

School Committee: Art Batacchi, Jeffrey Blaugrund, Ken Knox, Dennis Sears, Marcella Bush, Bonnie Silvers, Jon Bruno

Absent: Jane Burke, Maryellen Brown, David Travis

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Chris Regan, Peter Dufresne, Sandi Hubbard, Glenn Devoti, Jesse Carpenter

Press: CTSB TV, Hannah Shirley-Berkshire Record

1. Call to Order

Ken Knox, Chair, called meeting #1557 to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session for the following purpose at 6:06 p.m.

Pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with or act under authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically M.G.L. c.30A, §22(f) and (g) with regard to the review, approval, and/or consideration for non-disclosure of executive session minutes from 2016 to 2017, and/or related appointment of one or more designees and to reconvene to open session.

By: Marcella Bush

Second: Art Batacchi

Roll Call Vote Required.

Art Batacchi – Yes; Jeffrey Blaugrund – Yes; Ken Knox – Yes; Dennis Sears – Yes; Marcella Bush-Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes; Jon Bruno - Yes

Open session reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

3. Standing Reports

a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1556 of January 10, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes of school committee meeting #1556 of January 10, 2019 as presented.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

b. Approval of Executive Session Minutes

Motion to release the following Executive Session Minutes that were declassified at the Executive Minute Review Subcommittee meeting:

Meeting #1513 – August 25, 2016

Meeting #1520 – February 2, 2017

Meeting #1524 – April 27, 2017

Meeting#1525 – May 25, 2017

Special SCM June 2, 2017

Meeting #1526 – June 8, 2017

Special SCM June 19, 2017

Meeting #1529 – August 17, 2017

Meeting #1539 – February 15, 2018

Meeting #1552 – October 4, 2018

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Dennis Sears

Vote: Unanimous

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

4. **Student Representative Report** – None because school was cancelled due to the weather

5. **Student Spotlight**

Mr. Summers played a slide show, which depicted the kindergarten students at UME, participating in a Flying Cloud showcase, doing classroom experiments that combined art and science learning.

This program was made possible through grants from the Eagle Fund and Taconic Foundation.

Mr. Miller is looking forward to collaborating with flying cloud again during February break for our grade 5 Science camp.

6. **Public Comment** - None

7. **New Business**

a. Approval of Overnight Field Trip (March 7-8, 2019) to New York City for Frida Kahlo Exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum and Tour of Lower East Side Street Art through Gotham Street Art Walks – S. Graham

Motion to approve the Overnight Field Trip (March 7-8, 2019) to New York City for Frida Kahlo exhibit at Brooklyn Museum and Tour of Lower East Side Street Art through Gotham Street Art Walks.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Vote: Unanimous

b. MS Program Overview for 2019-2020

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that the middle school presentation was a culmination of 18 months of work in the district and that this module will be rolled-out in phases. This whole process was identified as an area of focus in the Superintendent's entry plan last year and was a big part of the district strategic plan put forward this year. By 2019-2020, there will be a middle school program for grades 6-8. Superintendent Regulbuto then turned the presentation over to Mr. Carpenter. This middle school module will allow teachers to leverage their time and talents to assist students in maximizing their potential and provide a learning model that responds to their unique social-emotional and cognitive needs. Each grade will have its own theme through which students, using project-based learning, will begin to view the world (see attached for more details).
Questions and answers session followed.

Bonnie Silvers moved to approve the new design for the Middle School to begin with the 2019-2020 academic year.

Jeffrey Blaugrund seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

c. Greenagers: Vernal Pool Trail – Elia DelMolino (Letter of Permission)

Mr. Del Molino, Trails Coordinator at Greenagers, introduced himself to the school committee. He stated the reason for being at the meeting was to request a letter of permission from SBRSD to *rehabilitate and upgrade the vernal pool trail* that runs behind the school complex. He also stated that he already has letters of support from teachers and staff at SBRSD.

Through this project, Greenagers will make the trail "universally accessible" so that wheel chair users and individuals with limited mobility can use the trail as well. It will have a tread similar to that of the River Walk or the Lake Mansfield Trails System in Great Barrington. Additionally,

Greenagers will fix the warped boardwalks and viewing platforms. They will be going through all the proper Conservation Commission and Natural Heritage Endangered Species permitting.

Mr. Sears moved that the Chair of the School Committee write a letter of permission to rehabilitate and upgrade the vernal pool trail, pending approval by the appropriate state and regulatory agencies.

Mr. Blaugrund seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

d. Governor's Budget

-Letter to Senator Hinds and Rep Pignatelli Regarding Rural Aid (copy attached)

Ken Knox commented on the letter regarding rural aid from the State of Massachusetts for the FY19 budget. He stated that the committee was here to advocate for our towns and children, and to perform our fiduciary responsibility to ensure that our kids receive the best education they can get. Mr. Knox thanked Superintendent Regalbuto and Chris Regan for sending the letter.

Mr. Sears suggested sending another version of this letter that says that the elected officials representing the towns are firmly behind this. He also suggested sending a similar letter to the select board members of the five towns requesting that they also send out letters supporting this.

Ms. Silvers would like to follow up with a letter from the school committee to the representatives and ask our elected officials to get on board.

