

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Mt. Everett Regional School
Sheffield, MA
April 30, 2015
Meeting #1,491

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

Absent:

Administrators: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Turner, Mr. Simon, Ms. Hubbard, Mr. Thompson

Press: CTSB Television; Julie Ruth, Berkshire Record

Student Representative: Marina Germain

Others: Ms. Sarah Siket, Mr. Andrew Rapport, Ms. Cathy Jo Willig, Ms. Kelly Milan, Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, Higgs Botts Team members Max Lowenstein, Ben Webb, Jake Christinat, Mr. Paul O'Brien; Ms. Linda Higgins

1. Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

With Chairman Stewart's permission, Mr. Flynn made a statement regarding a question that had arisen at the previous evening's Policy Subcommittee meeting. He explained that he had erroneously stated that both Ms. Hubbard and Mr. Simon were fully in support of the amended policy regarding entrance age. However, Mr. Hastings had subsequently reminded him that he was wrong about that. Mr. Flynn offered an apology to both Mr. Simon and Ms. Hubbard, and he stated that the recently updated policy (JEB) will be discussed at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting on May 13.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Batacchi, to approve the minutes of Meeting #1,490. It was so voted.
3. **Communications from the Audience Pertaining to this Evening's Agenda**
 - A. Student Representative Report: Student Representative Marina Germain, President of the class of 2016, updated the Committee on recent fundraising efforts.
 - B. There were no comments from the audience.
4. **Updates/Presentations**
 - A. The Committee offered congratulations and applause to the Higgs Botts Robotics Team, who had recently returned from St. Louis after competing in the First Tech Challenge World Championships. The team reported that they had finished 24th out of 4,500 + teams. They offered sincere appreciation to all of the businesses, organizations, and individuals who had so generously provided financial support so they could make the trip to St. Louis.

Ms. Silvers left the meeting in order to attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

5. **Business**
 - A1. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Hastings reported the following:

- Mr. Hastings shared swag bags that will be distributed to local pediatricians' offices to be given to parents of young children. Included will be the book, Benny Everett's First Day, along with information on the District's early childhood programs.
- In an effort to cooperate with neighboring districts, the SBRSD will host a Sally Grimes course in early literacy this summer. Ten of the available seats have been given to neighboring districts.
- The Students Who Achieve Goodness (SWAG) club have adopted a part of Route 7. They will also travel to a Massachusetts beach to do volunteer cleanup in June.
- SHREK, the musical, is coming up in mid-May.
- The Madrigals will entertain at a New Marlborough Council on Aging luncheon in May.
- Sixty (60) donors contributed a total of \$16,079 to date for the Robotics Team. Mr. Hastings read the names of all donors and thanked them for their generosity.
- A groundbreaking for the Paul O'Brien Outdoor Classroom will take place this evening. Other events intended to show appreciation to the community will take place on Friday at the Sheffield Town Park.
- Two people have been selected as finalists for the elementary principal position.
- Retired Guidance Counselors David Pottle and Robert Krol have been hired to take on the role left vacant by the departure of Katie Gingras for the remainder of this school year.
- Hockey Coach Aidan Gilligan was named Coach of the Year.
- The chorus and Madrigals each earned superior ratings at competitions in Los Angeles; the Mt. Everett Band earned a rating of excellent.
- This year's 6th grade Natures Classroom trip was to Colebrook, CT. This allowed the District to bus in students who could not, for one reason or another, stay overnight..
- Representative Smitty Pignatelli's office recently funded a motivational speaker for the Mt. Everett high school students.
- The art class has begun work on another mosaic. The class will add mosaics near all of the drinking fountains in the school in the future.
- The yearbook is ready to be sent to press.
- A "Bee" assembly will take place at Undermountain on May 20.

A2. Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, to extend the contract of Superintendent Hastings. As Mr. Hastings was leaving the meeting to attend the groundbreaking ceremony, Chairman Stewart placed the motion in abeyance until his return.

