

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

Absent: Mr. Stewart

Administrators: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Turner

Press: CTSB Television

Student Representative: Nolan Dupont and Nathan Chase

Others: Mr. Nathaniel Yohalem, Municipal Representative for Collective Bargaining; Ms. Linda Higgins

1. Vice Chairman Silvers called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Sparhawk moved to approve the minutes of Meeting #1,492, open and executive sessions. Mr. Valentini noted that Mr. Sears was not in attendance at the meeting, although he was listed in one instance as casting a vote. Ms. Silvers added that the prize awarded to Ms. Giordano was the Kapteyn prize. The minutes were then approved, as amended.
3. **Communications from the Audience Pertaining to this Evening's Agenda**
  - A. Student Representative Report: Student Representative Nolan Dupont reported that the Mt. Everett Student Council would soon write on the hill at Monument Mountain, as formerly agreed. He said that the two schools would seek to conduct another joint fundraiser in the fall.  

Nathan Chase reported on his recent experiences at the Hugh O'Brien Leadership Conference.
  - B. There were no comments from the audience.
4. **Updates/Presentations**
  - A. Future Farmers of America: Ms. Danielle Melino, Mt. Everett Biology Teacher and FFA Advisor, reviewed the activities of the FFA during the past year, and reported the following: The group attended the national convention last fall, competing against other students from across the country. The recycling program is up and running. They raised chickens in the fall, and are raising 52 more this spring. Successful fundraisers were conducted during the year. A fence will be put up, effectively doubling their available pasture land. An Egremont family will sponsor one student for the April 2016 trip to the Galipagos Islands. The same family may partially sponsor an additional student. They have received word that they have been awarded an eagle fund grant toward attendance at next year's national convention. They have also received a \$2,000 grant from the Mass Cultural Council. Following graduation, Malik Hogan will train with the US Equestrian Olympic Team.  

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Silvers thanked Ms. Melino for all she does for the students.
5. Mr. Valentini moved to amend the agenda to take up item 5E2, Finance Subcommittee report - Recommendation/vote re: contract for solar net metering credits with Reservoir Road Holdings, Inc., LLC (as possible). Mr. Flynn seconded the motion, and it was so voted.

Mr. Valentini explained that Mr. Mayland had made a presentation concerning net metering and the District's possible participation in a net metering arrangement to the Finance Subcommittee. He said that in response to concerns expressed by the members of the Finance Subcommittee, Mr. Mayland had offered to contract for supplying ½ of the District's electricity, rather than all of it. The Finance Subcommittee had approved that proposal and was bringing it to the full School Committee in order to allow the District to take the proposed contract to their attorneys.

Mr. Sears moved to enter into executive session to discuss the issues and what the committee would like to add to the contract. Mr. Valentini seconded the motion. The vote:

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

The motion failed, and discussion continued.

Mr. Mayland explained that he had not revised the contract, but had instead put together a term sheet to help the Committee vote. The agreed terms would then be brought to the attorneys to be incorporated into the contract. He noted that in other states in which his company operates, electricity is sold directly to the electric company. However, in MA, the state put together rules that would help public entities save money on their electric bills. He explained that the proposed agreement would generate a cash credit on the District's electric bill from National Grid each month. His company would invoice the District for 80% of that credit (for a net savings of 20% to the District). He said that the District would only cover one half of its electric consumption through the net metering credits, thereby protecting the District, should its consumption drop way down.

Following additional discussion, Mr. Valentini moved to invite Mr. Mayland and Housatonic Solar 1 to present the Committee with a contract incorporating the items of the basic terms that the Committee would then bring in good faith to their attorneys. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding concerns of what would happen should the District dissolve before the 20 year contract expired.

Several School Committee members asked to see better data in support of the amount of power to be purchased through net metering credits and to potentially raise such above the proposed 50%.

Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Lartigue to move the question. It was so voted.

The motion was restated, and it was so voted, with 7 members voting in favor, 1 (Mr. Sears) voting in opposition, and 1 (Mr. Batacchi) abstaining.

