

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

Absent: Danile Kelly

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Peter Dufresne, Sandra Hubbard, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis, Berkshire Record;

Others: V. Russell, Marie Kamens, Odie Fields

1. **Call to Order**

Jane Burke, Chair, called meeting #1569 to order at 6:16 p.m.

2. **Executive Session:**

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a) (3) (“Purpose 3”) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and to reconvene in open session.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi - Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes, Jane Burke - Yes, Dennis Sears – Yes, Jon Bruno - Yes

Bonnie Silvers - Yes, David Travis - Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Maryellen Brown - Yes

The committee reconvened in open session at 6:40 p.m.

3. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1568 of August 22, 2019

Motion to approve school committee minutes #1568 of August 22, 2019

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion:

Mr. Sears had questions regarding the minutes with regard to the Coordinated Care Clinic presentation. He wanted to note that at the last meeting he had mentioned concerns regarding the District’s liability with having the Mobile Unit on the school campus, and that additional work needed to be done before the program could be implemented. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that she is working on putting a proposal together to bring forward to the school committee. Ms. Burke noted that the school committee was expecting a report from the Superintendent for approval of the final plan which will address legal concerns and the district’s liability.

Vote: Art Batacchi – abstain; all others present yes. Motion passes.

b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that enrollment as of September 1, 2019 was at 686 up by 14 from August 1, 2019.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

4. **Student Representative Report - None**

5. **Student Spotlight - None**

6. **Public Comment**

Marie Kamens, introduced herself as a resident of Sandisfield and whose great-niece is currently school choiced into Undermountain. She wanted it to go on record that what she found disturbing, as a new parent, was agenda item17b (“...to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints...”). She had sent an email to the school committee and wanted to note and thank Mr. Sears for responding to her concerns. She wanted reassurance that she was sending her niece to a safe school environment.

7. **New Business**

a. Approval of Lateral Movements on the Unit A Salary Schedule, Effective September 1, 2019
Motion to approve lateral movements on the Unit A salary schedule effective September 1, 2019 (attached).

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Discussion: Mr. Sears had a question regarding how the teachers move laterally. Superintendent Regulbuto clarified the process of how teachers earn credits to move laterally on the scale as per the Unit A contract.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding, Unit A, Stipends - Vote Required

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (Unit A) amending the stipend positions. Effective September 1, 2019, Appendix B of the CBA is amended as follows:

- The SLPA Supervisor stipend currently at \$900 is increased to \$3,250;
- A new Culinary Arts extra duty position is created with an annual stipend of \$2,000;
- The Building Leader – Grades 7-8 stipend is eliminated;
- A Grade 6 Team Leader position is created with a stipend of \$643;
- A Grade 7 Team Leader position is created with a stipend of \$643;
- A Grade 8 Team Leader position is created with a stipend of \$643;
- The Curriculum Leader 7-12 Special Education and the 7-12 Special Education Team Chair stipends are eliminated; and,
- A Special Education ETL (Education Team Leader) extra duty position is created with an annual stipend of \$5,355.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: David Travis

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

c. Appoint a representative from TMSolution, Inc. to Berkshire Health Group (to replace Christine Regan). Vote required.

Motion to appoint a representative from TMSolution, Inc to Berkshire Health Group to replace Christine Regan.

By: Art Batacchi

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion:

Mr. Dennis Sears would like to amend the motion to read: Appoint a representative from TMSolution, Inc to Berkshire Health Group to replace Christine Regan pending approval of BHG representation from towns and districts. L. Gagnon clarified that the district had been in touch with BHG and they were aware of this and did not have a problem with TMSolution, Inc being appointed.

Mr. Sears then withdrew his motion.

Vote: Unanimous

8. **Unfinished Business**

a. Parent/Student Handbook 2019-2020 Approval

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Parent/Student Handbook.

By: David Travis

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

b. Staff Handbook 2019-2020 Approval

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Staff Handbook.

By: David Travis

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

9. **Business with District Member Towns – None**

10. **Subcommittee Reports**

a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears

Motion to add Jeffrey Blaugrund to the SBRSD SBEF subcommittee.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Art Batacchi

Jane Burke formally appointed Jeffrey Blaugrund to the committee.

Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Sears then turned the report over to Mr. Bruno, Vice Chair.

Mr. Bruno informed the committee that at the last meeting the subcommittee had discussed next steps and talked about future merger discussion meetings. The subcommittee decided that the goal was to see if both parties were ready to move ahead with discussions. The 8 Town Consolidation Committee will meet again on September 25th in Stockbridge.

b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears

Second Reading:

BBCA – District Employment of SCM

BEDG – Minutes

BGB – Policy Adoption

Motion that the School Committee approve the new version of policy BBCA – District Employment of SCM.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion ensued. Mr. Blaugrund suggested that the Policy Subcommittee look at creating a Policy about subcontractors. Mr. Sears asked Mr. Blaugrund if he would look at the existing

policies and let him know which ones the subcommittee should work with.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve policy BEDG – Minutes

There were no changes made to this policy, just reinforcement that the minutes be sent out 48 hours before the meeting. No motion or vote required.

Motion that the School Committee approve the new version of policy BGB – Policy Adoption.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Unanimous

c. Negotiation Subcommittee – Bonnie Silvers

Ms. Silvers reported that the negotiation subcommittee approved changes in the stipends as noted above and that this created no violations in terms of the budget. Ms. Silvers also reported that there were ongoing conversations with our attorneys regarding the Unit E contract which expires in June and extending it for one more year. The Superintendent was also seeking approval of the committee to look at an incentive program with all Units to address the issue of staff attendance.

Motion to amend the agenda to add the Fall 2019 Hiking Itinerary Overnight Field Trips.

By: Jonathan Bruno

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

Fall 2019 Hiking Itinerary Overnight Field Trip

Superintendent Regulbuto presented the overnight field trip request from Patrick Barrett for the 2019 hiking itinerary which is part of the Hiking Leadership & the Environment class.

Motion to approve the 2019 Fall Hiking Overnight Field Trips: September 29 – October 1, 2019; October 20, 2019 – October 22, 2019; and December 8, 2019 to December 9, 2019 as presented.

By: David Travis

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: Ms. Silvers voiced her concerns about students missing school days and that two full time teachers will be out for a small class of only 5 students and would like this to be reviewed.

Mr. Sears asked the committee to approve the first trip and ask the administration to address the concerns before the October and December trips.

David Travis then moved to rescind the previous motion.

Second: Dennis Sears

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to approve the first overnight field trip: September 29, 2019 to October 1, 2019 as presented.

By: David Travis

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion ensued. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that this was not a new course and that it was included in the 19-20 Program of Studies which had been approved by the School Committee. Students had already signed up for this class. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that she would like to give the teacher and administration time to reevaluate this class before removing it from the program of studies.

Ms Silvers stated that there was nothing indicating that these trips would be during the week and wanted to note that 5 children plus 1 teacher and the librarian out on academic days is a concern. Superintendent Regulbuto also stated that there are a lot of field trips held during the year with staff and students out.

Mr. Bruno pointed out that not all the days for this trip are weekdays, some start on Sunday and end on Monday or Tuesday.

Jeffrey Blaugrund made a motion to amend the motion to go back and approve all three trips and agreed that it is too late in the game and it would be worthy to have a policy created to address this. No second to the motion. Mr. Blaugrund rescinded the motion.

Ms. Silvers asked if Mr. Carpenter had a discussion with Mr. Barrett regarding this class. Mr. Carpenter stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Barrett regarding this and that it is difficult to run the class without the field trips. At this late date it would be difficult to make changes as this is a semester class and students have already registered.

Vote: Unanimous to approve the first trip.

Motion to approve the overnight field trip of October 20, 2019 – October 22, 2019 and December 8, 2019 to December 9, 2019.

By: David Travis

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Dennis Sears – No; All other members present – Yes; Motions carries.

Ms. Silvers requested that they look at the impact in terms of days students are out for future trips.

11. **Chairman's Report**

Ms. Burke commented that from her years of teaching the one thing students always remember most are the field trips.

Jane Burke stated that she has been busy dealing with setting up a meeting with Berkshire Hills. There is a meeting scheduled between the SBRSD and BHRSD school committee representatives on September 19th at the Berkshire Taconic Foundation from 4:30 – 5:45 p.m. to start a discussion about our educational vision and district goals.

