

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

Absent:

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Christine Regan

Press: CTSB, Cory Wiley – Berkshire Record,

Student Representatives: Nolan Dupont, Angus Kerr

Others: Mark Carson, Laura Allen, Ken Bascer, Terri Licata, Tom Berkel, James Foster, Sandi Hubbard, Mary Turo, Kerry Burke, Marilyn Fracasso, Tara White, Edgar Zukauskas, Vito Valentini, Karen Frighetto, Robert Miller, Dan Weston, Charles Ketchen, Nat Yohalem, Sarah Siket, Jesse Carpenter, Lynn Webster, Jaimi-Lyn Schieb, Marya Makuc, Glenn Devoti

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Stewart called meeting #1521 to order at 6:25 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** No minutes to approve
3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE PERTAINING TO THIS EVENING'S AGENDA ITEMS**
  - A. Student Representative Report: Nolan Dupont, Junior Class President and Angus Kerr, Freshman Class President introduced themselves to the school committee.  
The seniors are working on their senior class trip, which they hope will be a day trip to the beach. The juniors just finished with the expo workshops. This was a fundraiser where they helped a student with their project for \$5.00. Unfortunately, they only raised \$5.00 from this fundraiser. This year's prom will be at the Cranwell Resort and they are busy on planning and fundraising. An idea they have is to sell prom bonds.  
The Sophomore class had a valentine sale. Student council is also planning on a food drive in March. They are also thinking of doing a Spring Cleanup fundraiser  
  
Nolan, on behalf of the students, thanked Ms. Giordano and the high school staff for the Valentine Day Reflection Booth. This was very positive and many of the students really appreciated the gesture. This helped with motivation and confidence among the students.  
  
Mr. Stewart thanked Nolan and Angus for their reports.  
  
*Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to amend the agenda and add Policy Subcommittee Report under item #4D. It was so voted unanimously.*
4. **BUSINESS:**
  - A. Superintendent Selection Process Update – Bonnie Silvers
    - Bonnie informed the school committee that we now have two finalists because one, Michael Buoniconti, withdrew. Visits to the two candidates' districts are taking place.

- March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup> are confirmed for the two candidates to visit our District. Mary Jane Rickson will visit on March 1<sup>st</sup> and Beth Regulbuto will visit on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. An offer was made to both candidates to stay the night prior to their visit at a local bed and breakfast. The district will pay for one night's stay for each candidate.
- There is a tight schedule planned for both days. The Culinary Arts Program Students and Sue Petrucci will be preparing lunch on both days as well as refreshments for the meet and greet.
- The public meet and greet will be from 3:45 to 5:00 p.m. Notice will be sent to the towns and general public and staff.
- Mr. Stewart, Mr. Travis, Ms. Silvers and Mr. Law are checking on references.
- Interviews will be held in open session, on March 1<sup>st</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and each candidate will be asked the same set of questions. After the second interview, the school committee will deliberate and decide on a superintendent, after which they will go into executive session to discuss the contract.

B. Presentation on Reorganization of Grade 6 – David Hastings

Superintendent Hastings informed the school committee about the possibility of moving Grade 6 to the middle school in the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Hastings further stated that within districts in the county Grade 6 is part of the middle school (except for Lee). He would like to start a process that will include information sessions to talk about this proposed plan. This is not something that is definitely going to happen but an idea. By moving Grade 6 to the middle school we would be able to align the curriculum and take better advantage of the faculty at the middle school level. The administrative team felt that this was the smart thing to do. The Elementary school is currently following a middle school model for grades 5 and 6, the students see specialized teachers for certain subjects. Kerry Burke has agreed to be the coordinator for this process.

Dan Weston suggested that a more careful course of action would be to not study the way to make the transition but to take the next year to study if the move is warranted. He found research that did not support this move. Feels that research needs to be done to see if this is the best decision before the transition. Mr. Sears asked Dan to provide the information he has to the committee.

Mr. Flynn asked Mr. Hastings what precipitated this proposal and if there was substantive research to support the transition of Grade 6 to middle school.

Ms. Lartigue also asked what or who had initiated this move. We are thinking of moving children up because we have space and under-utilized teachers. Would we be getting rid of teachers?

David Travis asked if there should be a sub-committee formed to investigate this.