B. Confirmation of Approval of Request for a Waiver for a Student Born Beyond May 1, 2011 to Attend Monterey Early Kindergarten Program in 2015-16: Mr. Flynn moved to confirm the approval of the request for a waiver for a student born beyond May 1, 2011 to attend the Monterey Early Kindergarten Program in 2015-16. Ms. Rundle seconded the motion.

The Committee discussed this request at length, and took into consideration recommendations from Ms. Hubbard and Mr. Simon that a screening process be developed, in order to assure that each child receives the proper placement, according to his/her stage of development. Ms. Hubbard informed the Committee that the Early Childhood Education Committee has been in the process of developing such a screening tool over the past several months.

Concerns were also expressed that the current policy, as it relates to 4-year olds, is specific to the Monterey School and is not equal across the District.

Mr. Hastings and Ms. Silvers returned to the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

In light of the discussion, some Committee members expressed a reluctance to confirm approval for the child to attend the early kindergarten program. However, they also expressed concern for the parent who had made this request, noting that after the last meeting, she had been left with the impression that the request would be granted.

Ms. Lartigue suggested modifying the motion to allow the child to attend the early kindergarten program, pending an evaluation with the early childhood team. Mr. Flynn accepted the amendment to his motion.

Ms. Lartigue then moved, seconded by Mr. Flynn, to amend the motion such that if the School Committee affirms the vote (to waive the policy), such a vote would be dependent upon the child undergoing some sort of evaluation with a member of the early childhood team (and the placement being affirmed through the evaluation). It was so voted. (Mr. Valentini voted no.)

Chairman Stewart then called for a vote on the amended motion (which would approve the waiver of Policy JEB). The vote:

Mr. Flynn	yes	Mr. Batacchi	yes	Ms. Lartigue	yes
Ms. Sparhawk	no	Ms. Silvers	abstain	Ms. Rundle	yes
Ms. Sahn	yes	Mr. Sears	yes	Mr. Valentini	no
Mr. Stewart	yes				

The motion carried. It was agreed that further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

5A1. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Valentini moved to postpone the request to extend the Superintendent's contract until the next meeting and to hold an executive discussion to discuss terms at that time. It was so voted. (Ms. Silvers voted no.)

C1. Update/Action Needed Re: Roof/Boilers Project

1) Action Re: Bids: Mr. Turner reviewed the bids received and noted that they had come in approximately 25% less than the anticipated amount. However, he noted that the bids do not take any contingencies into account.

Mr. Valentini moved that the School Committee accept the bids submitted by the following bidders for the following respective projects and award the contract for each of the following listed projects to the successful bidder for that respective project:

General Contractor on the Boiler Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to M & W Mechanical Contractors, 272 Hubbard Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201;

Electrical sub-bid on Boiler Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Ray Croteau Electric, 244 Burlingame Road, Palmer, MA 01069;

General Contractor on the Roof Replacement project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Titan Roofing, Inc., 200 Tapley Street, Springfield, MA 01104;

Masonry Sub-bid on Roof Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Baker Mason Contractors, Inc., 251 Hillside Road, Southwick, MA 01077;

Plumbing sub-bid on Roof Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Climate Heating and Cooling, Inc., 146 Hubbard Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201;

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning sub-bid on Boiler Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Climate Heating and Cooling, Inc., 146 Hubbard Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201;

Electrical sub-bid on Boiler Replacement Project at Mt. Everett Regional High School is awarded to Sommer Electric, Inc., 60 Printworks Drive, Adams, MA 01220.

Ms. Silvers seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.

Mr. Valentini then moved that Bruce Turner, Business Administrator for the District, is hereby authorized by and on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to negotiate and finalize the specific terms of the respective agreements with the successful bidders who were awarded contracts pursuant to the preceding vote of the School Committee, and Bruce Turner is further authorized to execute the agreements so negotiated and any amendments thereto on behalf of the District,. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.

- C2. Appointment of Roof/Boilers Project Governmental Officer: Mr. Turner explained that the language voted at the April 2 meeting did not meet the legal requirements, and so must be re-voted. Mr. Sears then moved that it be voted: That Bruce C. Turner, as Business Administrator of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, is hereby appointed and authorized by and on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto (the "Agreement") on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and to bind the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to the terms and conditions of such Agreement for or relating to a project for the replacement of a roof and boilers located at the Mt. Everett Regional School at 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, Massachusetts, as in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (the "Project") such Agreement to be between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

That Bruce C. Turner, as Business Administrator of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is hereby appointed and authorized by and on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to make final, binding decisions with respect to the Project described in the Project Funding Agreement, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. It was so voted, unanimously.

