

School Committee: Art Batacchi, Jane Burke, Ken Knox, Dennis Sears, Maryellen Brown, Marcella Bush, Bonnie Silvers, Jon Bruno

Absent: David Travis, Jeffrey Blaugrund

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Chris Regan, Peter Dufresne,

Press: CTSB TV, Hannah Shirley - Berkshire Record

Others: Jesse Carpenter, Amy Lyn, Charles Miller, Dan Weston, Mr. & Mrs. Piser

1. **Call to Order:** Ken Knox, Chair, called meeting #1559 to order at 6:05 p.m.  
Mr. Knox explained that the meeting of February 14, 2019 was cancelled because under OML guidelines the facility had to meet ADA requirements. He further stated that our goal is to have at least one meeting in each of the towns to make it more accessible for the residents to attend.

2. **Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session for the following purposes:

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Jane Burke – Yes; Ken Knox – Yes; Dennis Sears – Yes; Marcella Bush – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes; Jon Bruno - Yes

The committee reconvened in Open Session at 6:20 p.m.

3. **Standing Reports**

- a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1557 of January 31, 2019

Motion to approve School Committee Meeting Minutes #1557 of January 31, 2019 as presented.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that enrollment as of February 1, 2019 was up by two students to 695.

- c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

4. **Student Representative Report - None**

## 5. Student Spotlight

Superintendent Regulbuto invited Charles Miller to introduce the new Assistant Principal, Amy Lyn, to the school committee. Ms. Lyn has an extensive background in education including roles as Elementary Principal, Assistant Principal, School Designer, Instructional Coach, Reading Specialist and Teacher.

Dan Weston, New Marlborough Central, presented a slide show to the school committee on the various activities and events that have occurred at New Marlborough Central.

## 6. Public Comment

Rene Wood, Sheffield Select Board member, presented a letter to the Superintendent and the school committee that the Sheffield Board of Selectmen had written recommending and endorsing a change to the assessment method. The Town of Sheffield requested that SBRSD's legal counsel develop a warrant article to make the change to the assessment method and for this to be brought forward at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, 2019.

## 7. New Business

- a. Vote to accept a choice PK student at UME and waive tuition – Mr. & Mrs. Piser  
Janet Piser, who resides in Great Barrington, stated that she would like her daughter to attend the PK program at UME in the fall and that the cost of tuition be waived. She currently has a daughter in Kindergarten at UME and would like both children to attend this district.

Motion to accept waiver of PK tuition for student to attend the UME PK program in the fall of 2019.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Art Batacchi

Vote: Ken Knox abstained. All others yes.

- b. Approval of Lateral Movements on the Unit A Salary Schedule, Effective February 1, 2019  
Motion to approve the Lateral Movement on the Unit A Salary schedule effective February 1, 2019 as presented (attached)  
By: Dennis Sears  
Second: Jon Bruno  
Vote: Unanimous

- c. Draft Calendar for 2019-2020  
Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that the calendar presented was a preliminary draft for review only. The calendar has been distributed to staff for their review and input and will be brought back to the committee for final approval.
- d. Vote to approve the SBREA Unit A Memorandum of Agreement to add the following stipend positions:  
FASTBridge Leader – Secondary for \$1,900  
FASTBridge Leader – Elementary for \$1,900  
Mr. Dufresne explained that these positions will be funded with Title I funds for gathering data. FASTBridge is a K-12 bench mark assessment system that will be used 3 times a year to test students for fluency in mathematics, literacy, social and emotional standing and will identify students that may need more assistance.

Motion to refer the request for the two stipend positions to the Negotiation Subcommittee for review and consideration prior to any signing of the MOA.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Ms. Silvers stated that currently the stipend positions are being reviewed by the Stipend Review Committee. Ms. Silvers felt that these MOAs should go to the negotiation subcommittee for discussion and review prior to being approved and posted. Superintendent Regulbuto explained that the Stipend Review Committee are reviewing all the stipends currently in the contract. Superintendent Regulbuto further stated that she had met with the Union President and Vice President, who were in agreement with creating the MOAs and therefore were brought forth for school committee approval. Further discussion ensued.

There was a roll call vote:

Art Batacchi – Yes; Jane Burke – Yes; Ken Knox – Yes; Dennis Sears – Yes;  
Marcella Bush – Yes; Maryellen Brown – Yes; Bonnie Silvers – Yes; Jon Bruno – Yes  
Motion carries.

## 8. Unfinished Business

- a. Blizzard Bag Program Update (slide presentation attached)  
Superintendent Regulbuto explained how the Blizzard Bag Program would work. Teachers would send work home in a folder with students before an impending snow day and the students work from home to complete a certain amount of work and that day would count as a full day for the students and does not take away from the 180 days of school. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that we would like to learn from other districts and be diligent about the education equity. There will also be bargaining implications involved with all the units. She would like to put together a committee to examine this initiative and get members of the faculty and staff to see if we can put together a pilot program based on best practices of other districts. Peter Dufresne gave a presentation on the Blizzard Bag Program. Questions and answers ensued.

