

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Mt. Everett Regional School Library
Sheffield, MA
August 25, 2016
Meeting #1513

School Committee Members: Art Batacchi, Carl Stewart, Bonnie Silvers, Kristin Sparhawk, Fran Lartigue, Vito Valentini, Dennis Sears, Maria Rundle

Absent: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Bush

Administration: Superintendent Hastings

Press: CTSB, Cory Willey - Berkshire Record

Student Representatives: None

Others: Nat Yohalem, Mary Turo, Susana Mapstone, Kathleen Keeler, Christine Martin, Angel Rote, Scott Rote, Dan Weston, Tom Masters, Angela Spitia, Dallas Jones, Courtney English, Tara Johnston, Jeanne Moran, Stephanie Wright

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Mr. Stewart stated that the order of the agenda will be amended. Item regarding the Town of New Marlborough (5C) will be addressed after approval of the minutes and before going into Executive Session.

Mr. Stewart also stated that our school committee was one of the 19 committees in Berkshire County that opposed the expansion of Charter schools. Ballot Initiative #2 (raising the cap of charter schools) will be on the ballot in November.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** *Ms. Sparhawk moved, seconded by Ms. Batacchi, to approve the minutes of meeting #1511 as submitted. It was so voted unanimously.*
3. **Communications from the Audience Pertaining to this Evening's Agenda Items:** Nothing to report.
5. C. Letter from the Town of New Marlborough regarding Assessments (copy attached)

Mr. Valentini explained that the letter requests if there can be some relief afforded the town of Marlborough from the district. A Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, after Chris Regan returns, so as to address the request from the Town of New Marlborough and the assessment issues based on the Governor's Final Budget. Mr. Stewart informed Mr. Yohalem that the school committee was unable to make a decision at this time.

Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to defer the discussion until after the Finance Subcommittee meeting. It was so voted unanimously.

4. Motion to go into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, being the Principal, and to reconvene in open session.

Ms. Silvers motioned, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to go into Executive Session. Roll Call Vote:

<i>Mr. Batacchi</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Ms. Lartigue</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Ms. Sparhawk</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Ms. Silvers</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Rundle</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Sears</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Valentini</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Stewart</i>	<i>Yes</i>

4. **Updates/Presentations:** None

Meeting resumed in open session at 6:40 p.m.

5. Business:

A. Approval of the Elementary Principal's Contract

Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the Elementary Principal's Contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Batacchi Yes Ms. Lartigue Yes Ms. Sparhawk Yes Ms. Silvers Yes

Mr. Sears Yes Mr. Valentini Yes Ms. Rundle Yes Mr. Stewart Yes

Motion Passes.

B. Discussion regarding the Assistant Elementary Principal Position

Mr. Hastings stated that the search for an Assistant Elementary Principal was put on hold until the Elementary Principal was hired. Last year there were many more behavior issues that needed to be handled. The Assistant Principal will also share in the evaluation of staff, especially when there are so many new teachers hired this year. The Assistant Principal will also manage the 504 plans.

Mr. Stewart clarified that the school committee does not decide if there is a need for an Assistant Principal, they have veto power over the pay, the Superintendent may hire an Assistant Principal if deemed appropriate.

Mr. Valentini, Ms. Lartigue, Mr. Sears and Ms. Silvers all expressed their concerns and opinions on whether the district needed to hire an Assistant Principal and if there were ways to be creative in utilizing the existing staff to handle the Assistant Principal duties. Mr. Batacchi wanted to hear what Ms. Turo had to say about this.

Ms. Turo added that in the packet was a revised job description of the Assistant Principal, written with the help of Kerry Burke and the elementary teaching staff. She explained the evaluation process and the amount of time it takes. She also pointed out that the Assistant Principal does a lot of supervision of students and staff in the cafeteria and during recess. Mrs. Turo said that she does go out at the end of the day to make sure the students are getting on the bus safely. Being a presence before and after school is a way that parents can talk to her in an informal setting. The Assistant Principal is an integral part of our building and program and this person will do more than make sure the kids are fine on the playground. Ms. Turo also explained that the position is only for 193 days so the pay would be adjusted down.

