

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

Absent: Fran Lartigue, S. Hubbard, C. Regan

Administration: Superintendent Regulbuto, Peter Dufresne

Press: CTSB TV

Others: (see attached sign in sheet)

1. Call to Order

Ms. Silvers, Chair, called meeting #1552 to order at 6:02 p.m.

Ms. Silvers stated she would like to add the following item to the agenda:

To allow Stephanie Graham to present an overview of the World Education Alliance travel program under New Business, Item 6d.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to add the above item to the agenda. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Batacchi motioned to amend the order of the agenda and move the Executive Session to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion.

*Roll Call Vote: Mr. Batacchi – Yes; Mr. Knox – Yes; Mr. Stewart – Yes; Mr. Travis – Yes; Ms. Silvers – Yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Ms. Bush – Yes; Mr. Sears – Yes; Mr. Schroepfer – Yes
The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Batacchi moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and to return to open session. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion.

*Roll Call Vote: Mr. Batacchi – Yes; Mr. Knox – Yes; Mr. Stewart – Yes; Mr. Travis – Yes; Ms. Silvers – Yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Ms. Bush – Yes; Mr. Sears – Yes; Mr. Schroepfer – Yes
The motion passed unanimously.*

Open session was reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

2. Standing Reports

- a. Approval of School Committee Meeting Minutes #1550 and #1551.

Mr. Stewart moved to accept the minutes of meeting #1550 as presented. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was approved with Tim Schroepfer abstaining.

Mr. Stewart moved to accept the minutes of meeting #1551 as presented. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that as of October 1, 2018 the enrollment was at 697 down by one from September 1, 2018. This is the enrollment that the state uses to determine funding.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence

- Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that she had received a letter from the US Figure Skating regarding John Michael Harden, a sixth grade student at Undermountain Elementary, who is registered to compete in the Juvenile Boys Free Skate event at the 2019 New England Regional Figure Skating Championships, October 11-14, 2018 in Boston. You can follow John-Michael's progress and see his placement at the New England Regional Figure Skating Championships on US Figure Skating's Fanzone.
- Also in the packet was a letter from Mr. Tom Marshall asking the School Committee's endorsement of his effort to convince the Sheffield Board of Health to develop a tobacco age limit of 21 similar to the other towns in Berkshire County.

Mr. Stewart made a motion that the school committee make a request to the Sheffield Board of Health to raise the sale of tobacco products to 21 years of age. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Student Representative Report

Maddy Makuc gave an update on what has been happening at the middle and high school. The student government elections were held for grades 7 – 12.

PSATs are Wednesday, October 10th. FFA members will be attending the convention in October.

NHS will be hosting a pasta dinner at the American Legion on November 10th, free for veterans.

4. Student Spotlight – None

5. Public Comment

The following members of the public voiced concerns and raised questions on:

Ms. Byrne – safety procedures and locker access at the elementary school

Ms. Laine – requested the school committee reconsider transportation for football

Ms. Foster – communication

Ms. Kelly – South Egremont School

Chandler DeGrenier and Abigail L. read a letter to the school committee (see attached)

Ms. Silvers thanked everyone for their comments.

6. New Business

- a. Approval of the Band and Chorus Overnight Trip to Orlando, FL, April 10-14, 2018 for the Music in the Parks Competition through Universal Studios – Courtney English

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the Band and Chorus Overnight Trip to Orlando, FL from April 10-14, 2018 as presented. Mr. Schroepfer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- b. Request from Austin Murray to establish a Student Activity Account for the class of 2021.

Mr. Stewart moved to approve the Student Activity Account for the class of 2021. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

- c. Discussion on E-Cigarettes – D. Sears

Mr. Sears brought up concerns regarding E-Cigarettes and would like to see more education for the students regarding this matter. Mr. Carpenter and the SRO T. Zucco are looking at bringing more education about E-Cigarettes to the district.

- d. Global Education Program – S. Graham

Ms. Graham informed the school committee that she would like to begin a long-term international exchange student program as part of the World Education Alliance. In order to begin the process for

long-term international exchange we need to create a policy and program for incoming exchange students and Ms. Graham is seeking approval from the committee to begin this process. The committee asked that Ms. Graham return to a later school committee meeting with a comprehensive proposal.

