

School Committee Members: Art Batacchi, Fran Lartigue, Bonnie Silvers, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears, Bob Law, David Travis came in at 6:28 p.m.

Absent: Carl Stewart, MaryEllen Brown

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Christine Regan, Glenn Devoti

Press: CTSB, Sam Rappaport – Berkshire Record,

Student Representatives: Mary Shalaby, Angus Kerr

Others: Beth Regulbuto, Angela Spitia, Karen Chamberland, Karen Frighetto, Danielle Melino, Stephanie Graham, Michelle Raczkowski, Ralph & Judith Noveck, Ingrid Borwick

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Silvers called meeting #1523 to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. **RECESS:** There was a short recess to recognize Kayla Krom for receiving the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Award.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - i. *Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the Open Public Meeting minutes of 2-16-17. It was so voted unanimously.*
 - ii. *Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the minutes of meeting #1522 of March 9, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.*
 - iii. *Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the Special School Committee Meeting minutes of March 27, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.*
4. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE PERTAINING TO THIS EVENING'S AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A. Student Representative Report: None.
5. **UPDATE(S)/PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. Presentation on the China Symposium and the Possibility of Hosting Next Year's World Alliance Symposium at Mount Everett – Stephanie Graham and Glenn Devoti

Stephanie Graham gave an update about the trip to China. She would like Mount Everett to host next year's World Alliance Symposium in mid-October with the theme of spoken word poetry and music. Five countries participate with the WEA, she would like to get more schools involved. Mr. Devoti reported that there would be two potential donors who are interested and anxious to hear about our ideas. Questions and answers session ensued.

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Law, that the initial work of investigating hosting the WEA conference for spoken word poetry and music be given to the Finance Committee. It was so voted unanimously.

6. **BUSINESS:**

A. School Committee Member Resignation.

Ms. Silvers informed the School Committee that Mr. Flynn had resigned from the School Committee. A letter of thanks to Mr. Flynn for his efforts on behalf of the School Committee.

Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Law, that a letter accepting Mr. Flynn's resignation and thanking him for his service be sent. It was so voted unanimously.

Ms. Silvers informed the committee that MaryEllen Brown fell and broke her hip. Visitors are encouraged.

B. Approval to Establish a Student Activity Account for the Class of 2020 by Wendy Casey – Glenn Devoti

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Sears, to establish a Student Activity Account for the Class of 2020. It was so voted unanimously.

C. Approval of Overnight Field Trips:

I. Approval of an Overnight Trip to New York, NY to attend the Whitney Biennial, April 17-18, 2017. Grade 9-12 students and guests from Hong Kong. Stephanie presented a description of the trip.

Mr. Travis moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the Overnight Trip to New York, NY to attend the Whitney Biennial, April 17-18, 2017 for Grade 9-12 students and Guests from Hong Kong. It was so voted unanimously.

II. Preliminary Approval of Grades 9-12 Spanish Class to Peru, Cuzco, Machu Picchu, February 18-24, 2019.

Angela Spitia presented this trip which is open to all students, not just the Spanish students. The trip is planned for February vacation. Danielle Melino will be a chaperone and also help with fundraising. The trip will cost \$2518.

Ms. Silvers asked if they will look for grants to help students who cannot afford the trip. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Batacchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to grant preliminary approval for the February 18-24, 2019 trip to Peru, Cuzco, Machu Picchu. It was so voted unanimously.

Ms. Razcowski was seeking final approval for the Ireland, London, Paris trip which will take place this June but the item was not on the agenda. This item will be added to the next school committee meeting agenda.

D. Request for Approval of Mt. Everett Regional High School 2017-2018 Program of Studies – Glenn Devoti

Mr. Devoti reported that the program of studies is almost identical to last year.

Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Law, to approve the Mt. Everett Regional High School 2017-2018 Program of Studies.

There was a lengthy discussion on the program of studies. Some of the proposed changes were discussed. Mr. Devoti reported that because of the anticipated reduction in FTE he wanted to be cautious about what was put in the program of studies. Ms. Lartigue inquired about class size.