Mr. Sears is comfortable with the path the Superintendent wants to take, but needs to tie it in with research to see what is there on both sides to support the transition. Mr. Flynn would like to see research to back up the move.

There was further discussion on the pros and cons of moving the Grade 6 to the middle school.

Mr. Flynn asked why this is being done now and that maybe this decision should be left to the new superintendent. Mr. Hastings responded with this views.

Ms. Silvers stated that everything she heard were real reasons, educational benefits, staff development, and maturation of students. She further stated that we are doing a disservice to our education leadership team to say they have not been working on this. There are strong reasons that

our children in grade 6 are well prepared for departmentalization. She supports the action of the superintendent with the fact that everyone will be involved with the transition.

*Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Travis, that the school committee agrees that we are taking a position that the SBRSD is investigating incorporating Grade 6 into the middle school.*

*Ms. Silvers – No; Ms. Brown – Abstain; Others – Yes. Motion carries.*

C. Superintendent's Report – Dave Hastings

**Community**

- a. **The community art gallery** in the art wing is featuring oil paintings by local artist **Margo Trout**. The gallery was made possible through a grant from the Eagle Fund and is curated by our **Arts National Honor Society**.
- b. **The New Marlborough Library** is working on a grant (Mass Board of Library Commissioners – Library Services and Technology Act) that would allow it to set up an After-School homework center next fall (OCT). **Dan Weston, Glenn Chamberlain** (BHRSD) are assisting. The New Marlborough Friends of the Library may also provide funding.
- c. **Expo 2017**. Jesse Carpenter and the Middle School Team hosted Expo 2017 Wednesday night. This year, Expo featured a theater performance by the entire grade 7, based on Mesopotamia.
- d. **Elementary School Registration** will be on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- e. **Elementary Literacy Night** will be March 21<sup>st</sup> with various teacher groups heading up events.
- f. **Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences** are scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- g. **Sixth Grade Ice Cream Social** for parents and students entering Grade 7 will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- h. **Eight Grade Ice Cream Social** for parents and students entering Grade 9 will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- i. **High School Parent-Teacher Conferences** will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- j. **Aladdin**. The Middle School (Grades 6-8) production of Aladdin will be performed in the TACPAC on the weekend of March 25<sup>th</sup>. As always, we provide no-cost tickets to the Sheffield Senior Center and the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

**Staff.**

- a. **Stephanie Graham and Kari Giordano**: have each written articles published in Art Journals.
- b. **Valentines Day Reflection Booth**. High school faculty, at the direction of **Kari Giordano** organized a surprise Valentine's Day Reflection Booth in the cafeteria. The effort provided students with reflections about themselves provided by their teachers throughout the lunch period. Students entered the booth and answered a telephone call to hear teachers reflect and tell them how great they are. The Berkshire eagle joined us for this unique experience.
- c. **Coach Joe Warren**. I would like to recognize Mount Everett alum Joe for coaching or assisting coaching every boys basketball team from grade 3 up to varsity.
- d. **Bike Repair Program**. Teachers Andrew Rapport and Jeremiah Bickford are using the yellow house as a lab for students to repair bicycles in an effort to learn mechanical, social, and business skills.
- e. **Raising Baby Trout Classrooms**. Mount Everett Science teachers **Steve Antil, Tim Schwartz and Asha Von Ruden** are all working collaboratively with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, raising baby trout in their classrooms. Larger specimens are currently being raised in the aquaculture lab in the yellow house.