Mr. Travis moved to approve the goals that Stephanie Graham stated. Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Travis withdrew his motion.

Mr. Travis moved to support and endorse the exploration of an International Student Program. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Conflict of school committee meeting dates

Mr. Sears moved and Mr. Batacchi seconded the motion to change the school committee meeting dates as follows:

May 16, 2018 is moved to May 9, 2018 and June 6, 2018 is moved to June 13, 2018

There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Parent/Student Handbook

Mr. Batacchi moved that the school committee approve the 2018-2019 Parent/Student Handbook. Mr. Knox seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Parent/Student Handbook will be available to review on the SBRSD website.

c. Staff Handbook – First Draft

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that this was the first draft of the staff handbook and asked that they email her with any corrections/changes.

8. Business with District Member Towns

a. Status regarding South Egremont School

Ms. Silvers stated that at this time the district had preliminary information and that we are still waiting on additional reports regarding the lead testing. Our number one concern is the safety of the children. Ms. Silvers informed the audience that we had received reports on the lead inspection inside and outside the building, a report on the soil, and an estimate on painting the inside and outside of the building. The appropriate remediation would be to paint the inside and outside of the building to encapsulate the lead paint.

Mr. Stewart moved that by the action of the Committee we have made these reports to be a public document and they should be available to the public. Mr. Sears seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

At this point there is no concluding report on the soil.

Mr. Knox made a motion that the school committee articulate its official position on the status of the South Egremont School and that they commit to reopening the school as soon as all tests have been certified by an expert. Mr. Travis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Subcommittee Reports

● Guidelines for Remote Participation

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that we will be purchasing a conference phone which will be utilized for remote participation at meetings and will be able to be used in any location. We will provide the call-in #. This should be ready by the October 25th meeting.

- MASC – D. Sears
Mr. Sears and Mr. Stewart attended the MASC Division 6 meeting. The election of officers for Division 6 were held at this meeting.
- Berkshire County Educational Taskforce – Carl Stewart
These meetings are held every 3rd Saturday at Nessacus Middle School in Dalton. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has issued a revised population projection which shows there will be an even steeper decline in Berkshire County population.
- Vote to approve the Good & Welfare Subcommittee – B. Silvers
Mr. Knox moved that the school committee vote to create establishing a Good and Welfare Subcommittee. Mr. Sears seconded the motion.

Mr. Travis would like to see a description of this subcommittee. Discussion ensued. Mr. Stewart called the question. Mr. Travis seconded the motion. Voted unanimous.

Roll Call on the motion:

Mr. Batacchi – Yes; Mr. Knox – Yes; Mr. Stewart – No; Mr. Travis – Yes; Ms. Silvers – Yes; Ms. Brown – Yes; Ms. Bush – Yes; Mr. Sears – Yes; Mr. Schroepfer – Yes
The motion passed 8 to 1.

Mr. Stewart left the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

The Good and Welfare Subcommittee will comprise of: Mr. Schroepfer, Mr. Knox, Ms. Bush and Ms. Silvers.

10. Chairman’s Report – No report

11. Superintendent’s Report – (attached)

12. Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator’s Report – (attached)

13. Director of Student Services Report (attached)

14. Business Managers Report

a. Approval of Warrants: September 21, 2018

Mr. Sears moved to approve the warrant of September 21, 2018 as submitted. Mr. Knox seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

15. Future Agenda Items

The committee would like S. Graham to provide a plan for the International Exchange Program.

Description of the Good and Welfare Subcommittee

16. Adjourn

Mr. Batacchi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Mr. Knox seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Documents provided at this meeting:

- Agenda 1552
- Minutes #1550 and #1551
- Enrollment
- Letter from C. DeGrenier
- Field Trip to Orlando
- Global Ed Program
- Staff handbook draft
- Lead Report – S. Egremont School
- Superintendent’s Report
- Curriculum & Professional development Coordinator’s Report
- Director of Student Services Report
- Warrants – September 21, 2018