

School Committee Members: Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Bob Law, Genis Melandez-Delaney, MaryEllen Brown, Carl Stewart, Marcella Bush, David Travis and Art Batacchi (arrived at 6 pm)

Absent: Fran Lartigue, Sandi Hubbard

Administration: Superintendent Regulbuto, Christine Regan, Beth Regulbuto, Kerry Burke, Glenn Devoti

Press: CTSB, Cory Wiley – Berkshire Record

Student Representatives: None

Others: Steve Hoff, Mary Turo, Carol Edelman, Charles Ketchun, Karen Frighetto, Angel Rote

1. **Call to Order:** Mr Stewart called meeting #1529 to order at 5:30 pm

2. **Executive Session:**

*Ms. Silvers moved, seconded by Marcella Bush, to go into executive session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements and to reconvene in Open Session.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Dennis Sears – Yes; Bob Law – Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, MaryEllen Brown – Yes, Bonnie Silvers – Yes, Carl Stewart – Yes, Genis Delaney – Yes, Carl Stewart - Yes*

The School Committee returned to Open Session at 6:31 p.m.

*Ms. Silvers made a motion to amend the agenda to move Item 6a to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

6. **New Business**

a. Report on School Safety – Dr. Steve Hoff, Barrington Psychology Center

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that as a new superintendent her job was to listen to what was going on in the community, work with administrators to form a vision and direction of where the district is going in the future, and to respond when teachers were asking for additional resources to address social and emotional needs in our schools. To that end, the district had reached out to Mr. Steven Hoff from the Berkshire Psychology Center to help the district address some of our concerns. Mr. Hoff has worked as a consulting psychologist for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District for the last six years, working with families and students.

Mr. Hoff and Mr. Devoti had discussions on suicide prevention after a few of the tragic events that happened in our community. Mr. Hoff continued by saying that the suicide rate in our country is at a 30% high. Berkshire County is amongst the highest. This is an economically tough place to live. Some students are on the college track and make it through but there are a lot of students who struggle to find their way after graduation. The best efforts would be to focus on building mental health capacity and partnerships with families and communities. That is the vision. We are trying to concentrate efforts on resources that are needed in the building and also in community partnerships.

### 3. Standing Reports

#### a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1528

*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the minutes of meeting #1528, July 17, 2017. Mr. Travis seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Ms. Silvers would like the following removed from the minutes: "Ms. Silvers would like a report of repairs done this past winter at New Marlborough Central" and "also the amount spent on repairs done at the school over the last few years". There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously, with corrections.*

#### b. *Mr. Sears made a motion to approve to amend the minutes of meetings #1525 and #1526 to reflect that the Early K program is full day and not half-day. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.*

#### c. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that we would be providing enrollment on a monthly basis with a snap shot of the first of every month. As of August 1, 2017 Undermountain Elementary had an enrollment of 296; New Marlborough Central was at 84 and Mt. Everett Middle and High School was at 308. The total enrollment was at 688. Also provided was a sheet showing historical enrollment as of October 1 and end of June going back to 2014 to show the trends over the years. The district has seen declining enrollment over the years. Further discussion ensued.

### 4. Student Representative Report – No reports

### 5. Public comment

*Ms. Brown made a motion to amend the agenda to move item 8 c to the start of the meeting. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.*

### 8. c. Building Inspection Letter and Status of Monterey School Letter

Ms. Edelman stated that for the past three years the program in Monterey was suspended. In discussions with community members and families, the Monterey Select Board thought it would make sense to bring this matter to the school committee to try to get some motion or resolution. Ms. Edelman read a statement from the Select Board. The select board would like to be sure that families and our roles are considered during school committee discussions. We would like the committee to please keep in mind that we are surrounded by four districts and close to half our school age children choice out to other schools, but that does not mean that we are not full-fledged paying members of the SBRSD.

As outlined in the Regional Agreement the Town of Monterey owns the school building and SBRSD is responsible for the maintenance. In recent years upkeep has been minimal at best. They are still waiting on information from the district on what lead and asbestos testing has been done in the past. Before we proceed with any further actions with the building, the board needs involvement from the school committee. We need to hear what the District's plans are for Monterey. We are requesting that the school committee comes to the town, holds a forum to hear from the towns people and inform us what the district plans are before they make plans to reopen the building. The Town of Monterey would like to hear what plans the school committee has for the building.

Superintendent Regulbuto informed Ms. Edelman that a response to the request regarding the asbestos and lead inspections at Monterey School were sent to her today (response attached).

Ms. Edelman would like the district to have a meeting in Monterey to have a dialogue regarding the status of the building in the Town of Monterey. Mr. Stewart mentioned that the committee would take this request under advisement.

Mr. Travis would like clarification on whose responsibility it was to maintain the building in Monterey.

