

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

Absent: Genis Melandez-Delaney, Marcella Bush

Administration: Superintendent Regalbuto, Christine Regan, Kerry Burke, Sandi Hubbard

Press: Corey Willey, Berkshire Record

Others: Ken Basler, Karen Chamberland, Marya Makuc, Tara White, Julie Hannum, Carol Edelman, Sarah Siket, Angus Kerr

1. **Call to Order:** Bonnie Silvers, Chair, called meeting #1542 to order at 6:05 p.m.
Mr. Sears made a motion to alter the agenda to move item 7b. Letter from the Town of Monterey. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.
Ms. Silvers suggested that the meeting begin with Item 7.b. Letter from the Town of Monterey, dated March 8th regarding the school closing.

7. Business with District Member Towns

- b. Letter from the Town of Monterey dated March 8, 2018 regarding school closing (attached)
Mr. Sears stated that we would proceed with the understanding that no classes will be held in the Monterey school building for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Sears moved to reconsider the SBRSD School Committee vote of February 21, 2018, whether to begin the process based on the Regional Agreement for the closure of the Monterey School. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. Mr. Sears voted on the prevailing side so he was able to bring this forward.

Following a discussion on the motion, the roll call vote was as follows:

*Art Batacchi –No; Carl Stewart - Yes; David Travis -Yes; Fran Lartigue - No; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Dennis Sears – Yes; Bob Law – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes.
Motion carries 6-2*

Monterey

Mr. Sears moved that pursuant to Section 3 of the Regional Agreement for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, to provide notice to all Member Towns of the District of a proposed school action to close the existing Monterey School located at 459 Main Rd, Route 23, Monterey, MA, with such closure to take effect commencing with the 2018-19 school year; and to include in such notice to all Member Towns the times, dates, and places of two public hearings to be held regarding such proposed school action: namely a meeting to be held in Monterey, Massachusetts at the Monterey Town Hall on March 20, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.; and a meeting to be held at the Mt. Everett Regional School TACPAC at 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA 01257 on March 28, 2018 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion.

Discussion followed on the motion. Ms. Silvers indicated that this action does not preclude that at some point a program will not take place in Monterey. Ms. Silvers stated that a no vote takes the motion off the table.

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart –No; David Travis -No; Fran Lartigue –No; Maryellen Brown - No; Dennis Sears - No, Bob Law - No, Bonnie Silvers - No.

Motion carries 7 to 1

Mr. Sears moved to reconsider the SBRSD School Committee vote of February 21, 2018, whether to begin the process based on the Regional Agreement for the closure of the South Egremont School. Mr. Sears voted on the prevailing side. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. There was no discussion, the roll call vote was as follows:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart - Yes; David Travis - Yes; Fran Lartigue - No; Maryellen Brown - Yes; Dennis Sears - Yes, Bob Law - Yes, Bonnie Silvers - Yes.

Motion carries 7-1

South Egremont

Mr. Sears moved that pursuant to Section 3 of the Regional Agreement for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, to provide notice to all Member Towns of the District of a proposed school action to close the existing South Egremont School located at 42 Main Street, South Egremont, MA, with such closure to take effect commencing with the 2018-19 school year; and to include in such notice to all Member Towns the times, dates, and places of two public hearings to be held regarding such proposed school action: namely a meeting to be held in South Egremont, Massachusetts at the Egremont Town Hall on March 21, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m.; and a meeting to be held at the Mt. Everett Regional School TACPAC at 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA 01257 on March 28, 2018 beginning at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion.

Mr. Batacchi called the question, Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. Voted 4 Yes; 4 No. Motion fails.

Discussion ensued regarding the South Egremont School.

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi - Yes; Carl Stewart - No; David Travis – No; Fran Lartigue - Yes; Maryellen Brown - No; Dennis Sears – No; Bob Law – No; Bonnie Silvers – No.

Motion carries 6-2

2. Standing Reports

- a. Miscellaneous Correspondence

3. Student Representative Report

Marya Makuc and Angus Kerr gave the committee an update on the student walkout yesterday. Marya said that they took a lot of time and consideration in planning this event. Workshops were held in the morning prior to the walk out at 10 a.m. There were four workshops: Equipping Youth as Citizens about the Government; 17 acts of Kindness; Writing Petitions “Open Letter to Trump”; Marching Effectively. About 100 students participated and 60-70 students participated in the four workshops that were held. The students learned skills that they will be able to use the rest of their life.

Mr. Stewart stated that this event was a credit to the school and community. Mr. Sears, who attended the workshop on petition writing, said that it was amazing.

4. **Public Comment**

Sarah Siket and Karen Chamberland voiced their concerns regarding making March 30, 2018, currently a holiday, a half day of school to make up for snow days. The school committee stated they would consider their concerns when making a decision.

5. **New Business**

a. Student Spotlight (Project 351) – None.

b. Approval of Overnight Field Trip (April 18-21, 2018) to Tampa Florida (Grades 7&8) to provide students hands-on science experiences related to aquatic habitats. - A.VonRuden
Mr. Batacchi made a motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip (April 18-21, 2018) to Tampa Florida. Mr. Travis seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion regarding the cost and how students pay and the motion was unanimously approved.

c. School Cancellations – Propose Half day for March 30, 2018

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that she had met with the staff during a union meeting. One of the items discussed was to have the last day of school be Friday, June 22nd. We currently have used seven (7) snow days and the last day would be Monday, June 25th. The proposal of having a half-day of school on March 30th (Good Friday holiday) was mentioned and the faculty who were present at the meeting overwhelmingly suggested bringing it forward to the school committee for a vote.

