

School Committee Members: Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, MaryEllen Brown, Carl Stewart, Ken Knox, Marcella Bush, David Travis, Fran Lartigue, Art Batacchi

Absent: Tim Schroepfer

Administration: Superintendent Regulbuto, Christine Regan, Peter Dufresne, Sandi Hubbard

Press: Cory Willey, Berkshire Record, CTSB TV

Others: Maria Catalan, Amanda Theriot-Rogers

1. Call to Order

Ms. Silvers, Chair, called meeting #1550 to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Standing Reports

a. Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes #1549

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes of meeting #1549 as presented.

Mr. Travis seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that as of August 1, 2018 the enrollment was at 702.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence

Letter from the Town of Monterey regarding the transfer of the deed for the Monterey School. Ms. Silvers stated that this request will be investigated by the district's attorney and a draft response will be on the next agenda for approval by the committee.

3. Student Representative Report – None

4. Public Comment - None

5. New Business

a. FY19 Budget Update

Chris Regan stated that there were differences between the cherry sheet and minimum contribution. With the Cherry Sheet changes our estimated receipts increased by \$20,933, estimated charges increased by \$42,802 which means and local aid is going down by \$21,875 from what was estimated on the proposed budget. In terms of the share that each town was assessed during the budget process and what they appropriated at town meetings, the Chapter 70 formula, in particular the excess effort reduction changed. This changed the proportionate share for each of the member towns and resulted in a reduction of \$104,000. Ms. Regan suggested we wait until the FY18 books are closed and have a certified excess and deficiency fund to determine how this will affect the towns. Discussion followed.

b. School Safety

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that the school safety initiative is not new. Last year, based on need and data collected, the District made investments in improving social emotional supports through additions to curriculum, professional development trainings, review of our advisory program, and the examination of potential programming additions or counseling supports. Much of that work was

funded by grants. This year the social emotional work is expanding to other grade levels, and we are working on the physical safety aspect of the initiative.

Building and Grounds met and did a walk through the schools looking at areas that needed to be improved (parking, cameras, etc.). The Administrative team is looking at ways to improve security. Capital funds are being expended on physical plant improvements, and grant funds are being used for professional development for all staff and community outreach, as well as safety equipment for classrooms across the District.

Superintendent Regulbuto invited everyone to save the date – August 27th at 5pm in the TACPAC for a presentation on School Safety – A Parent’s Perspective. Michele Gay is the keynote and will be sharing her personal perspective on the why and lessons learned from the Sandy Hook School response and recovery efforts. Our hope is to involve and engage all the communities in this effort to be more prepared and more resilient as an organization.

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that these measures are not meant to keep people out but to know who is present and in the buildings in case of an emergency and asked for the community to have patience while these changes are taking place.

c. Approval of Handbooks:

- Staff Handbook 2018-2019
- Parent/Student Handbook 2018-2019

Superintendent Regulbuto explained that in the past there had been two separate handbooks for elementary and secondary. This version is a combined handbook. The draft was sent to the attorneys with feedback from school committee.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to postpone approval of the Staff Handbook and Parent/Student Handbook. Mr. Travis seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stewart then withdrew his motion and made a new motion to have the School Committee vote to continue in full force and effect the current Staff and Parent/Student Handbooks to be followed with the updated handbooks once vetted by the district attorneys. Mr. Travis seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Unfinished Business

7. Business with District Member Towns

a. South Egremont School Update

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that currently there are 10 students enrolled and there are 2 additional students pending documentation.

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the committee that in June she had sent a letter to the Town of Egremont, at the request of the school committee, requesting documentation of compliance with various regulations. The Town of Egremont responded to this letter on July 20, 2018 (copy attached). This letter was forwarded to the attorney for review, especially regarding the lead paint report from September 28, 2010. As of today, the certificate of occupancy has not been issued. Discussion followed regarding the lead report submitted and questions were raised as to whether the remediation work had been done since the report of September 28, 2010.

Mr. Stewart moved the school committee deem that the Town of Egremont not having satisfied the requests set forth in the letter to it on June 22, 2018, that approval as of now for the opening of the school be denied unless and until the requested information is provided. Mr. Sears seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued on the application for variances by the Town of Egremont.

Mr. Sears called the question. Art Batacchi seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart – Yes; David Travis – Yes; Fran Lartigue – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Denis Sears – Yes, Ken Knox – Yes

Mr. Travis made a motion that the Town of Egremont provide SBRSD with an updated certified lead report. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stewart called the question. Ms. Lartigue seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: Art Batacchi – Yes; Carl Stewart – Yes; David Travis – Yes; Fran Lartigue – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Denis Sears – Yes, Ken Knox – Yes

8. Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy – D. Sears

Remote Participation Policy – BEA – Second Reading

Mr. Stewart moved that the School Committee accept policy BEA – Remote Participation without further discussion. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Silvers asked who will be responsible for taking care of #1 of the policy “SBRSD

Administration will have technology available for use and a defined, written process for making use of such technology available for training and use.” It will be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop guidelines regarding this.

9. Chairman’s Report

Ms. Silvers reminded everyone that the School Committee Retreat is scheduled for September 13th and October 3rd from 5 – 8 p.m. Mr. Koocher will present at the October 3rd meeting.

10. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Regalbuto reported that the Administrative Team has been working together to develop a strategic plan based on her entry plan findings, and input from various key stakeholders. This work will continue during the Administrative Retreat on Wednesday, August 22. The objective is to present the strategic plan this fall at a school committee meeting. This work will allow alignment of the District Improvement Plan with the School Improvement Plans which in turn will inform the goals for the faculty and staff, all striving to meet the vision that we set as a school community last year.

Bus routes -The bus routes have been developed and published. They are on the District website and will be out in The Berkshire Record and in The Shoppers Guide on the for students and families to review as part of their back to school planning!

11. Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development

Mr. Dufresne presented his report (attached)

12. Director of Student Services Report

Ms. Hubbard presented her report (attached)

13. Business Manager’s Report

a. Vote to approve Warrants: July 27 and August 10, 2018

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the warrants of July 27th and August 10, 2018 as presented.

Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts - None
- c. Budget Transfers - None

14. Future Agenda Items

15. Adjourn

Ms. Lartigue moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.