Representatives from the School Committee will be: Art Batacchi (BG&T Chair); Jonathan Bruno (Vice Chair); David Travis (Curriculum); Bonnie Silvers (Negotiations and Community Input and Outreach) and Jane Burke (Chair).

12. **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that there has been a lot of very positive feedback about the first weeks of school. She thanked Ms. Burke and Mr. Travis for attending the Opening Day Convocation. All the staff wore their #teamSBRSDcares t-shirts on the first day of school to create unity and infuse the District with a collaborative, supportive and positive culture.

Middle School Open house was on September 11th with a nice turnout. It began with an informational meeting in the TACPAC, followed by students and their families following the

schedule of their first five classes which gave parents the opportunity to see the classrooms, meet the teachers and learn about expectations and ask questions.

Calendar Survey: The district will put out a survey to the school community to get feedback on the development of the District Academic Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year. Commissioner Riley announced on July 1, 2019 that the Blizzard Bag initiative will be phased out at the end of this school year after analysis done at the State level.

13. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report**

Mr. Dufresne with Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Daponde, Ms. Conant, and Ms. Estes-Daub participated in a conference call with DESE regarding the change to Next Generation MCAS scores. They are planning now to ensure that students in their junior and sophomore year will be judged appropriately with respect to earning a competency determination.

Mr. Dufresne also met with Mr. Miller and Dr. Lyn to work on an implementation plan for our Social-Emotional Learning at the elementary level. Dr. Lyn has earned her doctorate in Social-Emotional Learning and is currently an adjunct professor in the subject.

Students are enrolling in course work with Bard College and the anecdotal feedback is terrific. Mr. Dufresne also reported that he had visited the South Egremont School. The class was happy and active in many different learning activities.

The Go Math materials will be arriving shortly and the order for 20-21 will be placed in November.

14. **Director of Student Services Report**

Ms. Hubbard informed the committee that the health services staff met on August 28th and updated the Immunization Exemption Form and the process based on changes in the law. Parents/Guardians will need to provide letters and reasons for exemption, based on medical or religious beliefs, annually.

Ms. Hubbard also reported that two new programs have been introduced. At the elementary level, is the LEAP program (Language Based Educational Access Program) designed to help students with language acquisition, development and communication. At the secondary level is the PACE program (Program for Academic and Community Engagement) which supports middle and high school students in and out of the classroom setting and allows for community access and school to career experiences.

The first SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) meeting of the 19-20 school year will be on September 23rd at 4:30 in the Eagles' Loft.

15. **Business Manager's Report**

- a. Approval of Warrants: August 23, 2019 and September 6, 2019
Motion to approve the warrant of August 23, 2019 and September 6, 2019.
By: Dennis Sears
Second: Bonnie Silvers
Vote: Unanimous
- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts – None
- c. Budget Transfers - None

16. **Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Sears would like to add a discussion on the risks of vaping

Mr. Travis would like all the subcommittees listed under Subcommittee Reports

17. **Executive Session**

- a. Motion to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a) (3) (“Purpose 3”) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation when an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and not to reconvene in open session.

Time: 8:09 p.m.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Dennis Sears

Roll Call Vote: Art Batacchi - Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes, Jane Burke - Yes, Dennis Sears – Yes, Jon Bruno – Yes, Bonnie Silvers - Yes, David Travis - Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes,

Maryellen Brown - Yes

- b. Motion to enter executive session pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A sec 21(a) (5) (“Purpose 5”) to investigate charges of criminal misconduct or to consider the filing of criminal complaints and not to reconvene in open session.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: David Travis

Roll Call Vote:

Art Batacchi - Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes, Jane Burke - Yes, Dennis Sears – Yes, Jon Bruno - Yes

Bonnie Silvers - Yes, David Travis - Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Maryellen Brown - Yes

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda #1569*
- *Minutes of meeting #1568*
- *Enrollment Figures*
- *Lateral Movements*
- *Memorandum of Agreement – Stipends*
- *Policies: BBKA, BEDG, BGB*
- *Superintendent’s Report*
- *Overnight Field Trip permissions*
- *Curriculum & Professional Development Report*
- *Director of Student Services Report*
- *Warrant August 23, 2019 and September 6, 2019*