Mr. Weston, grade 2-3 teacher at New Marlborough, supports the hiring of an Assistant Principal. Last year was very challenging and the district could not have survived without an Assistant Principal. Teachers like to see the Principal. Teachers need to be able to communicate to the principal what is happening in the classroom. The teachers need guidance in curriculum and instruction and leadership.

There was further lengthy discussion on the hiring of an Assistant Principal.

D. Discussion of the Monterey School: There is a meeting on Monday night and at this time we do not know what will be decided. No further discussion.

E. Discussion of Spanish in the Elementary Schools

Christine Martin introduced herself to the School Committee and also introduced Susana Mapstone, Kathleen Keeler and Angela Spitia.

Ms. Martin discussed the need to restore of the 0.4 part-time Spanish teacher position, which was eliminated by the former principal. This position was budgeted for this year. In order to have Spanish twice a week the part time position is needed.

Mr. Hastings had charged Ms. Turo with finding a way to have Spanish twice a week for all the grades.

Discussion ensued with questions and answers amongst the school committee members. Many members voiced their concerns and opinions regarding the Spanish position. The specials schedule was also discussed.

Mr. Stewart asked if there was any possibility that this situation could be resolved with the next week.

Final decision was that this 0.4 position would be advertised and filled.

- F. Newly Hired Teachers with Prior ESP Experience (copy attached)
- a. Elizabeth O'Donnell- NMC Grade 1/2 Teacher – M30/Step 13
 - b. Stephanie Duquette – Grade 5 Teacher UME – M/Step 2

Mr. Stewart explained that there were 2 new teachers who received credit for non-teaching experience which equated to them being placed at a higher step and salary. Per the Unit A contract the school Committee has to approve this.

Ms. Rundle moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the recommended increased steps for the two teachers at the Elementary schools who have prior non-teaching experience.

Mr. Valentini asked Mr. Hastings if this has happened before. Mr. Hastings replied that this provision had not been used before (Unit A, Article XIX)

Tom Masters, for the record, wanted to point out that he was not given credit, when hired, for the years he had worked teaching adults to be teachers.

The Vote: Mr. Batacchi – no, all other members yes. Motion passes.

G. Superintendent's Report – Dave Hastings

1. **Community Outreach:**

- a. Dr. John Van Wagner (Choice parent in South Egremont) painted the South Egremont School gate.
- b. Possible Stone Store display to be loaned to SBRSD. We are looking for a suitable venue for it.
- c. The Old Parish Church conducted its annual Antique Show fundraiser here in August.

2. **Staff:** New Staff, Moving Staff and Departing Staff

- Joanne Duval Replaced Jody Burkle who retired
- Brenda VandeBogart Replaced Jo-Ellen Height who retired
- Cara D'Amico Replaced Robin Coulehan who retired
- Jaimi-Lynn Schieb Transferred to PK at New Marlborough replaced Francine Groener
- Elizabeth O'Donnell Replaces Jaimi Lynn – GR 1/2 teacher at NMC
- Jane Schur Replaced Carol Ide who retired
- Dan Kringer Long Term Sub for Chris Clark who is on one year leave of absence
- Sara English Replaced Loretta Curtis who retired
- Susana Mapstone replaced Erika Ide who resigned
- Joshua King replaced Jess Murtagh who resigned
- Daniel Lanoue replaced Joshua King
- Sara Loring Cafeteria Helper
- Penny Rodick 1:1 ESP
- Stephanie Duquette Replaced Sue Garcia who resigned, Grade 5 UME
- Mary Turo replaced Stacy Burgess who resigned
- Ashley Barrett Grade 3 teacher
- Ashley Lotz moved to Undermountain Gr 1
- Dan Weston Moved to NMC Gr2-3

3. **Staff** - Summer Professional Development: CES instructors offered in collaboration with MCLA/Berkshire County Superintendents' Roundtable the following workshops to comply with new certification regulations

- a. **Strategies for English Language Learners:** 15 PDP workshop as per recertification regulations
4 SBRSD participants completed the workshop. Instructor: Dr. Albert Mussad, CES
- b. **Differentiated Instruction:** 15 PDP workshop as per recertification regulations.
10 SBRSD participants completed the workshop. Instructor: Sharon Jones, CES

