

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, Chris Desjardins, Amy Lyn, Doug Daponde, Sandra Hubbard

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis – Berkshire Record

Others: Carl Stewart, Jennifer Brown,

1. **Call to Order** – Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent called meeting #1572 to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Reorganization** (Please see enclosed District policies)

a. Election of Chair (will assume duties immediately upon election)

Superintendent Regulbuto called for nominations of Chair.

Jeff Blaugrund nominated Jane Burke. Marcella Bush seconded.

Bonnie Silvers nominated Dennis Sears. Maryellen Brown seconded.

Superintendent asked those that were nominated to speak about why they are interested in being Chair.

Jane Burke spoke as to why she should be considered for the position of Chair. It has been a year since she was elected to the school committee. She has many years of experience in education and being Chair will give her the biggest opportunity to do what is best for this district. It is important for the district to maintain continuity and being Chair again would give the district an opportunity for this.

Dennis Sears spoke as to why he should be considered for the position of Chair. He does not have the years of experience in education but has many years of experience as a school committee member. He has never been interest in the position of Chair but the reason he accepted the nomination is that the district is in an interesting place. Looking toward the future, with possible consolidation, he could capitalize on his experience to serve in this capacity.

Comments from the school committee members followed.

Vote for Jane Burke: Art Batacchi, Jeff Blaugrund, Danile Kelly, David Travis, Jane Burke, Marcella Bush, Jonathan Bruno

Vote for Dennis Sears: Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Maryellen Brown

Jane Burke is elected as Chair.

b. Election of Vice Chair

Jane Burke, Chair called for nominations of Vice Chair

Jeff Blaugrund nominated Jonathan Bruno. Seconded by Art Batacchi

Vote: Jon Bruno – Abstain; Art Batacchi, Jeff Blaugrund, Danile Kelly, David Travis, Jane Burke, Marcella Bush, Dennis Sears: Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Maryellen Brown

Appointment of the following:

Dennis Sears moved to appoint the slate of positions as presented, seconded by Bonnie Silvers.

- Secretary of the School Committee – Beth Regulbuto
- Treasurer – Harvey Thompson
- District's Law Firm – Murphy, Lamere & Murphy, PC
- Clerk to the School Committee – Lynette Gagnon

- MD for the School District – Lisa Sylvia
Vote: Unanimous

3. **Student Spotlight**

Students playing in Shakespeare’s production of “A Midsummer’s Night Dream” invited the school committee to attend the plays that were upcoming.

4. **Student Representative Report** – None.

5. **Executive Session**

Motion: Pursuant to Purpose 1 of the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1)), to consider Open Meeting Law complaints against a public officer, namely the members of the School Committee, such complaints having been filed with the District by Jennifer Brown on November 5, 2019; and Carl Stewart, received on November 6, 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: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Art Batacchi

Roll Call Vote: A. Batacchi – Yes; J. Blaugrund – Yes, D. Kelly – Yes; D. Travis – Yes, J. Burke – Yes; J. Bruno – Yes; M. Brown – Yes; M. Bush – Yes; B. Silvers – Yes, D. Sears – Yes

The school committee reconvened in open session at _____ p.m.

6. **Vote on Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint**

The school committee discussed with the attorney and approved the response to the OML complaints from Jennifer Brown and Carl Stewart. Chair, Jane Burke read aloud the response letter addressed to Carl Stewart and also stated that the response to Jennifer Brown was the same (copies attached).

Motion: The School Committee approves that the letters be sent to Jennifer Brown and Carl Stewart in response to the OML complaints.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jeff Blaugrund

Discussion ensued.

Vote: A. Batacchi – Yes; J. Blaugrund – Yes, D. Kelly – Yes; D. Travis – Yes, J. Burke – Yes; J. Bruno – Yes; M. Brown – Yes; M. Bush – Yes; B. Silvers – Yes, D. Sears – Yes

7. **Public Comment**

Carl Stewart stated that he was not happy about doing this, and was hesitant to say that he disagrees with counsel’s opinion on this but won’t disagree until after he has read the citations to decisions by the Attorney General, that consulting with an attorney is a valid reason to enter executive session. You cite the privacy sections of Mass General Laws. He is the person affected, he can waive his right to privacy but the committee does not have that right. Cannot be reason 1 and reason 7. Will not make a further complaint until he has had a chance to review the decisions by the attorney general on the rights of a public body to go into executive session.

8. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1571 of October 24, 2019

Motion to approve the school committee minutes of #1571 of October 24, 2019 as presented.

By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Jeff Blaugrund
Vote: Unanimous

- b. Enrollment – This report was not available for this meeting.
- c. Miscellaneous Correspondence – none.

