

School Committee: Art Batacchi, Jeffrey Blaugrund, Jane Burke, Dennis Sears, Maryellen Brown, Bonnie Silvers, Jon Bruno, David Travis

Absent: Marcella Bush (tried to participate remotely)

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Peter Dufresne

Press: CTSB TV

Others: Jesse Carpenter

1. **Call to Order:** Beth Regulbuto called meeting #1563 to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Reorganization**

a. Election of Chair

Superintendent Regulbuto asked for nominations for Chair

Jeffrey Blaugrund nominated Jane Burke. David Travis seconded the nomination.

Maryellen Brown nominated Art Batacchi. Jonathan Bruno seconded the nomination.

Bonnie Silvers nominated Dennis Sears. Jeffrey Blaugrund seconded the nomination.

Jane Burke, Art Batacchi and Dennis Sears all made statements supporting their nominations.

Roll Call Vote:

Dennis Sears voted for himself

Jeffrey Blaugrund voted for Jane Burke

Jonathan Bruno voted for Jane Burke

Maryellen Brown voted for Art Batacchi

David Travis voted for Jane Burke

Jane Burke voted for herself

Art Batacchi voted for himself

Bonnie Silvers voted for Dennis Sears

Further discussions ensued and another roll call vote was taken:

Dennis Sears voted for himself

Jeffrey Blaugrund voted for Jane Burke

Jonathan Bruno voted for Jane Burke

Maryellen Brown voted for Art Batacchi

David Travis voted for Jane Burke

Jane Burke voted for herself

Art Batacchi voted for himself

Bonnie Silvers voted for Dennis Sears

Beth declared the committee was at an impasse and that Mr. Sears will be acting Chair for the meeting.

3. **Standing Reports**

a. Motion to approve School Committee Minutes #1562 of April 4, 2019

By: David Travis

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

b. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

4. **Student Representative Report**

Melissa Rathburn, a senior at Mount Everett introduced herself to the school committee. Melissa talked about her plans and experience getting ready for college. She talked about the process of applying to various colleges and taking the SATs and ACTs and the scholarship process.

5. **Student Spotlight - None**

6. **Public Comment**

Carl Stewart – commented on policy BEDH-E that will be eliminated if BEDH is approved.

Recommends that the committee strongly consider not limiting public comment to what is strictly on the agenda.

Finance committee member in Alford. Was hoping that someone could talk about issues on the continued increase in the budget.

Peggy Wilson – resident of Alford and Select Board member. The Town of Alford is concerned with the increase in the budget and the continued support of the South Egremont School. They will be encouraging their residents not to pass the school budget.

7. **New Business**

a. Annual Guidance Department Report

Dawn Estes-Daub, Grades 7, 8, 9 Guidance Counselor and Kimberly Conant, Grades 10, 11, 12

Guidance Counselor introduced themselves to the school committee. They shared information about the college process and career initiatives for the class of 2018. The slide presentation was the outcome of a survey given to the class of 2018. (Slide presentation attached)

Questions and answers followed.

b. 2019-2020 Program of Studies

Mr. Travis stated that the curriculum subcommittee had met and gone through the changes in the 2019-2020 program of studies. In the interest of expediting the process, the subcommittee felt it was important to bring the program of studies forward to the school committee for approval.

Motion to approve the working copy of the 2019-2020 Program of Studies for Mount Everett Regional.

By: David Travis

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sears stated that the District is in an excellent position to providing the pathways that today's students need in the work of tomorrow.

Bonnie Silvers suggested that the copy that goes home to parents have a letter from the Superintendent and the Principal included.

Vote: Unanimous

8. **Unfinished Business - None**

9. **Business with District Member Towns**

a. Informational Sessions on Proposed Regional Agreement Amendment

Superintendent Regulbuto referenced the summary of the rationale behind the proposed amendment to the regional agreement assessment formula which Chris Regan had put together (attached).

The other towns decided to host informational meetings regarding the budget and changes to the assessments as follows:

Monterey Town Hall - April 26, 2019

TACPAC at SBRSD for all five towns - April 29, 2019

Town of New Marlborough - April 30, 2019

10. **Subcommittee Reports**

a. Joint Buildings, Grounds & Technology Committee and Finance Committee

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that the district had gone out to bid again for the tennis court renovation. The bids that came in were higher than the last year, hence the need to use money from stabilization funds.

Vote on use of Stabilization Funds for Tennis Court Project

Motion to use \$22,295 from the Stabilization Fund for the Tennis Court Project

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jane Burke

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Vote to award the tennis court project

Motion to award the Tennis Court Project to Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing, Inc. for \$177,884.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

b. Policy Subcommittee –D. Sears

Mr. Sears asked to amend the agenda to add policy BDE-E Warrant Subcommittee to the second reading.

Motion to add Policy BDE-E Warrant Subcommittee to the agenda for second reading.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Unanimous

Second Reading

BDE-E Warrant Subcommittee

BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

BEDH-E Guidelines for Public Comment (remove if BEDH is adopted)

BDE-E Warrant Subcommittee

Motion to approve Policy BDE-E as presented

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Art Batacchi
Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve Policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

By: Art Batacchi
Second: Jane Burke

A lengthy discussion followed regarding allowing public comment at the beginning of the meeting and also the opportunity to add public comment at the end of the meeting and also on allowing public comment to items not on the agenda. The modification to this policy was at the recommendation of MASC and district attorneys. The school committee welcomes transparency and in addition, would like to hear from our communities. Therefore they kept public comment limited to items on the agenda, but also provided an opportunity for any citizen who wished to place an item on the agenda.

Vote: 5 yes; 3 no. Motion carries.

Motion to remove policy BEDH-E Guidelines for Public Comment

By: Art Batacchi
Second: Jane Burke
A brief discussion ensued.
Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Silvers asked the policy subcommittee to relook at the above policies at their next meeting.

c. **Community Outreach and Input**

Ms. Silvers presented the newsletter that will be mailed out to residents in the district regarding the budget and change to the assessment.

Add: Southern Berkshire Regional School District; increase font for New Assessment Formula and bold All Five Towns Must Vote Yes; add some headings as a question

Motion to approve the content of the flyer as presented for sending out next week.

By: David Travis
Second: Bonnie Silvers
Discussion: none
Vote: Unanimous

11. **Chairman's Report - None**

12. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Regulbuto reported that the students came back from Peru and will present and share a video at the next meeting, May 9, 2019 in Sheffield

Safety Summit will be held in Executive Session prior to the meeting

Two teachers have received the Fulbright Award (Kari Giordano – for 3 month grant to Scotland, and Stephanie Graham a 6 month grant to New Zealand)

13. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report – No Report**

Jeffrey Blaugrund reported that the Town of Alford had received a letter from Senator Hinds stating that the town of Alford did not have a flag. The Select Board recommended that the students at UME design a flag for the Town of Alford. The teachers introduced the grade 5 students to the history of Alford, flag design, and choosing the right colors to help create a flag. All students in PK through grade 6 voted. The final decision will be made by the Select Board.

14. **Director of Student Services Report** – Report attached.
15. **Business Manager's Report**
 - a. Approval of Warrants: April 5 and 19, 2019
Motion to approve the warrants of April 5 and April 19, 2019 as presented.
By: Jonathan Bruno
Second: Art Batacchi
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous
16. **Future Agenda Items**
17. **Adjourn**
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.
By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Art Batacchi
Vote: Unanimous

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda #1563*
- *Minutes of meeting #1562*
- *Program of Studies 2019-2020*
- *Guidance Department Report*
- *Policies: BEDH, BEDH-E, BDE-E,*
- *Warrants April 5 & 19, 2019*