

School Committee Members: Charles Flynn, Art Batacchi, Fran Lartigue, David Travis, Carl Stewart, Bonnie Silvers, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears, Bob Law

Absent: MaryEllen Brown

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Christine Regan

Press: CTSB, Cory Wiley – Berkshire Record, Mr. Gentile – Berkshire Eagle

Student Representatives: Caitlyn Herrick, Mary Shalaby

Others: Karen Frighetto, Jennifer Dowley, Vito Valentini, Tara White, David Devine, Mark Carson, Marilyn Fracasso, Karen Chanberland, Mary Turo, Sandi Hubbard, Terri Licata, Kerry Burke, Michele Shalaby, Nat Yohalem, Caitlin Herrick, Mary Shalaby, Sarah Siket

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Stewart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

*Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to include in executive session an issue regarding a candidate who interviewed for the position of Superintendent. It was so voted unanimous.*

*Role call vote to enter into executive session:*

*Charles Flynn-Yes; Art Batacchi-Yes; Fran Lartigue-Yes; David Travis-Yes; Bonnie Silvers-Yes; Marcella Bush-Yes; Dennis Sears-Yes; Bob Law-Yes*

Reconvened in Open Session at 6:55 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the minutes of meeting #1519 of January 19, 2017. Charles Flynn abstained, all others Yes, Motion Passes.*

3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE PERTAINING TO THIS EVENING'S AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Student Representative Report: Caitlin Herrick and Mary Shallaby spoke to the School Committee. The Junior Class is holding fundraisers and planning for the prom, which this year will be at Cranwell. The seniors are working on a budget and planning their senior class trip. The freshman class is also working on fundraising, there will be a bake sale at Expo Night. The classes have met to brainstorm on what they feel is needed in the next superintendent.

The School Committee thanked Caitlin and Mary for coming to the school committee meeting.

5. **UPDATE(S)/PRESENTATION(S):**

A. Superintendent Finalists – Jennifer Dowley

Ms. Silvers introduced Jennifer Dowley, the consultant in our Superintendent search.

Ms. Dowley commended the Screening Committee (Charlie Ketchen, Bruce Turner, Tom Ryan, Jane Burke, Stephen Leining, Christina Carlson, Neil Barbieri, Karen Frighetto, Fiona Kerr, James Theriot,

Glenn Devoti, Mary Turo, Francoise Lartigue) on their hard work and commitment during the interview process. She also acknowledged David Hastings, Jeremy Wells, Chris Thompson and Lynette Gagnon for their help with various tasks during the screening and interview process. Ms. Dowley further gave a shout out to Glenn Koocher from MASC who coached Ms Silvers and her through the whole process.

Ms. Dowley further explained that the district had received 21 applications from all across the state and country. Of those 21 applicants, the Superintendent Screening Committee selected 9 semi-finalists. Each interview lasted an hour and 15 minutes. The Superintendent Screening Committee was charged to bring forward 2 to 5 candidates as finalists, they selected 3 finalists. Ms. Dowley has spoken with each of the three candidates, they are:

- Mary Jane Rickson, Assistant Superintendent-Director/Principal  
Pathfinder Regional School District, Palmer, MA
- Beth Regulbuto, Associate Superintendent  
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, Wilbraham, MA
- Michael Buoniconti, Mohawk Regional School District  
Mr. Buoniconti has agreed to put his application forward but under the condition that he begin a conversation about a shared superintendency.

Ms. Dowley will now begin to turn over the process of interviewing the finalists to the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee. She has worked with the EEC to develop questions for the finalist interviews. Site visits to the candidates' districts will be planned for February 13, 14, 17 and 27.

Mr. Stewart thanked Ms. Dowley and the screening committee for their dedication and hard work.

## 5. **BUSINESS**

### A. Request for Approval of Overnight Field Trips:

Jesse carpenter explained the Grade 8 trip to Washington. He also explained that grades 10 and 12 accompany them to Washington because it sustains the trip financially.

*Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the Grades 8, 9 and 10 trip to Washington DC, from March 8 through 10, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.*

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stewart would like to know if there were any students who could not go because of financial constraints. Mr. Carpenter assured the committee that no one was denied because of a lack of finances.

