

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

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Peter Dufresne, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter, Judy Houle

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis – Berkshire Record

Others:

1. Call to Order

Jane Burke called meeting #1571 to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Standing Reports

a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1570 of October 3, 2019

Motion to approve the school committee minutes #1570 of October 3, 2019.

By: David Travis

Second: Jonathan Bruno

Discussion:

Bonnie Silvers - Change Michelle Shalaby to Mary Shalaby

Jane Burke – Alto Ego will be free and not going to be selling it. Amend minutes to reflect that they will not be sold.

Jane – question about Bonnie Silvers’s motion in item #9 regarding the planning committee.

Delete the sentence “The planning committee will become the planning board”

Vote: D. Travis and A. Batacchi Abstain; Everyone else – Yes. Motion passes: 8 yes/2 abstain

Motion to approve the amended minutes #1570

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: D. Travis and A. Batacchi Abstain; Everyone else – Yes. Motion passes: 8 yes/2 abstain

b. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

3. Student Representative Report - None

4. Student Spotlight

Mr. Miller provided slides from the “Annie” musical. Courtney English gave a recap of the production which featured students in grades 3 through 6. Almost 60 students were involved in the musical. Our tech students got to experience what it was really like to work back stage. Frozen Jr. will be the next show coming up for students in grades 6 – 9.

School Committee members thanked Courtney for all her efforts.

Chris Thompson distributed the passport to the The Berkshire County STEAM Challenge Night. They are working with Flying Cloud. Mt Everett Robot Team will be here to demonstrate their vex robot, underwater robot, drones, 3D printing.

5. **Public Comment**

J. Brown – Presented the School Committee with an OML violation of the meeting of October 23, 2019

C. Stewart – Requested a copy of the email message sent by the Chair of School Committee that is the subject of the complaint by J. Brown's and any responses to the email

Also requested copies of certifications with dates on them of the ten members of the school committee's certifications stating receipt of the OML.

Having an executive session on the OML complaint is completely improper. On the advice of counsel you cited a number of statutes in the agenda – this is called bootstrapping - does make it proper and another one of the statutes cited is the Massachusetts privacy act which has absolutely no relevance. I did some research on Massachusetts case law and referred to decisions and case law under New York OML and Oregon OML, very similar to mass. This is an improper executive session. If this meeting is held you will have another OML complaint from me tomorrow. Secondly, on #17 there is no provision for taking a vote on the decision. The OML states in relevant part a complaint is made and is delivered to the school committee and the school committee has to respond with 14 days. There is no provision in the law for taking a vote on the response. You are discussing this in private, it's a public matter, and then coming out to vote on it.

C. English – Concern regarding the disappointing disregard of teacher input in scheduling grade 6 grade music. Grade 6 music was cut significantly – some students get 6 times a month and some 3 times a month. Requesting that teachers be included in scheduling in the future.

6. **New Business**

- a. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding, Unit A, Schedule C – Vote Required
Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding, Unit A, Schedule C (Theatre Stipends)
By: Dennis Sears

Second: David Travis

Discussion: Bonnie Silvers explained that the MOU fits in within the money available for stipends and no additional funds are being requested. This MOU becomes part of the SBRSD Unit A contract and once approved Jane will sign it and then it will be signed by the Union President.

Vote: Unanimous

- b. MCAS Presentation – Slide presentation

Mr. Dufresne presented the SBRSD MCAS Performance Report. Moved from Legacy MCAS to the Next Generation MCAS. For more information go to School and District Profile Reports on the DESE website. Currently SBRSD is making Moderate Progress towards our Improvement Targets. Snapshot of sophisticated data. Mr. Dufresne presented a comparison of the south county districts. Questions and discussion ensued.

7. **Unfinished Business** – None.

8. **Business with District Member Towns** - None.

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears – No meeting of this committee. Jane Burke informed the committee that they did attend the 8 town meeting last week. Would like the whole committee to know of the progress being made by this group. The school committee members do not have a vote in this group, we are invited to this last meeting so that we could hear reports from MARS about the process involved with considering consolidation and hear from our representative from MASC about their views about consolidation.

This group received the information, digested it, and come back on November 19th to decide what their next would be moving forward. If people have particular questions there were materials that were distributed that Jane has available.

- b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears – No report, no meeting held
- c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – D. Travis
There were two items on the agenda.
To discuss the goals that are being drafted for this current school year and that will be considered with the full school committee in the next couple of weeks.
Also talked about the rubric for assessment that is a more common assessment tool that DESE is piloting this year that would enable us to have a structured, clear way to evaluate the superintendent based on a rubric that lays out the criteria that is required to get a proficient or exemplary or needs improvement rating along the various standards.
The subcommittee will meet on November 12th review the goals before the full school committee meeting on the 14th to have a vote.
- d. Negotiation Subcommittee – B. Silvers
Approved the MOU- Theatre Stipends
Consideration was to extend for a year the Unit E contract which was approved last time.
Discussion regarding the issue of substitutes and whether we could look at the question of substitute policy. Suggestions will be brought back to Beth on the meeting of today.
- e. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi – No meeting held.
- f. Community, Input and Outreach Subcommittee – B. Silvers – No meeting held
- g. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis & P. Dufresne
Have not met as yet, would like to set up something within the next two weeks.
- h. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears – Have not met as yet.

