

School Committee Members: Art Batacchi, Fran Lartigue, Bonnie Silvers, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears, Bob Law, Genis Melandez-Delaney, Carl Stewart

Absent: MaryEllen Brown, David Travis

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Christine Regan

Press: CTSB, Sam Rappaport – Berkshire Record,

Student Representatives: Mary Shallaby

Others: Beth Regulbuto, Karen Frighetto, Amy Boardman, Rosemary Davis, Angela Spitia, Karen Chamberland, Nan Smith, Pierre Leger, Jon Mapstone, Jason Peck, Jordi Peck, Marya Makuc, Michelle Peters, Erica Schroepfer, Tim Schroepfer, Christine Foster, Kathleen Keeler, Joann Gaverty, Christine Martin, Jamie Foster, Kelly MacDonald, Jamie Seward, Susana Mapstone, Dallas Jones, Michelle Raczkowski, Margherita Lamanno, Stephanie Bergman, Amanda Chmiminski, Amy Truax, Marian Dodds, Rikke Borge, Courtney Reynolds, Christina Carlson, Bree Ouellette, Tricia Volmer, Suzanne Sawyer, Elizabeth Petty, Mary Turo, Kristin Sanzone, Mariana Cicerchia, Jaimi-Lyn Schieb, Phyllis Webb, Courtney English, Sarah Binger-James, Maria Rundle, Jennifer Gaenzle Smith, Peggy Henden-Wilson

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Stewart called meeting #1524 to order at 6:06 p.m.
2. **Executive Session:** Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to move the Executive Session to the end of the agenda. It was so voted unanimously.

Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to add an item to the Executive Session, which is to change the way the current Superintendent will have his final evaluation completed. It was so voted unanimously.

Mr. Stewart then introduced the new Town of Egremont School Committee member, Ms. Genis Melandez-Delaney.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Mr. Sears to approve the minutes of Meeting #1523 of April 6, 2017 as submitted. It was so voted unanimously.
4. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE PERTAINING TO THIS EVENING'S AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A. Student Representative Report: Mary Shallaby, Grade 9 Student President, introduced herself to the School Committee. She gave the Student Government Update. Planning a Bingo Night as a fundraiser and also a fundraiser to go to the Philippines. Grade 11 is working on Prom. Grade 12 is planning their senior trip. Student Government has been planning Mr. Mt. Everett, which has been changed to Mt. Everett Pageant. Mr. Stewart thanked Mary for her report.
 - B. Other: Mr. Stewart explained the process for communication from the audience. There should be statements and not questions directed to the superintendent, business manager or the chair and school committee members.

Ms. Angela Spitia, Department Chair of the Foreign Language and Spanish Teacher, introduced herself to the committee. Ms. Spitia stated that she was here to support the Elementary Spanish program and advocate for the students.

Mr. Stewart explained that there was a process and it still requires approval by the School Committee but the Elementary Spanish Program will be reinstated at a .8FTE. Because of the number of students the amount of Spanish teaching will remain the same, every class will receive Spanish. The position was reduced because of the declining enrollment. Community involvement was a factor in bringing about rethinking this issue and the elimination of the program.

Maggie Sarnacki and another Grade 6 student read letters to the School Committee regarding the importance of maintaining the Spanish program in the elementary school.

Mr. Stewart introduced Beth Regulbuto to the audience.

The following individuals also spoke in favor of reinstating the Elementary Spanish Program and also increasing the position from the .8 FTE to a 1.0 FTE. They also talked about the concerns and effect the reduction in the position would have on extra curricula activities: Christine Martin, Maria Rundle, Rickke Borge, Tim Schroepfer, Ms. Cambi

Ms. Siket asked what the procedure was for having an opportunity to speak at an open meeting, especially regarding budget issues and requested that this item be added to the next school committee meeting agenda.

Mr. Sears explained the budget process. He informed the audience that the Finance Subcommittee meeting agendas are posted at least 48 hours before the meeting. He also informed everyone that the agenda is posted on the district website and is also sent to the 5 towns to be posted. The meetings are also added to the district event calendar and the public are always welcome to attend. He further stated that often there is a lack of public attendance at these meetings.

5. **Updates/Presentations**

- A. Town of Egremont Law Suit – Mr. Stewart informed everyone that there is currently a law suit and that the complaint is a public record available on line)

6. **Business**

Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to move item 6C to the first item of business. It was so voted unanimously.

C. Elementary Spanish Program

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, that the School Committee vote to restore the Elementary Spanish teacher position at a .8 FTE for the 2017-2018 school year and direct the District's Business Administrator to bring forward the line item transfers necessary to effectuate the funding of that position.

Mr. Batacchi wanted to know why they were notified of the reinstatement of the program so late in the day. Ms. Lartigue asked if the position could be reinstated at a 1.0 FTE. Mr. Stewart advised that as changing the Spanish Elementary position from .8 FTE to a 1.0 FTE was not on the agenda it could not be discussed at this time. Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Sears called the question. Ms. Lartigue requested a roll call vote:

Mr. Batacchi – Yes, Ms. Lartigue – Yes, Ms. Silvers – Yes, Ms. Bush – Yes, Ms. Melendez-Delaney Yes, Mr. Sears – Yes, Mr. Law – Yes, Mr. Stewart – Yes

Motion passes unanimously.