A discussion followed. Mr. Stewart noted point of order. A motion should be made, followed by discussion.

Mr. Stewart made a motion that the school committee vote to have a half day of school on March 30, 2018. Mr. Law seconded the motion.

Further discussion ensued.

Mr. Batacchi requested that the district look at Blizzard Bags for next year. Absences will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the Superintendent.

Mr. Travis called the question, Mr. Sears seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart – Yes; David Travis – No; Fran Lartigue – No;

Maryellen Brown – Yes; Mr. Sears – No; Mr. Law – Yes.

Motion carries 4 to 3.

d. Adoption of FY19 Operating, Transportation and Capital Budgets

Mr. Stewart made a motion that the SBRSD school committee approve the FY19 Operating, Transportation and Capital Budget as listed. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion.

A discussion followed. Superintendent Regulbuto explained that this was a leveled service budget and there may be some reduction in force in certain areas. A clerical staff retirement will be replaced with a .5 fte. It was noted that the motion had to include a breakdown of the budget. Questions and answers followed.

Mr. Stewart then withdrew his prior motion and moved that the SBRSD school committee approve the FY19 Operating, Transportation and Capital Budget stating each item as listed.

Mr. Travis seconded the motion.

FY19 Budget

• Operating Expenditure Budget	\$ 14,744,965
• Transportation Expenditure Budget	\$ 1,313,568
• Capital Expenditure Budget	\$ 358,461
• Capital Project Bond Repayment	\$ 273,017
TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$16,390,011

Ms. Lartigue moved to amend the Total Expenditure Budget to read \$16,690,011 (typo in the above figure of 16,360,011). Mr. Stewart accepted this amendment to his motion, and it was seconded by Mr. Batacchi.

FY19 Assessments

• Operating Assessment	\$ 12,175,107
• Transportation Assessment	\$ 771,263
• Capital Assessment	\$ 358,461
• Capital Project Interest Assessment	\$ 273,017
TOTAL TO BE ASSESSED	\$13,577,848

Roll Call Vote:

*Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart – Yes; David Travis – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes; Fran Lartigue – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Dennis Sears – Yes; Bob Lay – Yes
Motion passes unanimously.*

6. Unfinished Business

7. Business with District Member Towns

- a. Move the April 12th meeting from Town of New Marlborough to the Sheffield Campus
The Town of New Marlborough had sent an email requesting that since the school committee would be voting on the closure of the Monterey and Egremont schools at the April 12th meeting, they felt it should be moved to the Sheffield campus.
Ms. Lartigue made a motion to move the April 12th School Committee Meeting to the Sheffield Campus. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

8. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears

Second Reading

- *Mr. Stewart moved to adopt policy ADF – School District Wellness Program. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
- *Mr. Stewart moved to adopt policy EFD – Meal Charge Policy. Mr. Law seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
- *Mr. Stewart moved to adopt policy GBEBD – Online Fundraising and Solicitations. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. Ms. Silvers requested that the Superintendent ensure the faculty are aware of this policy. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.*
- *Mr. Sears moved to adopt policy ILD – Student Submission to Educational Surveys and Research. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion.*
Discussion followed regarding this policy. Mr. Stewart stated that this policy contained several provisions that are in violation of the United States constitution, specifically paragraph two “without the prior written consent of the.....”.
Mr. Stewart made a motion to amend the policy as follows:

Strike “prior written” and also “if he/she is at least 18 years of age”; strike 18 years older (last para). There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Travis suggested that the Policy Subcommittee take a further look at this policy.

Ms. Silvers moved that Mr. Sears withdraw his motion and take it back to policy for further discussion. Unanimously approved.

9. **Chairman’s Report**

Ms. Silvers mentioned the walk out on March 14th and commended Superintendent Regulbuto, Principal Devoti and the Sheffield Policy Department for the effort they had put into planning this event and the students for this well executed event.

10. **Superintendent’s Report (attached)**

- Shout-out to the Highway Road Superintendents for a job well done.
- Coffee with the SRO and Chief was an opportunity for the community to interact and ask questions of the SRO regarding security. Mr. Batacchi was disappointed that the event was poorly attended. Mr. Law stated that Superintendent Regulbuto had sent out communication to public regarding the event.
- Calendar – The musical Godspell was moved from Saturday to Thursday, Friday and Sunday because many of the students will be at the march on March 24th.
- Superintendent’s Entry Plan Report was presented to the school committee. (Attached)

11. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator’s Report (attached)**

Kerry went through her report and the professional development schedule.

12. **Director of Student Services Report**

Ms. Hubbard informed the committee that the next SBRSD SEPAC session is on April 24th at 3 p.m. in the Mt. Everett Library on Language and Language Processing Disorders. The Special Olympics is set for May 2nd.

13. **Business Manager’s Report**

a. Approval of Warrants : March 9, 2018 (attached)

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the warrant of March 9, 2018 as submitted. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Vote to accept Grants and Gifts - None

c. Budget Transfers (attached)

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the budget transfers as presented. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

14. **Adjourn**

Mr. Batacchi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Documents presented at this meeting

- Agenda #1542
- Overnight Field Trip to Tampa Florida
- FY19 Budget
- Letter from the Town of Monterey
- Policies: ADF, EFD, GBEBD, ILD
- Superintendent’s Report and Entry Plan
- Curriculum & PD Coordinator’s Report
- Warrant March 9, 2018
- Budget Transfers