### B. Lateral Move on the Unit A Salary Schedule effective February 1, 2017

*Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the lateral move of Kelly MacDonald from M to M9 effective February 1, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.*

### C. Tentative Adoption of the Fy'18 Operating, Transportation, and Capital Budgets – Superintendent Hastings, Business Manager Chris regan, Chair Finance Committee Dennis Sears

Chris Regan, Business Manager, presented the budget. She looked at history back to 2013 to see for trends. Some adjustments were made because of changes in salaries and positions. Governor's budget came out on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and the DESE does the calculations to determine minimum contributions for each of the towns. Ms. Regan explained that the district went out on a joint transportation bid with Berkshire Hills Regional School District. There was only one bidder, Massini Bus Co. The bids came in on Tuesday and were much higher than anticipated. Assessments are based on the transportation bid as it came in. She is confident that we will be able to reduce the number of routes and thereby cut costs and the assessments will change. Ms. Regan further explained the transportation bid. There was a 61% increase in the rates for next year. She explained that the current rates were based on 2012. The current

bid is higher, but is in the vicinity of what other districts are paying for rates. Massini Bus Co. are subcontracting with Greg Massini and Dufour Bus Co.

*Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by David Travis, that the district award the bid to Massini Bus Co.*

Discussion ensued.

David Travis brought up concerns on childcare, of where children will be dropped off, and to make afternoon activities a priority.

Ms. Lartigue asked to call the question.

*Mr. Flynn-No; Ms. Lartigue –Yes; David Travis-Yes; Ms. Silvers-Yes; Ms. Bush-Yes; Mr. Sears-Yes; Mr. Law No. Motion passes 5-2*

Ms. Bush left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

The Finance Subcommittee had requested that Ms. Regan to reorganize the budget in a different format, based on the programs. Not a lot of significant changes. Ms. Regan explained the breakdown of the budget and the change in insurance rates. BHG changed from Value Plus to deductible plans, for this year the premiums will not change. Ms. Regan continued to explain that the numbers for incoming school choice were higher than outgoing. The district is seeing a nice gain in the money coming in to offset some of the costs. For FY18 she was able to apply \$900,000 from school choice fund to cover salaries.

Chris explained the capital expense budget. Waiting on the BG&T to approve the list of projects. We are required because of the work done on the boiler and roof project to keep enough money to maintain the buildings and equipment.

*Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to adopt the FY'18 preliminary budget as presented.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Mr. Batacchi – Yes, Ms. Lartigue – Yes, Mr. Travis – Yes, Mr. Sears – Yes, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Law – Yes because it is the preliminary budget*

Mr. Flynn left the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

#### D. Superintendent Report:

##### **Community**

- a. Walkers. Every evening, there are many community members who come to the Sheffield Campus to walk the halls. Barbara Delmolino is the coordinator of the program, which started a month earlier this year than last. People sign in and record their distances. Paul Menin, former Middle School Teacher and Wrestling Coach, also plays an important role in the program.

##### **Students**

- a. **Aladdin Jr and Into the Woods.**
- b. **All-State Chorus. Eliza Maggio and Jesse Smerechniak** will be participating in this year's **All-State Chorus event**. They will join several hundred other singers from across the state.
- c. **Norman Rockwell Museum's 31st annual student exhibit.** Olivia Marchione, Patrick Haiss, Katrina Pickert, and Celeste Harshbarger will have work featured in the Norman Rockwell Museum's 31st annual student exhibit. Opening reception is on Saturday, from 1 – 4 PM, and is free and open to the public. The show runs until March 4th.

