

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Mt. Everett Regional School
Sheffield, MA
November 20, 2014
Meeting #1,483 (*Amended*)

School Committee: Mr. Valentini, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Sears, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Batacchi, Mr. Stewart, Ms. Sparhawk, Ms. Sahn, Ms. Lartigue

Absent: Ms. Rundle

Administrators: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Turner, Ms. Burke, Mr. Devoti, Ms. Hubbard, Mr. Simon, Ms. LeBlanc

Press: CTSB Television

Student Representative: Madison Ryan

Others: Max Lowenstein and his parents, Mr. Frank Lowenstein and Ms. Sheryl Lechner; Ms. Linda Higgins

1. Superintendent Hastings called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. **Reorganization:**

Chair: Mr. Hastings asked for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Flynn nominated Ms. Rundle. Mr. Stewart seconded the nomination. Mr. Sears nominated Mr. Stewart; Ms. Silvers seconded the nomination. Mr. Valentini moved to close nominations, and it was so voted, unanimously.

Mr. Hastings requested a roll call vote on the election of Ms. Rundle. Mr. Flynn voted yes; Mr. Stewart abstained; Mr. Valentini, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Sears, Mr. Batacchi, Ms. Sparhawk, Ms. Sahn, and Ms. Lartigue voted no.

Mr. Hastings requested a roll call vote on the election of Mr. Stewart. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Stewart abstained; Mr. Valentini, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Sears, Mr. Batacchi, Ms. Sparhawk, Ms. Sahn, and Ms. Lartigue voted yes.

Mr. Stewart was declared elected and assumed the duties of the Chair. He welcomed Ms. Lartigue to the School Committee.

Vice Chair: Mr. Valentini nominated Ms. Silvers as Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Flynn. Mr. Flynn then moved to close nominations, and it was so voted, unanimously.

Ms. Silvers was elected Vice Chair on a roll call vote (8-1 – Ms. Silvers abstained). She then assumed the role of Vice Chair and thanked the members for their confidence.

Subcommittees:

With discussion and agreement among the Members, Subcommittees for 2014-15 were organized as follows (pending agreement of Ms. Rundle):

Finance: Messrs. Batacchi, Flynn, Sears, Valentini, Sears; Ms. Sparhawk

Collective Bargaining: Mr. Batacchi (exception of Unit D); ~~Mr. Flynn~~, Mr. Sears, Mr. Stewart, Ms. Lartigue; Ms. Silvers, Alternate.

Eagle fund: Ms. Silvers, Representative; Ms. Rundle, Alternate (It was noted that only one representative of the School Committee is allowed. The arrangement was agreed by the Committee members, pending input from Ms. Rundle.)

Buildings, Grounds & Technology: Ms. Rundle, Ms. Lartigue, Mr. Valentini, Ms. Silvers, Ms. Sahn (Mr. Batacchi wishes to become a member, should Ms. Rundle not want to remain on this subcommittee.)

Policy: Mr. Flynn, Mr. Batacchi, Ms. Sparhawk, Ms. Rundle, Mr. Sears

Executive Evaluation: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Silvers, Ms. Lartigue; *Jennifer Sahn*, Ms. Sparhawk, Alternate

Undermountain/Mt. Everett Youth Athletic Association Liaison: Mr. Stewart, Representative; Mr. Batacchi, Alternate

Warrant Subcommittee: Ms. Sparhawk, Mr. Sears, Mr. Batacchi, Mr. Valentini, Mr. Stewart
Mr. Stewart stressed that all members serve as alternates to the Warrant Subcommittee, and he noted that that Ms. Licata notifies all School Committee members each time a warrant is ready for signatures, in case some of the regular subcommittee members are unavailable.

MA Association of School Committees Representative(s): Mr. Sears, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Stewart (Alt.)

Liaison to Southern Berkshire Child Care Program: Ms. Lartigue

Liaison to Wellness Committee: Ms. Sahn, Mr. Stewart (Alt.)