- D. Request for Approval of Summer Genealogy Event in Conjunction with Sheffield Historical Society: Mr. Hastings and Mr. O'Brien explained a proposed week-long genealogy project to be offered to elementary students through the Sheffield Historical Society over the summer. It was explained that it would cost the Historical Society approximately \$700 to add insurance coverage for the children during that week. Mr. Turner explained that if the School Committee approved, the District could add a rider to its policy to provide the coverage, and there would likely be no charge for that. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Flynn moved to take the steps necessary to add the rider to the District's coverage. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.
- E. Elementary Art Position: Mr. Hastings explained that currently, the elementary art teacher is working .825 time and using the remaining seven periods each week to prepare for the next teacher to come in. He said that he has advertised for a .8 position, as all of the students could receive services within that time frame. However, should the District need to hire a full-time teacher in order to satisfy scheduling needs, or if a qualified candidate could not be found to fill the .8 position, a dually certified teacher would be sought to teach .8 art and .2 of another subject. He noted that the position is budgeted at full-time, but he will not spend the money, unless it is necessary.

F. Los Angeles Music Event Details: Mr. Stewart reported that the Mt. Everett Chorus and Band had received the highest rating (superior) in two categories, and the next highest (excellent) in the third, at the recent competitions in Los Angeles. Additionally, six of the students who had gone to Los Angeles had flown home, changed clothing and boarded the bus to compete in the Robotics tournament in St. Louis.

Ms. Lartigue left the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

G. Vote Whether the District Will Receive Choice Students in 2015-16: Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Valentini, to accept school choice students in 2015-16. It was so voted, unanimously. (Ms. Rundle was not present in the room for this vote.)

H. Subcommittee/Representative Reports

1. Collective Bargaining Subcommittee

- Mr. Stewart reported that the subcommittee had met earlier in the week, and they have three or four more meetings scheduled. He said that they are making good progress, and it is likely new contracts will be in place with Units A and E before the end of the school year.

2. Policy:

- Mr. Flynn requested that all School Committee members read the District Agreement (Policy AA-E).
- Mr. Flynn reported that the Policy Subcommittee had met earlier in the week and had begun a discussion about programs. He said that Ms. Sparhawk was developing a proposal. The group will meet on May 13 to continue discussion, and to also discuss the early childhood programs.

I. Financial Updates/Transfers: There were no transfer requests. Mr. Turner reminded all that the upcoming week was very important for the FY'16 budget and reminded all to attend the town meetings and vote.

4. **Communications from the Public/Requests for Future Agenda Items**

A. There were no communications from the public.

B. Mr. Stewart noted that there is a county-wide meeting regarding IEPs on May 14.

C. Mr. Flynn reported that he had received a letter from a state legislator advocating for district lines to be re-drawn to reconfigure Berkshire County schools into three large systems. He said that it had been reported to Berkshire County principals that the proposal would be discussed at a meeting with school committee chairs. Mr. Flynn wondered if such meetings were public, and if so, where they would be posted. Mr. Stewart said that one preliminary meeting had taken place with the County school committee chairs, and another is scheduled for May 9. He said that he would keep the Committee informed of discussions that take place at those meetings.

On a motion by Mr. Valentini, seconded by Mr. Sears, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1,491*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1,490*
- *Letter from Superintendent David B. Hastings, dated April 27, 2015*
- *Letter from Ms. Carly Detterman & Mr. Shawn Tryon, dated March 20, 2015*
- *Excerpt from the Commissioner's Weekly Update of March 27, 2015*
- *Language for motions re: acceptance of bids and to authorize Bruce Turner to negotiate and finalize specific terms of agreements with the successful bidders*
- *Language for motion to appoint Bruce C. Turner and authorize him to execute and deliver the Project Funding Agreement and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District*