- d. **South Egremont Skating Program.** The children at South Egremont have started their skating unit for PE. They go to Berkshire School on Friday mornings from 8-9. Parents provide all of the transportation to and from Berkshire. Kelly Milan, Susan Weinstein and Erica Clarke are all on the ice with them.
- e. **FFA Lambs.** Six lambs have been born since Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>. Two sets of twins and two single lambs. All are doing well. While we were expecting lambs, students took turns coming out to the barn to check on the ewes. **Morgan Derby**, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, assisted with a delivery of a large lamb. Without her help, the lamb might have not made it.
- f. **Arborculture Career Fair.** On January 30<sup>th</sup> the following five students attended a career fair focusing on arboriculture at Race Mountain Tree Services:  
Ben Stevens, Charles Grace, Brendan Dempsey, Nick VandeBogart, and Anthony Lupiani
- g. **K-4 Literacy Night** - Mary Turo has tentatively scheduled a K-4 Literacy Night on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The planning committee had its first meeting on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- h. **Read Across America Day** - We will celebrate **Read Across America Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Prek and K are participating in an event sponsored by The United Way. Mary Turo would like the rest of the elementary grades to participate some way. It does not have to be a large project. In the past, she paired classrooms (older kids, with younger kids) and they read to each other for 20 minutes. Organizing this could be a grade/class project for Fairness.
- i. **K-4 Winter Carnival** - All K-4 students will be going to Butternut on February 16<sup>th</sup> for our annual winter outing. There is no charge for the skiing/tubing or the buses. Dan Weston and Amy Murray are organizing this event.
- j. **Job Shadowing Day.** The entire 10<sup>th</sup> grade class conducted its annual Job Shadowing Day today.
- k. **Poetry Out Loud.** Marya Makuc (Grade 11) won our school's Poetry Out Loud and will move on to the competition in Springfield on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Jeanne Lemlin did a great job organizing the competition. The school finals featured a rock band that included electric guitar (Shoji Rinaldi), drums (Simon Salzman) and xylophone (Ricky McLaughlin).
- l. **Valentine's Day.** On Valentine's Day, Kari Giordano and others are creating a surprise experience for the students during the 9-12 lunch in the form of a Valentine's Day booth. It is a way to let the kids know how much we appreciate them and to encourage kindness in this scary time.
- m. **Sports Teams – Western Mass.** Our girls Basketball Team needs two more wins to qualify for Western Mass. Our Boys Basketball Team needs three more wins to qualify. The Hockey team can also qualify, but the number of wins needed is still unknown.
- n. **Middle School Expo.** During the Middle School Expo night, students will perform a play based on Mesopotamia. Recently classes worked together to produce:  
**Costumes:** Ms. Kuzmech      **Murals:** Ms. Wright      **Thrones, etc:** Mr. Farmer
- o. Seniors ordered Caps and Gowns this week.

Ms. Lartigue brought up the topic of an after school program based. There was further discussion regarding this. Sarah Siket suggested the Southern Berkshire Child Care Program as an option.

*Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to form an Ad Hoc committee to investigate the SBRSD establishing a payed for after school Program. It was so voted unanimously.*

There was further discussion on how to structure the committee. Ms. Silvers, Ms. Lartigue, Mr. Travis, Mr. Law Volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee.

E. Subcommittee Reports:

1. Finance Subcommittee: Presented earlier during the meeting.
2. Policy Subcommittee: Dennis Sears presented the following policies for first reading.  
ADF – SCHOOL DISTRICT WELLNESS PROGRAM  
AC – Non discrimination  
BBBA/BBBB SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER QUALIFICATIONS/OATH OF OFFICE  
EBC – EMERGENCY PLANS  
GBA EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
GBEC – DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY  
GCF PROFESSIONAL STAFF HIRING  
IHAMB TEACHING ABOUT ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUGS  
IJ INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
JB EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
JFBB SCHOOL CHOICE  
JICH ALCOHOL, TOBACCO  
JKAA PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS  
JLCD ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS
3. BG&T: The meeting was cancelled due to the weather.
4. Transportation: Already discussed earlier in the meeting.
5. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee:

*David Travis moved, seconded by Carl Stewart, to disband and thank the Superintendent Screening Committee. It was so voted unanimously.*

The Superintendent Screening Committee members will all receive a letter of thank you from the School Committee.

F. Financial Updates

- a. Vote to Approve District Warrants: *Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to approve the District Warrants. It was so voted unanimously.*

**6. COMMUNICATION FROM THE PUBLIC / REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

David Devine introduced himself to the school committee. He is attending college and was attending the meeting as a student with a project as well as a resident of the district.

7. **ADJOURN:** *Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. It was so voted unanimously.*

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

Agenda meeting #1520  
Minutes of meeting #1519  
Overnight Field trip Permission Forms  
Tentative FY'18 Budget  
First Reading of Policies