- 5A. Approval of extension of contract for David B. Hastings, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017: Mr. Flynn moved to extend the contract for David B. Hastings, Superintendent, effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.
- B. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Hastings reported the following:
  - The Mt. Everett graduation ceremony was very nice. He thanked all who attended, with a special thanks to Angel Rote, Beth Hull, Glenn Devoti, Dawn Estes-Daub, Kurt DeGrenier, Courtney English, and Chris Clark.
  - The recent agricultural fair was a huge success.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will visit the Sheffield Senior Center on June 17.
- Sheffield Kiwanis will sponsor a bike rodeo/safety day on campus on June 20.
- Incoming Elementary Principal Stacy Burgess will visit New Marlborough Central on June 18 and spend the day at Undermountain on June 19.
- Search committees have been formed to interview candidates for the Monterey teacher position and for the elementary art position. Ms. Kim Conant has been hired for the guidance position.
- The PK teachers recently completed CPR training with Suzanne Teutsch.
- New Marlborough Central School's 4<sup>th</sup> grade recognition night will take place on June 19.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade recognition night will be on June 17.
- Assistant Principal Deanna LeBlanc has taken on the duty of creating a master schedule for the elementary schools.
- There will be training for teachers in "Go Math" on June 19.
- The softball team lost to Turners Falls, but have many strong years to look forward to.
- Course enrollment information was included in the School Committee packets. Mr. Hastings said that it had been requested by Doug McNally through an e-mail that stated that the Berkshire County Superintendents had asked for it to be compiled. However, he found that Berkshire County Superintendents group had not requested such, nor had the Berkshire County Chapter of MASC. Mr. Hastings stated that he was concerned that because two classes often are run simultaneously in the same room at the same time, the class sizes appear artificially low. He said that there may be some misinterpretation.

Mr. Flynn stated that he had strong reservations about sharing the information. He said that he believes there is a political agenda in northern Berkshire County to create super regionals within the county, and he does not believe such would benefit our District at all. Mr. Flynn then moved not to comply with the request of Mr. McNally to provide the class size information. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion.

In the discussion that took place, it was noted that since the listing had been distributed, it was really public information. Ms. Sahn asked that if it was necessary to share the information, that asterisks and other explanations be used to qualify that the data does not reflect reality.

The motion was then approved, with five members voting in favor, and three (Mr. Sears, Ms. Rundle, and Ms. Sparhawk) voting in opposition.

Ms. Silvers asked that the course listing be brought back to the School Committee, including explanations and asterisks, on June 25.

- C. Contract with Edgenuity: Mr. Flynn moved to approve the contract with Edgenuity. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.
- D. Financial Updates/Transfers: Mr. Turner updated the Committee regarding the building project. He noted that he and Ms. Borwick would travel to Boston the following day to receive information on how to receive reimbursement from the MSBA. He also reported that Mr. Paul Baumann, who formerly served as the District's Director of Buildings and Grounds) has been employed as the Clerk of the Works for the project.

Mr. Turner also presented a listing of transfers. He noted that others will be forthcoming on June 25. Mr. Flynn then moved to approve the proposed transfers, as delineated in the memo from the Business Manager dated June 11, 2015. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.

- E. Subcommittee/Representative Reports
- Policy Subcommittee: Mr. Flynn reported that the subcommittee had met the previous evening. They are still working with the Early Childhood Committee. They will meet again on June 24.

- Executive Evaluation: Mr. Flynn reported that the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee had received the Superintendent’s first proposal for his mid-year evaluation. He said that they will meet again on June 24.
- Eagle Fund: Ms. Silvers reported that the Eagle Fund had awarded \$28,195 for 24 projects. She also announced that the group would be trying to raise more funds using many more avenues for outreach.
- Collective Bargaining: Mr. Flynn moved to enter into executive session, not to return to open session, for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion. The vote:

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

The Committee moved to Room F1 and entered into executive session at 7:44 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Ms. Lartigue, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

***Documents presented at this meeting:***

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1,493*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1,492, Open and Executive Sessions*
- *Mt. Everett FFA 2014-15 Year in Review*
- *Net Metering Credit (NMC) Term Sheet for Southern Berkshire Regional School District (provided by Housatonic Solar 1, LLC)*
- *Mt. Everett Regional High School Course Enrollment, 2010-15*
- *Edgenuity Price Quote for Services, Mount Everett Regional High*
- *Memo from Bruce Turner, Business Administrator, dated June 11, 2015 Re: Transfer Requests*