cap*