Liaison to Early Childhood Task Force: Ms. Silvers

Food: Mr. Flynn, Ms. Lartigue, Mr. Batacchi, Ms. Sahn

Cooperation: Mr. Sears, Mr. Stewart, Ms. Rundle, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Batacchi

Transportation: Mr. Batacchi, Mr. Valentini, Mr. Sears, Ms. Sparhawk, Mr. Flynn

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to approve the subcommittee memberships, as noted (pending input of Ms. Rundle). It was so voted, unanimously.

Mr. Flynn nominated Mr. Hastings as Secretary, per policy. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the nomination, and it was so voted, unanimously.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to reappoint Mr. Harvey Thompson as Treasurer. It was so voted, unanimously.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Valentini, to appoint Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, PC, as District Counsel. It was so voted.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to appoint Ms. Linda Higgins as Clerk to the School Committee. It was so voted.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to reappoint Dr. Lisa Sylvia as School Physician. It was so voted, unanimously.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk to approve the minutes of Meeting 1,482. It was so voted.

4. **Communications from the Audience Pertaining to this Evening's Agenda**

A. Student Representative Report: Madison Ryan reported that the Student Council is working on raising money for "Charley's Fund" in an effort to help a local youngster who suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. She invited the Committee to take part in an upcoming fundraiser at Great Barrington Yoga.

B. There were no communications from the audience.

5. **Presentation/Updates:**

A. Mr. Hastings presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Award for Excellence to Senior Max Lowenstein. He explained that each year MASS provides one award per school to be awarded to a student who displays academic excellence over their four-year high school career. He explained that Max was always near or at the top in whatever he chose to do all through school. The Committee congratulated Max and his parents, and a break was held to enjoy a cake in Max's honor.

C. MCAS, Curriculum, Formation of Professional Learning Communities: Ms. Kerry Burke, District Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator, presented and explained historical and recent District MCAS scores. Ms. Burke explained how such data is being used to impact teaching and learning during the current school year, and she described plans for improvement in the future. She stated that math achievement is a District priority, and she explained how the curriculum that is taught in grades K-6 is in the process of being aligned with the curriculum that is actually assessed by the MCAS tests. A question and answer session followed. Committee members expressed special concern regarding grades 3 and 4 math. They also requested that data regarding cohorts be presented in the future.

Committee members and Superintendent Hastings expressed appreciation for Ms. Burke's presentation and complimented her on the high quality of her work.

D. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Hastings reported the following:

- The National Honor Society students presented a dinner for local veterans.
- Mr. Von Ruden and the carpentry students are putting a new roof on the shed at New Marlborough Central School.
- United Way campaign started this past week.
- Ms. LeBlanc is writing a weekly newsletter for the elementary schools.
- The Robotics team received a grant to purchase a 3-D printer.
- There will be a group meeting with State Representative Smitty Pignatelli on November 21. Mr. Jim Brosnan, of McCann Vo-Tech School will attend to speak about how to improve vocational programs for south county students. Mr. Flynn and Ms. Silvers will attend, along with Mr. Hastings.
- The annual evacuation drill will take place on Monday, November 24.
- Mr. Von Ruden and Ms. Petrucci hosted a vocational advisory meeting with community business representatives earlier in the evening.
- New Marlborough Central School's annual Holiday Fair will take place on Saturday, Dec. 6.
- The elementary school play will be presented on December 5, 6, and 7.

- Ms. Sparhawk recently directed the New Marlborough Central School's presentation of "From Trees to Bees."
- For the second year in a row, Mt. Everett has been named the recipient of the Berkshire County Sportsmanship Award. Mr. Carpenter will take several students to Gillette Stadium to receive the award on November 21.
- Mt. Everett senior Charlotte Anstett has received the Good Works Insurance Company's good citizenship award.
- The annual *eagle fund* phone-a-thon raised over \$10,000.
- Ms. Giordano's Foundations of Design class recently worked with senior citizens at the Sheffield Senior Center on a collaborative design project.
- Mt. Everett students Eli Gold and Charles Kerzner have been selected for the All-Western District Chorus and will be invited to audition for All State Chorus.
- Max Lowenstein has been selected for the All Western District Band.