9. **New Business**

- a. Vote to open an 8th Grade Activity Account
No information was available –
Motion to table this item to a future meeting.
By: Jon Bruno
Second: Jeff Blaugrund
Vote: Unanimous
- b. Vote to Enter into Negotiations with the Superintendent
Motion that the school committee enter into negotiations with the Superintendent of Schools.
By: Art Batacchi
Second: Marcella Bush
Discussion ensued. The school committee clarified that this was a motion in open session that was made in executive session to enter into negotiations with the Superintendent regarding renewing her contract.
Vote: Bonnie Silvers - No; Maryellen Brown - Abstain; Art Batacchi – Yes, Danile Kelly – Yes; Jeff Blaugrund – Yes; David Travis – Yes; Jane Burke – Yes; Jon Bruno – Yes, Marcella Bush – Yes, Dennis Sears – Yes
Motion Passes.
- c. Draft of Superintendent’s Goals for Review and Consideration
Jane Burke stated that the Exec Evaluation Subcommittee, especially David Travis, had done a lot of work on the superintendent’s goals. It is important to set goals that have a meaning to the community, teachers and admin team.
David Travis showed a video on the process for developing and approving the Superintendent’s Goals and sharing this with the committee and community. He also shared and explained the new rubric that the State of Massachusetts has established. The packet included the Superintendent Goals for Educator Evaluation for 2019-2020. Also included in the packet was the MA Model System for Educator Evaluation/Superintendent and District Administrator Rubric.
Discussion and questions and answers followed.

Jane Burke also commented that the school committee needs to set their own goals which are related to the Superintendent’s goals. The training, conducted by a representative from MASC, will be held either on December 3, 4 or 17, all before the next regular school committee meeting.

Motion to hold a special school committee meeting to discuss evaluation process.
By: Jonathan Bruno
Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund
Vote: Unanimous

Superintendent Regulbuto stated that she would like to discuss the process. There is a reason for an Executive Evaluation subcommittee. She is open to learning about the new process. The

report shows that there is a significant amount of work expected from any superintendent in the state. We should all be talking about this in a way that it makes sense to improve the district.

d. SBRSD Strategy for Continuous Improvement – 2019-2020

Superintendent Regalbuto gave a brief explanation of how the District Strategy for Continuous Improvement was developed. This District Improvement Plan was a 3 year plan approved by the school committee last year and this is an update to that plan. This is a living working document that will be reviewed throughout the year. The school community got together and developed a shared vision for our district. The plan defines progress, modifications or action steps.

The Administrative Team talked about the different initiatives and shared the work that has been done or will be done and where the district is headed. (Plan is attached)

e. Election of Subcommittee Members (previous listing enclosed for reference)

Dennis Sears recommended that the committee temporarily set aside Policy BDE.

Motion to set aside Policy BDE for the purpose of getting the subcommittees appointed.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Vote: Jon Bruno – No; Everyone Else Yes. Motion passes.

Motion to go through the list of subcommittees and choose the members and make a final motion after the members are selected.

By: Jon Bruno

Second: Jeff Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

- Buildings, Grounds & Technology
Art Batacchi, Jeffrey Blaugrund, Maryellen Brown, David Travis, Jon Bruno
- Collective Bargaining/Negotiations
Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Art Batacchi, Jon Bruno, Jane Burke
- Community Input & Outreach Committee
Jeff Blaugrund, Marcella Bush, Danile Kelly, Bonnie Silvers, Jon Bruno
- Curriculum
Jeff Blaugrund (Alt), Jane Burke, Marcella Bush, Jon Bruno, Bonnie Silvers, David Travis
- Executive Evaluation
Jane Burke, Marcella Bush, Jon Bruno, David Travis, Danile Kelly
- Executive Minute Review
Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers, Maryellen Brown, Jeff Blaugrund, Jane Burke
- Finance
Art Batacchi, Jeff Blaugrund, Maryellen Brown, Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Jane Burke (Alt)
- Policy
Art Batacchi, Jane Burke, Jon Bruno, Dennis Sears, Danile Kelly

- Regional Agreement Review Committee
Art Batacchi, Jeff Blaugrund, Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers
- SBRSD Future of South Berkshire County Education Ad-Hoc Committee
Jane Burke, Marcella Bush (Alt), Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers, Jeff Blaugrund, Jon Bruno
- Warrant Representative: Dennis Sears (All board members serve as alternates)
- Berkshire County Education Futures Representative – Dennis Sears
- Eagle Fund Representative – David Travis, Jeffrey Blaugrund (Alt)
- MA Association of School Committees Representative – Dennis Sears
- Undermountain/Mt. Everett Youth Athletics Association (UMEYAA) Liaison
Art Batacchi
- Liaison to Southern Berkshire Child Care Program – Bonnie Silvers
- Liaison to Wellness Committee – Marcella Bush
- Legislative Representative – Dennis Sears
- Liaison to Early Childhood Committee – Jane Burke