Python was removed due to low registration. Food Prep II is dropped and Entrepreneurship will be added. Due to declining enrollment fewer sections are being offered. There was further discussion.

Ms. Silvers called the question.

Mr. Batacchi moved, seconded by Mr. Sears, to approve the 2017-2018 Program of Studies that may need revisions. It was so voted unanimously.

E. Superintendent's Report – Dave Hastings

Community

- a. ***Aladdin***. The Middle School Play, ***Aladdin***, was outstanding. Bonnie, Art, and Bob attended, as did Beth Regulbuto. Each performance got better and better, with super music and great choreography. Although this was a Grade 6-9 play, the bulk of the actors came from grades six and seven. The play netted over \$5,000.
- b. ***Into the Woods***. The show will be performed at the **TAC PAC on May 19 and 20 at 7:00pm; May 21 at 3:00pm**. The production features over 30 students in the 7th-12th grade. This year's show is special for a lot of reasons. A major reason is because when we did this show 6-7 years ago **Jake Smerechniak** played the Baker. This year his sister, **Jesse Smerechniak, is playing the Baker's Wife**.
- c. **Literacy Night**. The elementary schools conducted a Literacy Night in which students moved from Reading activity to activity, following a map that was provided to each student. Students' maps were stamped at each station, and students received books for completing all stations.
- d. **New Marlborough Central "Living Museum of Dancing Physics"**. After working with instructors, including Lindsay Berkowitz and Kristen Sparhawk, from the Flying Cloud Institute for a month, New Marlborough Central's students presented four different physics-related plays, showing gravity, friction, air resistance, applying forces to objects of various density, and interacting forces (pushing and pulling). The event featured plays in four classrooms, with the audience moving every ten minutes. Students' physics projects were also on display in the cafeteria. The event was very well attended.
- e. **High Five Friday**. Police Officers from our towns greeted students with high fives on March 26th. This was part of a state-wide program to enhance the relationship between the police and the schools. The police departments will work to become more of a part of our school community on a regular basis so that the children will see them as supporting and safe people.
- f. **New Marlborough Central Community Events:**
 - **PTA Diversity Potluck**. Friday April 7th (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
 - **Science Fair**. May 9th (5:30 -7:00 p.m.)
 - **Book Fair and Ice Cream Social**. Wednesday May 17th (5:00-7:00 PM)
 - **Amadons Music Program**. Tuesday May 23rd (All school day). Performance in the afternoon time TBA
 - **4th Grade Recognition Night**. Thursday June 15th (5:00 - 7:00 PM)
We will also be honoring Kelly Milan and Evelyn Vallianos that evening.
 - **NMC Talent Show**. Tuesday, June 20th (1:00 p.m.)

Staff

- a. **Stephanie Graham** has written an article featured on the COVER of **SchoolArts Magazine**.
- b. **Kari Giordano** also has another article published and was honored as a ***SUNY New Paltz 40 under 40*** for contributions to the **Art Education** field.

- c. **Chris Clark** presented a session at the New Hampshire Music Educator's Association Conference on **Feedback in the Choral Rehearsal**. Chris also has an article coming out in the **Massachusetts American Choral Directors Association** newsletter entitled *"Teaching for Transfer: Dalcroze's Rules for Nuance."*
- d. **Danielle Melino FFA Grants**. Danielle Melino just received notification that she was awarded two grants for the FFA.
 - **Berkshire Taconic Foundation Green Pastures Found - \$1500** - will allow us to hire a company to clear some of the woods behind the barn and build a proper manure collection area. We would like to start a manure exchange program where we can offer gardeners and landscapers the manure produced by our animals. We don't have the means or acreage to adequately utilize the nutrients in the manure here on campus. This program would benefit water quality in our community by lowering the amount of commercial fertilizer used by gardeners and others.
 - **Tractor Supply Company - \$2500** - These funds will allow us to make repairs to the barn and purchase needed equipment (wheelbarrows, hay feeders, stall mats etc)