There was further discussion regarding the request in the letter dated July 19, 2017 from the Town of Monterey regarding voting to officially close the school according to the specific guidelines in the regional agreement and what plans the district has for the Monterey school building.

Mr. Stewart reiterated that what Mr. Sears meant was that rather than put 5 towns to the expense of holding separate meetings to close the Monterey school, each of the 5 towns would have to put it on the meeting warrant, every one of the 5 towns would have to put it on the meeting warrant.

Ms. Brown mentioned that in 2008 the school in Monterey housed kindergarten students from Monterey and New Marlborough but there were too many students and so some of the students were moved to New Marlborough. They were never able to recover the numbers. She stated that the Town of Monterey wants a program in its town, ideally a kindergarten program.

*Ms. Silvers moved that the school committee agree to hold a forum discussion on the issue in Monterey. Mr. Stewart stated that the motion was out of order because it was not on the agenda.*

6. **New Business**

b. Approval of Handbooks

*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the Staff, Elementary Parent/Student and Mt. Everett Student handbooks. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion. Discussion followed.*

Ms. Melendez-Delaney asked if the section in the Elementary Handbook, page 31 on the Southern Berkshire Child Care Program should be removed from the handbook because it is a separate entity.

Superintendent Regulbuto would like to form a handbook committee to go over the handbooks and to consolidate them into one parent/student handbook for both schools.

Mr. Batacchi stated that the attendance policy needs to be reviewed, would like the high school handbook be in line with what is practiced at the high school.

Mr. Stewart stated that it is unconstitutional to limit freedom of speech by having a school dress code, unless the dress code disrupts the educational process.

Mr. Batacchi stated that it is not the school committee's responsibility to write the handbook.

*Mr. Sears then made a motion to amend the motion to approve the Staff Handbook for 2017-2018.*

*Mr. Batacchi abstained, everyone else voted yes. Motion passes.*

*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the Elementary Handbook as presented for 2017-2018.*

*The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the Mt. Everett Handbook as presented for 2017-2018.*

*Mr. Stewart – No, everyone else yes. Motion passes.*

c. Approval of MOA regarding the New Marlborough Central Building Leader Position

*Mr. Travis made a motion to approve the MOA regarding the New Marlborough Central Building Leader Position. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.*

7. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Superintendent Regulbuto confirmed that reservations were made for five school committee members plus herself to attend the MASC conference in November.

8. **Business with District Member Towns**

- a. Grant Request Support Letter – Town of Sheffield (See attached)
- b. Grant Request Support Letter – Town of Egremont (See attached)
- c. This item was addressed earlier in the meeting.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears

*Mr. Sears made a motion that the school committee approve the second reading of the following policies:*

*BEED – Agenda Format*

*BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings*

*BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment as revised at June 14, 2017 meeting*

*The motion was seconded by Ms. Silvers. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Mr. Sears then mentioned the issues regarding transportation. The Business Manager and Superintendent would like to hold a meeting to discuss transportation policies that are currently in place and address some of the changes that need to be addressed.

Superintendent Regulbuto mentioned that we have a predetermined contract in place with a certain amount of funding. We have a new contract with a new company and new bus routes. The responsibility of the district is to get the students to school safely and on time and the intention was to do it in a way that was most efficient and effective. When developing the bus routes it was discovered that the policy and practice were not in sync.

The 2017-2018 bus routes are posted on the web site and were published in the Berkshire Record and Shopper's Guide. Chris Regan informed the committee that all the routes have been scheduled. There are two vans reallocated to allow for Our Lady of the Valley bus stop to be serviced and will bring students to New Marlborough. There is an activity bus in the afternoon that will bring students from New Marlborough to Our Lady of the Valley, then to Undermountain and then to other predetermined stops in Great Barrington. Procedures still need to be developed for the activity bus at the end of the day. The district is looking at starting after school programs by the beginning of October. Students who live in Ashley Falls will go to a consolidated stop to get the bus to New Marlborough. Parents will be contacted regarding this.

Bob Law asked what our policy was if a parent was not at a designated stop. Chris Regan informed him that the student would be brought back to the school.

- b. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – Art Batacchi

Mr. Batacchi informed the school committee that the new signs, the boiler at New Marlborough Central as well as the repair of the tennis courts was discussed at the last meeting. The repair of the tennis courts will also be on the next agenda, also looking at a group talking about solar energy. He also informed the committee that a Mr. Gregg Cedar is proposing to donate 3.9 acres of property to the district.

Vote on SBRSD Signage - made by Larkin Sign Co. There will be signs for Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, Undermountain, and Mt. Everett.

*Mr. Batacchi made a motion to approve the signs as they were presented to the school committee. Mr. Law seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

The issue of another sign will be added to the next meeting agenda. The SBRSD sign will be discussed at the next building grounds and technology subcommittee.