Motion to accept school committee members nominated for subcommittees as listed above
 By: Jon Bruno
 Second: Jeff Blaugrund
 Vote: Unanimous

Motion that the school committee reinstate Policy BDE.
 By: Dennis Sears
 Second: Art Batacchi
 Vote: Unanimous

10. **Unfinished Business** - None

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

12. **Subcommittee Reports**

a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears – Nothing to report - no meeting

b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears – Nothing to report – no meeting

c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – D. Travis presented at the beginning of the meeting on Superintendent Goals.

d. Negotiation Subcommittee – B. Silvers
 Negotiation subcommittee will be meeting next Wednesday.

- e. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi
Nothing to report – no meeting.
- f. Community, Input and Outreach Subcommittee – B. Silvers
Met on Tuesday. Brenda Ullrich had to withdraw and will be replaced by Michelle Raszl.
2 motions were approved at this meeting.

- 1. Motion that the CI&O subcommittee recommends that a letter be developed and approved by the full school committee which will explain the merger issues with BHRSD and will be sent to the SBRSD community. Secondly, also set a date for a question and answer quorum for community members to be held at the TACPAC regarding consolidation and merger issues.

Dennis Sears volunteered to put together a first draft that the school committee will review and recommend to be sent out. This will be a first draft of what would be sent out. This would be placed on our website and local publications. Jeff – approach it from a FAQ perspective.

Motion that the Community Input and Outreach Subcommittee address the issue of consolidation by sending out a FAQ document to the community.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

- 2. Second motion – CI&O recommends to the full school committee that there be a communication goal in the Superintendent’s goals specifically in closing the gap in special education.
By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Jeff Blaugrund

Discussion ensued. Beth stated that she did not feel comfortable about this methodology. A subcommittee should not recommend to the school committee on what should be added to the Superintendent’s goals. The community does not evaluate the superintendent, the school committee does.

Jane Burke stated that she was not sure that this motion should be passed. We go through a process to conduct the Superintendent’s evaluation. The Superintendent sets her goals and the School Committee works with her to make sure they are aligned. Each individual in their respective jobs sets their own goals and they then get evaluated on whether or not they are meeting them.

Bonnie Silvers stated that she is willing to bring this motion to the Executive Evaluation for their review.

Motion to withdraw the motion that the CI&O recommend to the full school committee that there be a communication goal in the Superintendent’s goals specifically in closing the gap in special education.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeff Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

g. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis & P. Dufresne - No meeting – nothing to report

h. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears – Nothing to report – no meeting

13. **Chairman’s Report**

Jane Burke – the district received a report on the investigation and an executive meeting needs to be scheduled to review this. Set the meeting for November 20th at 4:45 p.m.

14. **Superintendent’s Report** – No report

15. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator’s Report** – No report

16. **Director of Student Services Report** - Report attached.

17. **Business Manager’s Report**

a. Approval of Warrants: November 1, 2019

Motion to approve the warrant of November 1, 2019

By: Art Batacchi

Second: Jon Bruno

Vote: Unanimous

b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts - None

c. Budget Transfers – report attached

Motion to approve the budget transfers for \$2000 from Professional Development Contracted to Staff Professional days and \$400 from ME Art field trips to ME Art Repair.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Art Batacchi

Vote: Unanimous

Received a bill for FY19 - seeking school committee approval.

Motion to approve payment of a FY19 bill.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Art Batacchi

Vote: Unanimous

Chris reported that we have signed a contract for copiers. We are looking to change the contract, reallocate the number of copies that will be included in the contract cost. Replacing some of the black and white copiers with color copiers.

Motion to approve the new copier contract with Xerox for five years.

By: Art Batacchi

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion ensued.

Vote: Unanimous

Chris also presented a draft of the FY21 Budget calendar for the Committee to review and schedule Finance meetings.

18. **Future Agenda Items**

- School Improvement Plans – December 19, 2019 meeting
- Jeffrey Blaugrund – discussion on collaborating with the Jewish community and other faith leaders on anti-Semitism in Berkshire county.

19. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

By: Jon Bruno

Second: Art Batacchi

Vote: Unanimous

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda for meeting #1572*
- *Minutes of meeting #1571*
- *Superintendent's Goals (draft)*
- *MA Model System for Educator Evaluation (Superintendent and Admin Rubric)*
- *SBRSD Strategy for Continuous Improvement*
- *Warrant – November 1, 2019*
- *FY20 Budget Transfer Request*
- *SBRSD Copier Contract Proposal*
- *Draft FY21 Budget Calendar*