

School Committee Members: Art Batacchi, Bonnie Silvers, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears, Bob Law, Genis Melandez-Delaney, David Travis, Carl Stewart, MaryEllen Brown

Absent: Fran Lartigue

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Christine Regan,

Press: CTSB, Corey Wiley – Berkshire Record, Terry Cowgill– Berkshire Edge

Student Representatives:

Others: Karen Chamberland, Melissa Byrne, Tim Schroepfer, Sharie Schroepfer, Marya Makuc, Beth Regulbuto,

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Stewart called meeting #1526 to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2017 –
Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi to defer approval of Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2017 till the next meeting.
 - b. School Committee Meeting #1525 - May 25, 2017 – Minutes not submitted for approval.
3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE PERTAINING TO THIS EVENING'S AGENDA ITEMS**
 - A. Student Representative Report: none
 - B. Public Comment:

Melissa Byrne addressed the school committee regarding the lack of after school care for Early K students. The students enrolled in the Early K, which is a ~~half-day~~ **full day** program, are not allowed to attend the SBCCP After School Program. The website and all material distributed at the time of registration did not specify this. Ms. Byrne is seeking a solution to this problem and distributed handouts with some suggestions.

Mr. Stewart stated that unfortunately the School Committee has no jurisdiction over the SBCCP program, which is governed by its own board and regulated by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

Ms. Silvers also stated that she was the liaison to the Early Childhood Taskforce and that she has spoken with Amy Carpenter. The district is looking at expansion of after school activities to address some of the concerns and issues of working parents.
4. **UPDATE(S)/PRESENTATIONS**

5. **BUSINESS**

A. Early K Students-After School Program – Sandi Hubbard Summary Statement
Carl introduced the document prepared by Sandi Hubbard as part of the record.

B. Confirm Meeting Dates:

a. July School Committee Meeting

Ms. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to have the July School Committee meeting on July 20, 2017.

Discussion ensued.

b. August School Committee Meeting recommended date Thursday, August 17, 2017

No final decision was made. Mr. Stewart will communicate with the committee via email regarding possible dates for July and August meetings.

c. School Committee Summer Retreat – Beth Regulbuto addressed the committee regarding this. No dates have been finalized, but it will probably be held at the end of August. The purpose of the retreat will be for the school committee and administration to spend time working together and reviewing governance. Mr. Glenn Koocher from MASC will present on Charting the Course for new members.

C. Creation of a Combined Food Service/Buildings & Grounds Director Position.

Mr. Batacchi moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, that this item be tabled to a future meeting, after the Building, Grounds and Technology Subcommittee has met to discuss this. It was so voted unanimously.

Mr. Stewart explained that the district would save money by combining the position. The BG&T subcommittee would like to hear from Jeremy Wells before creating this position. Mr. Sears also stated that a job description will need to be developed.

D. Superintendent's Report

Community

a. **Memorial Day.** A 19-member ensemble of the Mount Everett Band performed for Memorial Day celebrations in New Marlborough, Sheffield and Monterey. Although the rain cancelled the full band parades, the band supported the ceremonies with the National Anthem, a special Memorial Day piece, Hymn to the Fallen, and Taps.

b. NMC had **Peter and Mary Alice Amidon** come back and teach dance and song to the children in the morning and performed a concert with the children in the afternoon. Peter Amidon attended the New Marlborough Central School in the 1950s and moved over to Mt. Everett beginning in sixth grade. He graduated from Mt. Everett in 1966.

c. **Grades 5 & 6 Spring Band Concert.** On June 6th, the Elementary bands had a successful spring band concert with great audience attendance. **Over 79% of grade 5 & 6 students are band members.** The 5th grade went from playing unison music lines from the beginning of the year to playing separate lines specific to their own instrument to start playing band literature. The 6th grade performed a blues piece, rock piece, and a movie theme. They have been working on balance, meaning listening for which music lines need to be heard at specific times in the pieces. **Currently, every single 6th grade band student has signed up for band in 7th grade. Next year, middle school band will be almost 70 students**

Staff

- a. **Retiring Staff:** Kelly Milan, Susan Weinstein, Evelyn Valianos, Joan Baker and Tillie Hankey

