

School Committee Members: Bonnie Silvers, Fran Lartigue, Art Batacchi, Carl Stewart, Dennis Sears, MaryEllen Brown, Bob Law

Absent: Marcella Bush, Genis Melandez-Delaney, Dave Travis

Administration: Superintendent Regalbuto, Christine Regan, Sandi Hubbard, Mary Turo, Glenn Devoti, Kerry Burke

Press: CTSB, Corey Wiley – Berkshire Record

Others: Jesse Carpenter

1. Call to Order: Bonnie Silvers, Chair, called meeting #1537 to order at 7:03 p.m.

Ms. Silvers stated that they were going to move some of the items on the agenda out of order.

4. New Business

a. Request for Approval of Overnight Field Trips:

The committee asked questions regarding financial aid for students unable to pay for the trip.

Mr. Carpenter stated that no students were denied because of financial constraints thanks to the generous donor contributions. There was also a general discussion regarding the list of chaperones.

i. *Fran Lartigue moved to approve the Grade 8 Trip to Washington D.C. to visit the Holocaust and Smithsonian Museums, from March 7 - 9, 2018. Bob Law seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

ii. *Dennis Sears moved to approve the Grade 10 Economics Trip to Washington D.C., from March 7 - 9, 2018. Carl Stewart seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

iii. *Fran Lartigue moved to approve the Grade 12 Trip to Washington DC from March 7-9, 2018. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

iv. *Fran Lartigue moved to approve the Grades 11-12 FFA Members attendance at the Massachusetts State FFA Convention from March 14-16, 2018 in Sturbridge, MA. Carl Stewart seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Superintendent Regalbuto explained the School Improvement Plan process and stated that this was an opportunity to align the district vision and improvement goals. The primary focus was the visioning work, which was done in the fall. The goal is to create a consistent system and a coherent plan that aligns all aspects of the district. Superintendent Regalbuto then introduced Glenn Devoti to present his School Improvement Plan.

a. Middle/High School Improvement Plan – Glenn Devoti (Plan Attached)

Glenn Devoti, Middle and High School Principal, presented his School Improvement Plan to the School Committee. He stated that the plan had been reviewed and approved by the Mt. Everett School Council, which was composed of an equal number of parents and school employees.

Mr. Devoti explained that the format he used was aligned with the initiatives and core standards by which principals are assessed. There are 30 initiatives - 16 are in progress, eight have been completed and six not done. Mr. Devoti continued to explain the handouts (attached) which are tied in with the Mt. Everett Regional School Improvement Plan. He explained that the focus was on Cultural Beliefs, Skills & Character, and Launch and Evaluation of Organizational Improvement Plans (SIPs). It is about constantly improving the school and making things better for kids. Upon completion of his presentation, a lengthy discussion with questions and answers followed.

Ms. Lartigue asked Mr. Devoti to present an initiative that has been completed, one that is in progress, and one yet to be completed. Mr. Devoti complied with this request by sharing the following initiatives: Global Education World Education Alliance (completed), Enhance vocational and career exploration experiences (in progress) and Explore interdisciplinary school wide community theater project for the spring of 2019 (yet to be completed).

Mr. Sears would like to see next year's SIP tied in with the current District Vision.

Ms. Lartigue requested that the Superintendent develop amongst the administrative team a common format where by the committee can clearly see how initiatives are related to district goals and how things are progressing, similar to the elementary School Improvement Plan.

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that this was a longer term goal and they are working on it.

b. Elementary School Improvement Plan – Mary Turo (Plan Attached)

Mary Turo, Elementary Principal, presented the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan to the School Committee. Ms. Turo explained that the School Council had started working on the 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan in September. The state issued new frameworks in the summer so in the SIP they addressed the academic rigor and aligned curricula with the 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in ELA and Math, and included the 2016 Science, Technology and Engineering frameworks. They are also working on integrating Technology into instruction as well as School Environment and Culture, Family and Community Engagement and Professional Culture and Resources.

A brief discussion with questions and answers followed.

Regarding a concern raised about some children in district not having access to computers, tablets, etc., Mr. Stewart suggested that the district let people in the community know that the school would be happy to accept donations. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that they needed to look at donations and the amount of work that this would involve for the teachers, because there would be different types of hardware. There was further discussion.