Students

- a. The following students will be inducted into the Aurigan chapter of the National Honor Society on May 11 at 7 PM. Cavan Brady, Gwendolyn Carpenter, Jaclyn Derwitsch, Marion Devoti, Anna Dupont, Devan Gali, James Gullota, Charles Kerzner, Olivia Murphy, Hannah Steuernagle, Madison Ullrich
- b. **Sixth Grade Art Display**. There is a selection of 6th grade artwork hanging at Market Place Cafe. There will be an opening reception on Sat April 8th at 5:00pm. The work will be up until April 28th.
- c. **China Trip**. Our students traveled to Hong Kong and Nanjing, participating in a science symposium presentation on the Housatonic River in Nanjing.
- d. **Students from Hong Kong**. Hong Kong students arrived on Wednesday and will shadow Mount Everett students for a week. Their stay will include trips to Boston and New York.
- e. **Band and Chorus Trip to Tennessee**. The band, chorus, and chaperones departed Tuesday for Tennessee. Students will visit Dollywood and other sights during the trip. Students will perform at Vanderbilt University and have the opportunity to work under a college director. Our Lynette Gagnon is one of the chaperones. Mount Everett is a very quiet place this week, since a large percentage of the students are in the Music Department.
- f. **NAMM Award**. Our district has again received the NAMM award as one of the best communities for music. We are one of 528 districts, nation-wide to receive this designation and one of 15 districts in Massachusetts. We are the only district west of Agawam to be given this award. Congratulations to our super Music Department and to so many supportive parents and staff.
- g. **411 in the 413 Conference Annual Conference**. This is an annual conference sponsored by the **Railroad Street Youth Project**. Each public school in the county sends a small group to **Hancock Shaker Village**. We will be sending ten students, including many class officers. The theme this year is "Envisioning Your Future". The day will provide students with the opportunity to learn about **Radical Creativity, Compassion in Action, Being Well and Adulthood**. The conference features workshops that will be facilitated by local professionals, (including Ms. Casey), artists, students, and youth groups from the area. There are a wide variety of workshops planned ranging from **Telling Your Story in The College App Process to**

The Art of Conversation to Inside Financial Aid to Edible Mushrooms etc. Students pre-registered for their preferred workshops.

- h. We were recently notified that a **Title IIB: MA Math and Science Partnership (MMS) Grant of \$46,000** has been awarded to SBRSD in partnership with **Flying Cloud Institute** for the 2017-18 school year with our **higher education partner MCLA**. **Kerry Burke, Mary Turo and Ingrid Borwick** collaborated with **Maria Rundle and Lisa Lesser** from FCI to submit this grant this past January. This grant provides multiple tiers of year- long professional development for 20 teachers from grades K-8, including at least 6-8 SBRSD teachers, to focus on the new Science Technology and Engineering standards. Teachers will do a week- long summer intensive workshop, complete follow-up sessions to development common assessments later in the summer, and participate in professional learning network through the school year. MA DESE received **27 applications for this grant with four (4) awarded**. SBRSD was **one of two awarded in Western MA**.
- i. **Donovan Sawyer - Trip to Amsterdam**. **Donovan Sawyer** traveled to Amsterdam with her Hevreh religious school class. Edith Velmans, a member of Hevreh in Great Barrington, like Anne Frank, was a hidden child during the Holocaust and also wrote a book about her experience in hiding during WWII, titled **Edith's Story**. Edith knows Karen Polyniak, who is connected to the Anne Frank House. Karen greeted the group, took them to a private education room and gave them a personal introduction to the house. Karen also introduced the class to **Rosette Katz**, a Holocaust survivor, who shared her story with them. This was an amazing opportunity for these teens to hear a first-hand accounting of living through the Holocaust, and all because of a connection back home.
- j. **Bilingual Book Club**. Christine Martin, the ESL teacher, has invited all of our 4-6 elementary bilingual students to participate in a bilingual book club. The club meets every Wednesday during lunch/recess and have grown from 4 to 7 students. Together with Christine, the students are reading together, fostering the further development of the students' native language, in this case, Spanish. The Club's first book is by **Julia Alvarez, "How Tia Lola Came to Stay"**. Christine hopes to expand to the secondary level next year!
- k. **French Class trip to Bizalion Restaurant, April 12th**. Pierre Leger's French IV and V class has been following and discussing the French presidential election that will take place in April and May of this year. The **French IV and V Classes** talk about the election process in France, the candidates and their programs. The students prepared some questions about the candidates and the measures they would be implementing should they be elected. The students will ask their questions in French to a native French man who will participate in these election. **Mr. Bizalion** has agreed to answer their questions during a French lunch at his restaurant.
- l. **FFA Trip to Boston for Ag Day**. Five Mt. Everett FFA members and advisor, Danielle Melino, traveled to Boston on April 4th for **Ag Day at the State House**. Berkshire County Farm Bureau invited us to join them on their bus. Thank you to **Greenagers** for sponsoring this trip for our chapter. While in Boston we heard **Governor Baker** speak, spent time talking to our state **Representatives Smitty Pignatelli and Mark Paul**, and **Senator Adam Hines**. The group went on a tour of the building with Rep Pignatelli and learned about Agriculture legislature in Massachusetts The group accompanied **Berkshire Farm Bureau** members for the day and learned what is important to the farmers in our county. Our students talked about the Mount Everett FFA program and advocated for agriculture education. Lunch was a feast featuring