E. Report on MASC/MASS Conference: Mr. Stewart reported that four Committee members had attended the full conference this year, and Mr. Valentini had attended on Friday, when he received an award as the School Committee member of the year from District VI. Mr. Stewart said that the conference is very helpful and is a great way of networking and learning. He urged all members to try to go, even if not for the entire conference. He noted that it is always held during the first week of November.

Mr. Valentini stated that although he had received the award, he felt that he owed it to the entire Committee. He thanked all for the nomination.

F. Subcommittee/Representative Reports:

- Finance Subcommittee: Mr. Valentini reported that the Subcommittee had received a net metering presentation from Reservoir Road Holdings, LLC. He said that the subcommittee had requested that Mr. Turner ask for a specific contract from the company. In the meantime, Reservoir Road Holdings, LLC, had given the District a deadline, which the Committee was unable to meet. The company may approach the School Committee again for their next project.

Mr. Valentini also reported on the presentation to the town officials regarding the parameters for the School Building Authority roof and boilers projects. He said that it was a productive meeting, and that everyone seemed to agree that the replacement of the roof and boilers is necessary. He said that as soon as the numbers for the project are completely firm, it would be good to hold meetings in each town.

Mr. Flynn noted that four of the District's towns will be looking at how to finance bringing broadband into their towns. He asked that the Committee be sensitive to their needs, and he asked whether the District's building projects might be split. Mr. Valentini explained that the District would likely lose the School Building Authority funding, if that were done at this point.

Ms. Sahn thanked the administrators for presenting two options on the boilers. She said that regardless of the final choice, she was proud that the option of lowering CO² emissions was at least being considered. Mr. Stewart added that Ms. Borwick had done an amazing job of researching all of the options available.

Ms. Silvers noted the need for the whole Committee to unite behind the project in order to secure the funding from the SBA. Mr. Valentini agreed, but stressed the need to offer unbiased information to the voters and allow them to make the final decision.

G. Financial Updates/Transfers: Mr. Turner reported that Governor Patrick has made some 9C cuts which may cause the District to lose approximately \$100,000 in transportation funds this year. He asked Committee members to call Representative Pignatelli's office to object to the cuts.

Mr. Sears moved to ask the Chair to put together a letter to legislators requesting reinstatement of these funds, and further, to share the letter with member town select boards in asking them to also send letters to the legislators. Mr. Flynn seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.

H. There were no communications from the public.

I. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation: Chairman Stewart stated that the Committee would go into executive session and not return to open session. He explained that the litigation referenced on the agenda arose from an incident involving a student at Mt. Everett who is no longer a student. He said that there is now a proposed resolution to the litigation.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to enter into executive session, for reason as described by the Chair, and not to return to open session. The vote:

Mr. Flynn	yes	Ms. Sparhawk	yes	Ms. Sahn	yes
Mr. Valentini	yes	Ms. Silvers	yes	Mr. Stewart	yes
Mr. Batacchi	yes	Ms. Lartigue	yes	Mr. Sears	yes

The Committee moved to Room F1 and entered into executive session at 8:50 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1,483*
- *Listing of 2013-14 Subcommittee Members*
- *Policy BDA, School Committee Organizational Meeting*
- *Policy BDB, School Committee Officers*
- *Policy BDC, Appointed Committee Officials*
- *Policy BDE, Subcommittees of the School Committee*
- *Minutes, School Committee Meeting #1,482*
- *"School Committee Meeting / FY 2016 Budget Development Calendar – Draft"*
- *SBRSD 2014 MCAS Data and SY 2014-15 Curriculum and Instruction Overview*
- *MCAS Tests of Spring 2014 Percent of Students at Each Achievement Level for Southern Berkshire*
- *MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Spring 2014 MCAS District Results by Standards*