- A. Final Approval of Overnight Trip to Ireland, Wales, London & Paris – Preliminary approval was granted on 12/9/16 – Ms. Raczkowski
Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Bush to approve the Overnight Trip to Ireland, Wales, London and Paris the last week in June 2017. It was so voted unanimously.
- B. Approval to Establish a “Prom” Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Prom Committee – Kari Giordano The purpose of this fund is to keep funds earned specifically for the prom separate from the funds of each class. The funds will be used to pay for the prom each year with the additional support from the class that is planning that year’s prom.
Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the establishment of a “Prom” Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Prom Committee.

D. Superintendent’s Report – D. Hastings

Community

- a. ***Into the Woods***. The show will be performing at the **TAC PAC on May 19 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. May 21 at 3:00 p.m.** The production features over 30 students in the 7th-12th grade. This year’s show is special for many reasons. A major reason is that 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**.
- b. **Mount Everett School Choral Concert**. Grades 7-12, May 23rd, 7:00 p.m. in the TACPAC, featuring: Middle and High School Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers, Retro and Dial-Tones.
- c. **Elementary Spring Concert, MAY 30th -6:30 p.m. in the TACPAC**. UME and NMC Grades 3-6 Choral Concert
- d. **High-Five Friday -4/28/17**. Local police officers will greet Elementary School students again Friday Morning.

Staff

Students

- a. **National Honor Society Induction, May 11th 7 p.m.**. The following students will be inducted into the Aurigan chapter of the National Honor Society. You are welcome to attend the ceremony and congratulate the students.
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 now hanging at Market Place Café, and there will be an opening reception on Sat April 8th at 5:00pm. The work will be up until April 28th so feel free to check it out.
- c. **China Trip**. The **Mount Everett Global Education Program** recently returned from Hong Kong and China. Students participated in a school exchange and a symposium on water resources protection, where they presented a well-researched project about PCBs in the Housatonic River. The exchange was completed full circle after students from Hong Kong visited us this month.
- d. **US News and World Report Best High Schools Silver Medal**. Mt Everett Regional is ranked 60th within Massachusetts and 1738th in the National Rankings. The AP® participation rate at Mt

Everett Regional is 37 percent. Other schools in the county included Lenox (Gold), Taconic (Silver), and Mount Greylock (Silver). Congratulations to our elementary and secondary staff and students!

- e. **New Marlborough Earth Day Workshops.** Grade 2 did their annual Earth Day workshops at UME. Dan Weston's Gr 2 class joined them this year. Despite the rain, the children had a great time, learning about the vernal pool, cleaning up the campus, working on the three gardens, and learning about composting from Dominic Palumbo from Moon in the Pond Farm.
- f. **The Grade 6 Club Creative Trip to the Magic Fluke.** The club went on a wonderful field trip to the Magic Fluke on March 29th to meet Phyllis and Dale Webb and learn about the history of the ukulele. The visit was topped off by a fascinating look "behind the scenes" where the ukuleles are built. Inspired by this experience, the students are honing their ukulele skills for several upcoming performances.
- g. **Band Competition Results.** The Mt. Everett concert band earned a rating of Excellent at their music festival in Tennessee. Mt. Everett also won the coveted **Esprit de Corps Award**. It is the final award of the ceremony and the festival website describes the award as follows:
The Esprit de Corps Award recognizes the participating organization that displays an exemplary attitude of positive support and outstanding personal behavior throughout the festival weekend. Personal integrity, quality character values, a desire for excellence, and a spirit of cooperation serve as the cornerstone qualities of the Esprit de Corps Award.
- h. **Athletics.**
 - **Gwendolyn Carpenter** was named to MassLive's Basketball Starting 5 for freshman and sophomores and Starting 5 for Division IV (essentially that means they named her one of the best five players in the classes of 2018 and 2019 and in Division IV). She was also named to the Division IV first team.
 - **Cavan Brady** was named to Masslive's Basketball Division IV second team.
 - **Softball is 7-1**
 - **Baseball is 5-2.**
 - **Tennis has played two matches.**
 - **Middle School Greek Week:** 7th graders recently participated in Greek Week. They competed for their city state in academic, athletic, and artistic competitions. Glorious **Sparta** was this year's winner.
 - **Alicia Bazonki**, Mt Everett Graduate and University of North Carolina, Greensboro Softball standout (Junior) on the field & in the classroom, was inducted this week into **the Golden Chain Honor Society**.

E. Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Batacchi stated that Building, Grounds and Technology needs at least two more volunteers. Ms. Lartigue and Ms. Melendez-Delaney agreed to be on the BG&T subcommittee.

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to amend the agenda to discuss the subcommittees. It was so voted unanimously.

Mr. Stewart reported that the Warrant Subcommittee had met last Friday to sign the warrants.

F. Financial Updates – Chris Regan

a. Transfers – Nothing at this time.

b. Vote to Approve District Warrants

Ms. Lartigue moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to approve the warrants as presented on April 7 and April 21, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.

c. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts – Nothing at this meeting.

2. **Executive Session:** To discuss Pending SBRSD Litigation.

Motion to go into executive session and not to return to open session at 8:10 p.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Melendez-Delaney – Yes, Ms. Lartigue – Yes, Mr. Stewart – Yes, Ms. Silvers – Yes, Ms. Bush – Yes,
Mr. Sears – Yes, Mr. Law - Yes