Chris Regan informed the committee that new quotes for the boiler at New Marlborough Central were received. The lowest quote for the boiler was \$44,000 (we have \$37,000 in stabilization), this does not include the electric hook up of \$2,500 and excavation. If this is needed it would be an additional \$2,400.

The Building, Grounds & Technology subcommittee voted to pull the \$37,000 out of stabilization and use \$10,000 from capital funds for outlying schools and spend up to \$48,900.

*Mr. Batacchi made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$48,900 for the replacement of the boiler at New Marlborough Central. The motion was seconded by Mr. Travis . There was no further discussion and the motion was approved: Mr. Batacchi – Yes; Ms. Melendez-Delaney – Yes; Mr. Travis – Yes; Ms. Silvers – Yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Ms. Bush – Yes, Mr. Sears – Yes; Mr. Law – Yes; Mr. Stewart - Yes*

c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – Bonnie Silvers

Ms. Silvers informed the committee that they had met to discuss the retreat on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Superintendent's goals.

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that each school committee member were given a red folder which contained information for the retreat on August 22<sup>nd</sup> which contained their homework assignment. Kerry Burke, Chris Regan and Sandi Hubbard will be joining the school committee at this retreat. Mr. Glenn Koocher from MASC will be conducting the school committee governance training, setting protocols/norms and school committee goals. Superintendent Michael Welch from the Dedham Public Schools will focus on developing a blue print for interaction with the school committee and communities – empowering parents and community members.

Ms. Silvers informed the committee that the Executive Evaluation Sub Committee is recommending that the following goals be incorporated in the Superintendent's 2017-18 goals:

1. Communication – Improved internal and external communications including public relations.
2. Curriculum:
  - Career vs College Readiness
  - K-12 Alignment with DESE goals
  - Prioritizing professional development to improve technology integration throughout the K-12 curriculum
  - Expand extracurricular programming on the main campus and, as feasible, NMC
3. Evaluation and Protocols:
  - Establish system and standards for regular evaluation of all personnel employed by SBRSD (including methods of documentation)
  - Solicit stakeholder feedback (parents, students, choice outers and choice inners)
  - Establish system and standards for regular evaluation and improvement of buildings and grounds staff

Ms. Melendez-Dalaney left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

10. **Chairman's Report**

Mr. Stewart commented that our meetings are too long and that more than two but fewer than 10 community members have stated that they are unable to watch the entire school committee meeting on TV.

11. **Superintendent's Report** (See attached report)

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the committee that she will be attending the Town of Sheffield meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> and the Town of Egremont meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> and would be happy to meet with other towns.

12. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report** (See attached report)  
Kerry Burke will send an email invitation to attend the opening day schedule to all the school committee.  
The Elementary GoMath workbooks are ready to be distributed.
13. **Director of Student Services Report** (See attached report)
14. **Business Manager's Report** (See attached report)
- a. Approval of Warrants  
*Mr. Batacchi made a motion to approve the warrants of July 14, July 28 and August 11, 2017 as submitted. Mr. Law seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
  - b. Vote to Accept Grants & Gifts  
*Mr. Sears made a motion to accept all five donations as follows:*  

\$1,500	Global Electric Motorcars (GEM) electric vehicle repair
\$400	Educational Program Support
\$4,000	NMC PTA (donation from Anita Cook and Robert Miller) to Replace backstop at NMC
\$10,000	\$5,000 from two donors to support World Education Alliance

*Donation to purchase lunches for students, staff and community on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
  - c. Vote to Approve Reduced FY18 Assessments by \$6620  
*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the reduced FY18 Assessments as presented. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
  - d. Vote on the Bond Repayment Schedule  
The five towns gave input as to what bond schedule they wanted to adopt. All five towns were interested in the 15-year level principal.  
*Mr. Sears made a motion to approve the 15 year level principal bond. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
15. **Future Agenda Items**  
Mr. Sears requested:  
Discussion with possible action of what we as elected officials can do to understand and prevent the growth of racism in our country and cooperation with the Housatonic valley regional.  
Mr. Stewart suggested that future events be added to the agenda and all the school committee meeting dates.  
  
*Ms. Silvers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.*

**Documents presented at this meeting:**

- *Agenda #1529*
- *Minutes of meeting #1528, and #1525 and #1526 with corrections*
- *Enrollment*
- *Staff, Elementary and Mt. Everett Handbooks 2017-2018*
- *MOA – New Marlborough Central Building Leader Position*
- *Letters to Town of Sheffield, Town of Egremont and Town of Monterey*
- *Letter from the Town of Monterey*
- *Policies: BEDB; BEDH; BEDH-E*
- *Superintendent's Report; Curriculum & Professional Development Report; Director of Student Services Report*
- *Business Manager's Report*