dishes made from Massachusetts products. Students are: Casandra Rodriguez (Sr), Kylie Ruane (Jr), Morgan Derby (Jr), Vanessa Wald (So), and Olivia Murphy (So)

- m. **FFA Horse Judging Event.** Seven members of the Mount Everett Future Farmers of America chapter will be participating in the State FFA Horse Judging Competition on April 12th. The Mount Everett Team won the state Horse judging contest in May 2014 and went on to compete in the National contest that fall.

F. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee Reorganization.
Art Batacchi was voted as Chair of the BG&T subcommittee.
- b. Finance & Policy Subcommittee – Mr. Sears reported that there was nothing to report at this time.

G. Financial Updates

- a. Vote to Use E&D to Reduce FY17 Assessments Due to Variance in Governor’s Approved versus Proposed FY17 Budget. Chris Regan reported that total in excess of 5% is required to be returned to the towns - \$46,771. Chris is requesting an additional amount of \$65,032.

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Travis, to approve \$65,032 from E&D in addition to the \$46,771 go back to the towns for a total of \$111,803. It was so voted unanimously.

- b. Transfers: Chris Regan presented the transfers.
Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to accept the transfers as presented. It was so voted unanimously.
- c. Vote to Approve District Warrants
Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the district warrants as submitted at the Warrant Subcommittee meetings of March 10th and March 24th. It was so voted unanimously.
- d. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts
Mr. Batacchi moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve \$8800 in gifts and \$69,026 in grants as submitted. It was so voted unanimously.

- H. *Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to enter into executive session for the Purpose of Discussing Strategy as it Relates to Contract Negotiations with the Incoming Superintendent of Schools and reconvene in open session.*

Roll Call Vote:

<i>Mr. Batacchi</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Ms. Lartigue</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Travis</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Ms. Silvers</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Ms. Bush</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Sears</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Law</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

The school committee reconvened in Open Session at 8:40 p.m.

- I. Contract with the Incoming Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Law moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to approve the contract for Beth Regulbuto commencing July 1, 2017 for a 3 year period. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Batacchi *Yes* *Mr. Travis* *Yes* *Ms. Lartigue* *Yes* *Ms. Silvers* *Yes*
Ms. Bush *Yes* *Mr. Sears* *Yes* *Mr. Law* *Yes*

Ms. Regulbuto signed her contract.

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Sears, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. It was so voted unanimously.

Documents Presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda Meeting #1523*
- *Minutes of Meetings 2-16-17; #1522 and Special Meeting of 3-27-17*
- *Overnight Field Trip Permission Forms*
- *Mt. Everett 2017-2018 Program of Studies*
- *E&D – Reduction FY17 Assessments*
- *Transfer Request*
- *District Warrants*
- *Acceptance of Gifts and Grants*