- c. **Math Professional Development:** CES Math Curriculum Specialist and our 2015-16 contracted elementary math coach Pat DeAngelis provided the final component of our year-long PD focus on mathematics by offering a week-long intensive course that **was fully funded by an Eagle Fund grant in honor of Herb Abelow.**
 - d. **Reasoning Algebraically about Operations.** 45 PDP intensive course with lateral movement credit. 6 SBSRD participants. Instructor: Patricia DeAngelis, CES
 - e. **August 25, 2016 Attorney Paige Tobin** of Murphy, Lamere & Murphy presented Civil Rights training addressed Sexual Harassment/Title IX; Racial Discrimination/Title VI; FERPA and Confidentiality; Anti-Bullying Law refresher; Disability Discrimination; and Professional Obligations for Reporting and/or Investigating incidents, including DCF 51A Mandated Reporting.
 - f. **Restraint Training.** FRRSD Special Education Director, Mike Saporitto, and private consultant provided training for identified staff.
 - g. **Recertification Training.** 10 Faculty & Staff trained for recertification with a second day to be scheduled as necessary later in 2016-17 school year.
4. **Students**
- a. **First Week of School.** Children return with a half day on Monday, full days on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and another half day on Friday.
 - b. **Pre-K Tuition.** We have two out of district applicants for the New Marlborough Pre-K program. The School Committee eliminated tuition for pre-school a few years ago, but the minutes contained nothing about out of district students. There is space for the two children in New Marlborough. Both children have siblings in the building.
 - c. **Summer Softball.** The Mount Everett Softball team had a successful summer. They won the Berkshire County youth tournament. In a recent issue of the Berkshire Record Mount Everett Softball players were recognized for their achievements.
5. **Facilities**
- a. Workers are finishing up the installation of 27 new windows in the Yellow House.
 - b. New carpet tiles in several classrooms as well as in the corridors.
 - c. The Mount Everett gym floor was sanded, refinished, relined and given a new blue, gold and white Eagle.
 - d. New Dedicated Computer Lab (laptops) in the 3-4 wing. This is in anticipation of the upcoming MCAS 2.0 4th grade test, which is computer-based.

H. Governor's Final Budget and Effect on Assessments - Christine Regan

Chris Regan was not present at this meeting so this item was deferred to the next school committee meeting.

I. Subcommittee Reports:

1. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee

Ms. Silvers reported that the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee met and she also met with Glenn Koocher from MASC. Because of the free services we should not hire a search firm. Glenn Koocher recommends we hire a consultant. Two potential candidates for consultant, Valerie Sprigs and someone that Chris Regan knows. MASC will scan all the resumes and send them to us electronically, we will not have to pay for postings, they will also handle our website postings. We are not far behind with regards to our timeline. Friday, September 9th, Glenn Koocher would be willing to hold a meeting for any members who are interested. Mr. Stewart reminded everyone that we cannot have more than 6 people present and that we post an agenda. MASC will help with organizing the screening committee. Do not need to do the number of focus groups as in the past. Hold one focus group for elected and community members, all the town together, another small one for administrators, a focus group of staff people and then a community one, e.g. PTO, PTA. Because we can use all of MASC national contacts, as soon as the ad is put together they will be ready to handle that for our district. Mr. Koocher suggested that we pay for the ad in Education Week. Mr. Stewart suggested not posting the meeting, in the event six people are not able to attend.

2. **Food Subcommittee**

Ms. Lartigue reported that the Food Subcommittee had met on July 27, 2016. Great report from Jeremy Wells on the food services finances. Jeremy will be encouraging families to complete free and reduced lunch applications. Breakfast in the classroom is not a go at this time, would be operating at a loss. A breakfast club was started. Discussion was also held on starting the breakfast program at New Marlborough. This might be a possibility in the future. Vending machine snacks was also discussed, healthy drinks instead of sugary drinks. They also clarified his salary.

6. **Communication from the Public/Requests for Future Agenda Items:** Nothing to report

7. **Adjourn**

Ms. Sparhawk *moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. It was so voted unanimously.*

Documents Presented at this Meeting:

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1513*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1511*
- *Letter from the Town of New Marlborough*
- *Newly Hired Teachers with Prior ESP Experience*
- *Financial Information/Assessments*