## 9. Business with District Member Towns - None

## 10. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Policy Subcommittee – D. Sears  
Second Reading – Vote Required  
Policy JFABB – Admission of Exchange Students  
Motion to approve Policy JFABB as presented  
By: Dennis Sears  
Second: Jane Burke  
Vote: Unanimous
- b. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi  
Mr. Batacchi reported that BG&T had met on February 11, 2019 and he was elected Chair. Items discussed at the meeting were:
  - South Egremont School  
Lead remediation: Jason Marshall - did remediation, but we need to have an independent inspection to certify remediation (will be done by ATC). Painting company will not paint until we have 50 degrees for 24+ hours
  - Tennis Courts – will be going out to bid again
  - Vehicle Purchase – Two Marshmallow Buses have been ordered and will be arriving soon. Bonnie Silvers suggested that Superintendent Regulbuto inform parents about these buses and what they will be used for in one of her upcoming newsletters to parents.
  - Safety and Security Updates were discussed and budget implications.
  - Lighting Project – C. Regan is working with National Grid to find out our savings
  - Chris Thompson and Jeremy Wells presented their budget requests. The finance committee are looking at these requests.
  - The BG&T committee are also working on a memorial for Bob Law

- c. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears  
Mr. Sears reported that the committee are looking at the preliminary budget. There is another meeting on February 25, 2019.
- d. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis and P. Dufresne  
Mr. Dufresne reported that the curriculum subcommittee had met and talked about the Middle School module and the impacts to the district.
- c. SBEF Ad Hoc Subcommittee – D. Sears  
Mr. Sears reported that there have been no meetings since the last time.
- d. Community Outreach and Input Subcommittee – B. Silvers  
Ms. Silvers reported that the committee had a very productive meeting. There were representatives from each school at the meeting and the staff are very interested in serving on the committee. The School Council will send representatives to the next meeting.  
The committee is working on public relations and exploring options.

#### 11. Chairman’s Report - None

#### 12. Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent Regulbuto’s report covered the following:

- Public Forum – February 25, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. This forum is a high-level overview of the proposed reimagined middle school model inclusive of grades six through eight. There will be a much more detailed discussion around specific items such as scheduling, location of classes, etc. in April. The goal is to keep the public informed.
- Staff News  
Amy Lyn joined the District on February 8, 2019 as the new Elementary Assistant Principal.
- Budget 2019-2020  
Superintendent Regulbuto informed the committee that the district is preparing the Budget Proposal for the 2019-2020 school year. The public hearing will be held on March 7, 2019 at 5 p.m. prior to the school committee meeting.  
To date there have been meetings on revenue projections, expenditures for materials, supplies, equipment and technology. On Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> is another meeting to review a more detailed look at the proposed budget based on the Governor’s plan.  
The budget information and presentations will be uploaded to the website.
- Safety & Wellness  
The “go-bags” were assembled by students and faculty for all classrooms/spaces in the district in the event the buildings need to be evacuated. The bags will be distributed as soon as the maintenance staff hang all the hooks. The flip charts, aka Emergency Management Guides, are ordered and soon to be delivered.  
The District-wide Safety Team will be working on putting together our Safety Summit for the school committee to be held in executive session in April to provide updates on specific items regarding safety, security, and wellness planning for the district.

#### 13. Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator’s Report

Mr. Dufresne reported that planning for FY20 professional development, curriculum and instruction has begun. Curriculum in the areas of math and science have been reviewed and ordered.

FASTBridge formative assessment system has begun and early feedback has been positive.

Mr. Dufresne has met with department heads and secondary administration to ascertain what aligning our coursework more closely with the MASSCore curriculum will do for our students. The Mt. Everett guidance counselors are reviewing different programs of study and visiting several schools in order to glean best practices.

In addition, Dr. Chris Weber, will be working with our RTI leadership team on March 8, 2019 in the morning and our entire faculty in the afternoon. We have contracted with Dr. Weber to better align our RTI protocols to research based best practices.

#### 14. Director of Student Services Report

Ms. Hubbard was not present at the meeting. Her report is attached.

#### 15. Business Manager's Report

- a. Approval of Warrants: February 8, 2019  
Motion to approve the warrant of February 8, 2019 as presented  
By: Bonnie Silvers  
Second: Jane Burke  
Vote: Unanimous
- b. Motion to approve payment of prior year invoice from Teacher's Discovery of \$177.18  
By: Dennis Sears  
Second: Art Batacchi  
Vote: Unanimous
- c. Accept Grants and Gifts  
Motion to accept Karebear Foundation gift of \$2500 to assist students who need financial support in order to be able to participate in SBRSD school programs.  
By: Bonnie Silvers  
Second: Dennis Sears  
Vote: Unanimous  
Motion to accept the Berkshire Health Group grant of \$2000 to support Wellness activities for SBRSD employees.  
By: Art Batacchi  
Second: Bonnie Silvers  
Vote: Unanimous
- d. Budget Transfers  
Motion to accept the budget transfers as presented.  
By: Art Batacchi  
Second: Bonnie Silvers  
Vote: Unanimous

#### 16. Future Agenda Items – None

#### 17. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

By: Bonnie Silvers  
Second: Jane Burke  
Vote: Unanimous

#### *Documents presented at this meeting:*

- *Agenda #1559*
- *Minutes of meeting #1557*
- *Enrollment Report*
- *Letter from John and Janet Piser regarding waiver of PK tuition*
- *Lateral Moves*
- *Draft FY20 calendar*
- *FASTBridge MOAs*
- *Blizzard Bags*
- *Superintendent's Report*
- *Curriculum Report*
- *Office of Student Services Report*
- *Warrants, Acceptance of Grants and Gifts, Budget Transfers*
- *Letter from Town of Sheffield*