Mr. Batacchi asked about the Grade 6, 7, 8 integration. Superintendent Regulbuto informed the committee that there is a task force working on this.

2. Standing Reports

- a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1535 and Executive Session Minutes
Fran Lartigue moved to approve School Committee Meeting #1535 and the Executive Session Minutes. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Carl Stewart and Fran Lartigue abstained, everyone else voted yes. Motion passes.

3. Public Comment - None

Mr. Stewart stated a point of order regarding putting agenda items out of order. He suggested that in future, if items need to be addressed out of order it should be done by a vote of the school committee and not arbitrarily by the chair. Ms. Silvers acknowledged this point of order.

4. d. Mountain Water Systems Rate Increase Proposal

Ms. Silvers presented a draft of a letter she would like to send on behalf of the district to the Department of Public Utilities regarding the rate increase by Mountain Water Systems. This rate increase will affect all five towns.

Mr. Sears moved that the School Committee send a letter to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities regarding the rate increase by Mountain Water Systems to the Town of Sheffield and that the letter be copied to all five towns. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. A discussion followed. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Unfinished Business

There was a discussion regarding alternates for subcommittee meetings. Further discussion will be addressed at the next meeting.

6. Business with District Member Towns

a. Request to Change Date of School Committee Meeting in Monterey – B. Regalbuto

The Town of Monterey was scheduled for May 17, 2018. They would like a meeting in early April, before their town meeting. Egremont is being asked if they will switch.

b. Request to hold School Committee Meetings at the Town of Sheffield – letter attached. The meeting on June 28th will be held at the Town of Sheffield.

The school committee meetings are scheduled at each town as follows:

Town of New Marlborough	April 5, 2018
Town of Egremont	April 26, 2018 (switch with Monterey)
Town of Monterey	May 17, 2018 (switch with Egremont)
Town of Alford	June 7, 2018
Town of Sheffield	June 28, 2018

7. Subcommittee Reports

a. SBRSD Future of South Berkshire County Education Ad-Hoc Committee – D. Sears

Mr. Sears informed that there was a meeting earlier today in Stockbridge between SBRSD, BHRSD, Lenox and Lee. Mr. Sears has reached out to Christine Lynch to see what it would take, or if it is possible, to create a regional school district planning board. This would put more structure into the group and be a formal body. They would also suggest inviting Ms. Lynch to come out to talk to the group.

The other item discussed was getting a facilitator. This would require the SBRSD putting \$4000 into the budget for this purpose. This would be our share of the cost, each district would contribute the same amount. There was also discussion about having a community event for the general public.

b. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears

First Readings on the following policies. Dennis Sears suggested that the committee bring the policies home to read and action will be taken at the January 25th meeting.

Mr. Stewart asked if there was policy where first reading has no action taken, Mr. Sears referred to policy BCG.

JJIF – Athletic Concussion Policy and JJIF-R – Concussion Regulations with Actions
GCG – Substitute Professional Staff Employment

JC – Attendance Areas
JCA – Assignment of Students to Schools

8. Chairman’s Report

Ms. Silvers would like to discuss remote participation at the January 25th meeting. Mr. Sears stated that if remote participation is adopted it applies to all committees and you still need a quorum at the table. Mr. Stewart stated that you could not try remote participation before it is adopted.

9. Superintendent’s Report (Copy attached)

Superintendent Regulbuto shared a copy of the District Vision Statement, and an update on what goes into making decisions regarding the weather.

10. Business Manager’s Report

- a. *Dennis Sears moved to approve the warrants of December 15, 2017 and January 2, 2018 as submitted. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts
- c. Budget Transfers

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Report of College Submissions and Early Acceptances
- b. College & Career Planning Initiatives for FY19 and Beyond

12. Adjourn: *Dennis Sears moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Art Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*

Documents Presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda Meeting #1537*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1535*
- *Enrollment*
- *Field Trip Permission*
- *School Improvement Plans – MSHS and Elementary*
- *Mountain Water System – Draft Letter to Department of Public Utilities*
- *Letter from Town of Sheffield*
- *First Reading Policies: JJIF, JJIF-R, GCG, JC, JCA*
- *Superintendent Report*
- *Warrants*