Mr. Blaugrund moved to authorize a member of the school committee to draft a letter to the representatives and governor's office articulating that we are advocating on behalf of our rural district moving forward with the upcoming budget cycle.

Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

Art Batacchi left the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Superintendent Regalbuto presented the revenue portion of the FY20 SBRSD budget and Chris Regan presented a review of the Governor's proposed budget regarding FY20 revenue projections. Below is a brief outline of anticipated revenue. (See attached for complete details).

Chapter 70 Funding:

Of the 318 school districts receiving an increase in per pupil Chapter 70 funding, Southern Berkshire, along with 182 other school districts will be receiving minimum aid, which is a \$20 per student increase in Chapter 70 funds. Our total increase of \$13,360 is a .68% increase over last year's Chapter 70 funding.

Regional Transportation Reimbursement:

SBRSD is currently in its second year of our new contract with Massini Bus Company. Because our costs rose significantly at the beginning of the contract, our transportation reimbursement is expected to increase as well. The FY20 Cherry Sheet indicates that we will be receiving \$686,823 in regional transportation funding. This is a \$131,481 increase over FY19 projections. We do not know yet the final figure for reimbursement for FY19.

School Choice:

As of December 2018, SBRSD had 107 students tuitioning in via the School Choice program from ten school districts, and a total of 116 students tuitioning out to seven districts.

We are projected to receive a total of \$640,149 in Chapter 70 revenue for students tuitioned in to SBRSD.

Excess and Deficiency Fund:

E&D funds are funds that result from revenues coming in higher and/or expenditures coming in lower than budgeted. These funds once certified by the Department of Revenue are available as a revenue source in the following year's budget. SBRSD's E&D has been certified at \$819,257, which is less than the \$834,501 we would be allowed to keep. This year's E&D figure is \$50,544 higher than the amount certified as of July 1, 2017.

Assessments:

Actual assessment figures will not be known until the FY20 budget has been presented to and approved by the school committee and the five member towns.

The power went out and the emergency generators came on. Mr. Knox asked the committee if the meeting should be continued or adjourned. Consensus was to continue the meeting.

8. Unfinished Business

a. School Committee Meetings in Member Towns

February 14, 2019 – New Marlborough

April 4, 2019 – Monterey

April 25, 2019 – Alford

May 9, 2019 – Sheffield

June 13, 2019 – Egremont

The above dates have been confirmed with all the towns and future meetings will be held in each respective town.

Bonnie Silvers made a motion to rearrange the agenda to address item 10a. and items 15 a.b.c. Dennis Sears seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

10. Subcommittee Reports

a. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears

First Read

Policy JFABB – Admission of Exchange Students

Mr. Sears stated that this was the presentation of Policy JFABB for the first read only. No action was necessary at this time. He also mentioned that the following policies were not approved for the first read at the last policy meeting.

Policy IE – Organization of Instruction

Policy EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles

Policy KF and KF-R – Community Use of School Facilities

Policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee

Policy BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment

15. Business Manager's Report

a. Approval of Warrants: January 11 and January 25, 2019

Motion to approve the warrants of January 11 and January 25, 2019 as presented

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Marcella Bush

Vote: Unanimous

b. Vote to approve payment of prior year invoices. Notice received 12/13/18 of non-payment for softball officiating: Fran McKeever - \$189 and Bob Claffie - \$189

Motion to approve payment of prior year invoices to Fran McKeever for \$189 and Bob Claffie for \$189

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Unanimous

c. **Accept Grants and Gifts**

Motion to accept \$500 from Gulotta Brothers, Inc to support academic programs at Mt. Everett School and \$1,200 from MA Cultural Council for STARS Residencies Grant – Mt. Everett Middle and High School and Non-Monetary gift of Photographic Enlarger for the Art Department.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Unanimous

d. **Budget Transfers (see attached)**

Dennis Sears moved to approve the January 31, 2019 budget transfers as presented. Marcella Bush seconded the motion.

Vote was unanimous.

8. b. **Blizzard Bag Program Update – Not addressed at this meeting**

9. **Business with District Member Towns – not addressed at this meeting**

- a. Superintendent Regional Roundtable Meeting – February 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

10. **Subcommittee Reports**

- b. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis and P. Dufresne – Not addressed
c. SBEF Ad Hoc Subcommittee – D. Sears – Not addressed
d. Community Outreach and Input Subcommittee – B. Silvers – Not addressed
e. Executive Session Review Subcommittee – J. Blaugrund – Not addressed

11. **Chairman's Report – not addressed**

12. **Superintendent's Report – not addressed**

13. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report – not addressed**

14. **Director of Student Services Report – not addressed**

16. **Future Agenda Items**

17. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Unanimous

Documents presented at this meeting

- Agenda #1557
- Guidelines for Public Comment (BEDH-E and BEDH)
- Minutes of meeting #1556 – January 10, 2019
- Overnight Field Trip Request – March 7-8, 2019
- Mt. Everett Middle School Module
- Letter to senator Adam Hinds and Representative Pignatelli
- SBRSD Preliminary FY20 Budget Proposal
- Review of Governor's Proposed Budget
- Blizzard Bags
- Policy JFABB – First Read
- Curriculum Report
- Director of Student Services Report
- Warrants of 1-11-19 and 1-25-19
- Grants and Gifts
- Budget Transfers