## Students

- a. **Middle School Robotics:** Chris Thompson had applied for and received a \$2,500 grant for parts and materials for a middle school VEX Robotics team. **VEX** is a competitor to **FIRST Robotics** and each year holds their own tournaments across the world. Since that time, 9 middle school students have been working 1 or 2 times a week after school to build and program a robot for autonomous and remote control operation. As a part of the grant, they are required to compete this year, so the farthest date out they could choose was **February 11 at the University of New Haven**. The team has also received an invitation to the **Middle School VEX Southern New England Championship on February 25<sup>th</sup> in Framingham**. As a first year team, Chris doesn't expect too much, but the team could possibly advance from this event to the VEX World Championship in Louisville, KY.
- b. **Pat Fosby, 100<sup>th</sup> Win.** Pat Fosby earned his 100th win in wrestling this last week.
- c. **State Wrestling Tournament.** Wrestlers **Anthony Lupiani** and **Patrick Fosby** have qualified to compete at the state wrestling championships.
- d. **Elementary Basketball Program.** Mt Everett Elementary Basketball Programs were recognized at the varsity boys and girls senior nights last week.
- e. **Winter Carnival.** Elementary Students, K-4, participated in the annual Winter Carnival at Butternut Today.
- f. Lauren Edwards and Marya Makuc serve on the board of the Community Health Coalition, and helped organize the parent forum that was held at the Mahaiwe last Wednesday.
- g. **Cheer Camp.** Mt Everett alum and Cheerleading Coach **Erin Mahoney** and the Varsity Cheering Team sponsored a Cheer camp for Elementary students who performed at a varsity game. They did a great, great job!
- h. **Theater Camp.** There are preliminary discussions exploring the possibility of offering a theater camp at Mount Everett this summer
- i. **Job Shadow Day.** All tenth graders participated in a job shadow day on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- j. **Career Exploration Day.** All ninth graders will participate in a career exploratory in March involving our culinary, carpentry, and guidance departments.
- k. **Girls' Basketball.** Our Girls' Basketball team needs one more win to get into the Western Mass Tournament. Unfortunately, the team has had several players injured in the last few weeks.
- l. **Read Across America.** The United Way has partnered with the Pre K, EK, and K classes for people to come in and read to students for "Read Across America" on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- m. **The 100th day of school.** Elementary students celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in many ways. **The 2nd grade teachers** took pictures of their students and "aged" them so they all look '100 years old'. **First grade** did a fashion show in the lobby wearing t-shirts that they had put 100 different items on (buttons, pom-poms, stickers, etc.).
- n. **SADD Breakfast.** The SADD Breakfast, originally scheduled for Friday, has been pushed back.

Carl Stewart recognized Marya Makuc who is going to Springfield for the Poetry Out Loud Competition.

David Travis mentioned that a SBRSD newsletter would be helpful to parents. Bob Law suggested that the district set up a public relations subcommittee or ad hoc committee to get the word out to the community. He would be willing to help with this. Ms. Silvers reported that there is a small amount of money put aside for public relations.

*Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Mr. Sears, to have a temporary Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee. Voted Unanimous.*

Mr. Flynn noted that this item was not on the agenda.

*Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to amend the agenda to include the formation of an Ad Hoc Public Relations Committee.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Mr. Flynn – Yes Mr. Batacchi – Yes Ms. Lartigue – Yes Mr. Travis – Yes Ms. Silvers – Yes  
Ms. Bush – Yes Ms. Brown – Yes Mr. Sears – Yes Mr. Law – Yes  
Motion carries.*

Mr. Law, Ms. Silvers and Ms. Bush will be on this committee.

D. Subcommittee Reports:

a. Finance Subcommittee – Dennis Sears – nothing to report.

b. Building, Grounds & Technology - Charles Flynn  
Mr. Flynn reported that the BG&T subcommittee met last night. They spent time going through the budget proposal, some capital requests were moved to the operational budget. They will have a final list on March 8<sup>th</sup> which the BG&T subcommittee will vote on and bring to the School Committee meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

c. Collective Bargaining – Carl Stewart  
Mr. Stewart reported that the Negotiation Subcommittee met at 4:30 p.m. this afternoon to discuss in executive session the mitigation issue with respect to savings with the health plan. The proposal will be presented to the union and there should be an answer by the next school committee meeting.

d. Policy Subcommittee: Second Reading  
*Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Flynn, to approve policy ADF School District Wellness Program. Voted unanimous.*

*Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the following policies. Voted Unanimous.*

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

Mr. Batacchi brought up the question regarding school closures and after school activities, meetings. Should activities be held at the school. The district should have a policy that addresses school closing and after school activities. Ms. Silvers would like whatever policy is created to be added to the student handbook.

E. Financial Updates:

a. Transfers :

*Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to reallocate budget by function code for salary and other line items to reflect current needs in amount of \$407,037. Voted Unanimous.*

b. Vote to approve District Warrants:

*Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue to approve the warrants from meeting 2/10/17. Voted Unanimous.*

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

6. **ADJOURN:** *Mr. Batacchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Voted Unanimous.*