Students

- a. **Softball.** The softball team traveled today to UMASS for the Western Mass Semifinal game against Turners Falls.
- b. **Graduation at Tanglewood** was chilly, but everything went very well. 47 students graduated, with a few students who will finish during the summer.
- c. **Undermountain Memorial Day Ceremony, May 30th.** The Undermountain Student Council sponsored the annual Memorial Day ceremony at the flag pole. The Mount Everett band marched over to join in the event which also included a poem, ""Red, White, and Blue" read by 5th graders, flag raising, and Ms. Petty's *Club Creative* singing "America the Beautiful". The entire elementary school attended.
- d. **Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty 6th Grade Trip, June 14th.** The 6th grade will be taking a trip to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty in connection with their social studies world geography curriculum. The classes have studied immigration as part of the Movement theme of geography by reading both fiction and non-fiction books about the subject.
- e. **Grade 3 Plimouth Plantation Trip.** The third grades went on the annual trip to Plimouth Plantation. The rainy weather kept the crowds down and really allowed our children to interact with the actors portraying the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Our students were well prepared for the trip, and asked insightful questions about life at the Plimouth.
- f. **Undermountain Kindergarten Graduation.** On June 16th, the Undermountain Elementary Kindergarten students will be celebrating all of their hard work with a graduation ceremony at the Sheffield Town Park. The ceremony will begin at 11:30 followed by lunch.
- g. **Bartholomew's Cobble Trip.** Today, grade 6 traveled to Bartholomew's Cobble. This trip activity has environmental, hiking, and team-building aspects to it.
- k. **Grades 5 & 6 Field Day.** On Friday, the 5th and 6th grade students will have their field day at the Sheffield Town Park. The Sheffield Police will be there and leading the students through the ropes course. **Elementary Field Day.** The Elementary schools held their annual Field Day on Friday June 2nd. All three schools came together to participate in the event. It was for grades PreK-4 and students in the Development Skills Program and Daycare joined in. There were at least 30 activities for children to participate in, popsicles and of course the cookout. I would say there were 300 children enjoying the day and numerous teachers, staff and parents. The smiles on their faces said it all. **(Kelly Milan)**
- i. **Grade 4 Ice Cream Social.** On Monday, June 12th, Grade 4 students and parents will have the opportunity to meet the Undermountain Grade 5 team and learn about the program. The event will start in the cafeteria at 6 PM with brief introductions and an ice-breaker activity to help UME and NMC parents and students to get acquainted. The UME 4th graders will serve as tour guides for the New Marlborough students and parents.
- j. **Grade 5 Boston Freedom Trail Trip.** On June 15th, Grade 5 will travel to Boston and walk the Freedom Trail. Students will visit key spots related to the American Revolution.
- l. **New Marlborough Central Grade 4 Recognition Night and Pot Luck Dinner.** On June 15th, New Marlborough Central School will recognize the grade 4 students and hold a pot-luck dinner to wish them well, as they move on to grade 5 at Undermountain Elementary School. The event starts at 5 PM.

- m. **Grade 4 Trip to the Connecticut Science Center.** On Friday, June 16th, Grade 4 will travel to Hartford to visit the Connecticut Science Center. This is an annual trip. The students will participate in a number of activities presented and guided by the Connecticut Science Center staff, supported by our 4th grade teachers and chaperones.
- n. **Grade 7 Mount Everett Hiking Trip.** On June 16th, Grade 7 will visit the Mount Everett State Reservation. In the days leading up to the hike, all students will learn about Mount Everett as it relates to each academic subject area. ELA will cover the controversy about the fire tower, Social Studies will cover maps, Science will cover biodiversity, and Math will cover steps per mile and measurement. In small groups, grade 7 will hike **Mount Everett** and walk the **Guilder Pond Loop**. After lunch students will present on how one of the subject areas they studied in interdisciplinary groups is related to what they found or noticed during the day.
- o. **The 6th Grade Spanish Class Trip.** The grade 6 Spanish Class took a field trip to **Xicohtencatl Restaurant** in Great Barrington. The Students had to use their conversational Spanish skills and order from the menu in Spanish. They had a lot of fun!
- p. **AP Spanish Trip to New York City.** Thank you to the Eagle and Janet Funds : “Living in a Multicultural World” grant, gave our school the great opportunity to take students to visit New York City and experience speaking , reading and listening to Spanish in the real world. The students attended a theater performance in Spanish with native Spanish speakers who live in New York city; they visited the **Statue of Liberty**; stopped by **Ellis Island** and the **National Museum of Immigration**, and ended the day at an authentic Tapas restaurant where they had the opportunity to try new cuisine. Showing students the practicality of the foreign language that they are learning is part of the commitment of the Foreign Language Department. The students realize that learning a foreign language is a great tool for their future in order to be more integrated in a multicultural environment.

E. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Building, Grounds and Transportation – Mr. Batacchi stated that the committee had not met.
- b. Transportation Subcommittee – Mr. Batacchi informed the school committee that the transportation subcommittee had met to work on bus routes and that they will meet again soon to continue working on the routes.
- c. Finance Subcommittee – Mr. Dennis Sears had nothing to report.
- d. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – Bonnie Silvers reported that they had met to discuss plans for the School Committee retreat and Dave Hastings evaluation.
- e. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears reported that the subcommittee had met to discuss Policy BEDH “Public Participation at School Committee Meetings” and BEDH-E “Guidelines for Public Comment”. There are other policies that are being discussed as well and they will bring forward the policies at the next school committee meeting.
- f. Berkshire County Education Task Force – Carl Stewart informed the committee that the BCETF had met on May 27th. The next meeting is June 10th. They are winding down on the study portion and by the end of the summer they will have very specific recommendations of where education should go, primarily reorganization of Berkshire County and realignment of the

districts. The Berkshire County Education Task Force does not have the authority to make any changes.

F. Financial Updates – Chris Regan (Note attached)

Bond on the Roof/Boiler/Sprinkler system project

- a. We will be rolling the note effective August 1st.
- b. The final payment request is with the MSBA auditors for final review. Review should be done by the end of June.
- c. Will be on the MSBA board meeting agenda either August 23rd or October. Will know by mid-July.
- d. We can expect to sell bonds in late October or early November.
- e. Schedule July 20th to approve the note sale (Clark Rowell)

Solar Net Metering

Chris reported that we have started to see credits on our National Grid bill in November. We receive a net credit of 20% of the entire credit that shows on the invoice.

FY18 Budget

- a. We are required to notify DESE by June 16th if we do not expect to have an approved budget by July 1st.
- b. The towns have until July 9th to call a town meeting if they want to revote the budget. If they do not hold a meeting they have approved the budget.
- c. The commissioner will establish an interim monthly budget, if we do not have an approved budget.
- d. The budget will either be 1/12th of our FY17 budget or a higher amount if the Commissioner chooses to establish a higher budget.
- e. If we don't have an approved budget by December 1st, the Commissioner will assume fiscal control and establish the FY18 budget.

Berkshire Health Group

Chris Regan also gave the committee an update on the BHG. BHG is considering a health-coaching program focusing on behavior changes and preventable conditions that would be available to members who meet certain criteria.

The group will also be adding an alternative, voluntary, prescription drug program through CanaRx in FY18.

The group is also looking at the possibility of adding High Deductible Plans in FY19. This would require bargaining with the unions. BHG would have to vote on this plan by October 2017 in order to implement for FY19.

a. Transfers:

Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers, to authorize the Business Manager to make any transfers necessary between now and the end of the fiscal year. It was so voted unanimously.

b. Vote to approve District Warrants:

Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Mr. Law, to approve the warrants of June 2, 2017. It was so voted unanimously.

c. Vote to accept Grants and Gifts - None

- G. *Mr. Sears moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Egremont V. SBRSD) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares and not to return to open session.*
Roll Call Vote Required.

Ms. Melendez-Delaney – Yes Mr. Batacchi – Yes Mr. Travis – Yes
Ms. Silvers – Yes Ms. Brown – Yes Ms. Bush – Yes Mr. Sears – Yes
Mr. Law – Yes Mr. Stewart – Yes

Open Session meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Documents Presented at this Meeting:

Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1526
Handout from Melissa Byrne
Early Kindergarten After School Programs
Warrants/Grants and Gifts