10. **Chairman's Report**

Jane Burke - Appreciate the hard work of the school committee. Our major goal is to improve student learning and the quality of our education. We have been working very hard to deal with a lot of incoming information and it is very frustrating because we are limited by advice from counsel of what we can discuss. Thanks to everyone who has been under stress and I encourage everyone to stay positive because we know our purpose is to work for the best of our children and that is our mission.

11. **Superintendent's Report**

- Tomorrow, with Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Miller, Beth has been asked to be one of the judges at Trunk or Treat
- As an opportunity to get the message out of all the good that happens in our district, we have been working through different tactics, newsletters, social media. One of the things we just talked about is revamping the website. Have met with some people who are interested in maybe helping us with that, and we want to host a brainstorming session on what we might like and how to improve that tool as a means of communication. A meeting is tentatively set for Monday, November 4th at 3:30 p.m. Will follow up with more details. This is an emerging idea and we really want people who have helped on it before or use it on a daily basis to give some input on what they would like to see and how that tool can be more helpful.

- We have a proposal from Alexander Design Works. We have a Website design stipend position that has not been filled.
Mr. Sears suggested that MARS and MASC may have resources to help with website design.
Mr. Travis suggested that if anyone is interested look at other school websites and come with a list of URLs and a list of what you like and why instead of building it from scratch.

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

No report. Dave asked about professional development. Mr. Dufresne informed the committee that we had just had a professional development day. Training on professional licensure process, how to stay licensed in Massachusetts. Educators need between 150 and 180 PDP (Professional Development Points) to keep their license every 5 years. Also had positive safety training table top exercises led by Officer Zucco and Superintendent Regulbuto. County Wide PD day is coming up on November 5th.

Working on arranging for SEI classes for the teachers to get endorsed – looking at collaborating with other districts.

We are partnering with Simons's Rock regarding training in content areas.

13. **Director of Student Services Report**

Sandra Hubbard was not present – Report attached. On behalf of Sandi, Beth wanted to make it known that the special ed advisory council SEPAC meeting was last night.

14. **Business Manager's Report**

- a. Approval of Warrants: October 4, 2019 and October 18, 2019

Motion to approve the warrants of October 4, 2019 and October 18, 2019 as presented.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts

Motion to accept the gift of \$23,000 from the Alice Pederson Educational Trust.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Budget Transfers – None.

15. **Future Agenda Items**

- Superintendent's Goals –November 14, 2019 meeting
- Strategy for Continuous Improvement – November 14, 2019 meeting
- School Improvement Plans – December 19, 2019 meeting

16. **Executive Session**

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to Purpose 1 of the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1)), to consider an Open Meeting Law complaint against a public officer, namely the members of the School Committee, such complaint having been filed with the District by Jennifer Brown on October 18, 2019; and pursuant to Purpose 7 (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(7)) to comply with or act under the authority of a Massachusetts General Law by receiving legal advice from counsel protected from disclosure under Massachusetts General Law with the relevant citations of law being M.G.L. c.4, §7(26); M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1); and M.G.L. c.214, §1B. and to reconvene in open session to vote on response to OML complaint.

By: Jonathan Bruno
Second: Art Batacchi
Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote: Jane Burke Yes, Jonathan Bruno - Yes, Maryellen Brown - Yes, Marcella Bush - Yes, Dennis Sears - Yes, Danile Kelly - Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes, Art Batacchi - Yes, David Travis – No, Bonnie Silvers - No

Jonathan Bruno called open meeting session to order at 8:35 p.m.

17. Vote on Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint

Motion to approve advice from counsel regarding the letter in response to the Open Meeting Law complaint from J. Brown

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion: Jane Burke read the email of October 7th and the letter in response to the OML complaint.

Vote: Unanimous

18. **Executive Session:**

Motion to enter executive session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and not to reconvene in open session.

By: J. Burke

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Roll Call Vote: Jane Burke Yes, Jonathan Bruno - Yes, Maryellen Brown - Yes, Marcella Bush - Yes, Dennis Sears - Yes, Bonnie Silvers - Yes, Danile Kelly - Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund - Yes, Art Batacchi - Yes, David Travis – Yes

Open session meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda #1571*
- *Minutes of meeting #1570*
- *MOU – Unit A, Schedule C – Drama Stipends*
- *MCAS Performance Report*
- *Sped Director's Report*
- *Warrant Report, Acceptance of Gift*
- *OML Complaint from J. Brown dated October 18, 2019 -includes email of October 7, 2019*