

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, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis – Berkshire Record

Others:

1. **Call to Order**

Jane Burke, Chair, called meeting #1574 to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1573 of December 19, 2019
Motion to approve the School Committee Meeting minutes #1573 as presented.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regulbuto informed the school committee that as of January 1, 2020 enrollment was at 683 up by 1 from December 1, 2019.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

Motion to table items 2 (Student Representative Report) and 3 (Student Spotlight) until the Student Representative and Mr. Miller arrive to give their presentation.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: David Travis

Vote: Unanimous

2. **Student Representative Report**

3. **Student Spotlight**

4. **Public Comment – None.**

6. **New Business**

a. School Committee Meetings in Member Towns

Jane Burke, Chair, inquired if the committee wanted to continue to have school committee meetings at each of the five towns as was done in the past. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that the Chair, Jane Burke, write a letter to the 5 towns stating that if there were topics that the towns wanted to discuss then meetings could be arranged to accommodate these requests. Jane also recommended that the each school committee member attend their respective select board meetings, and commit to making themselves visible and available to answer questions if needed.

Motion that the Chair of the school committee send a letter to the Select Boards of the five towns stating that the school committee is very anxious in appearing at each of the towns, and would

appreciate it if they let the school committee know of specific items they wish to discuss so that meetings may be held in their town.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

Items 2 and 3 were addressed at this time.

2. **Student Representative Report**

Austin Murray arrived at 6:22 p.m. He apologized for being late, he was told the meeting started at 6:30 p.m. This week the science class had started a compost initiative in the cafeteria with the elementary students in grades 4, 2 and 1. He reported that the Poetry Out Loud final competition is on January 23rd and everyone is invited. Grade 11 will be selling cash calendars in February and March for their fundraiser.

3. **Student Spotlight**

Mr. Miller showed a video that the grade 5 students had done to report on Project Fridays. Project Friday is a day away from their regular academic routine. They had worked on designing and building and testing homemade water filters made from everyday material. The students reported on what they had done in class.

Mr. Miller also shared with the committee that the PK students had read “A Snow Day” and created collages after reading the story. The art work was shared with the school committee.

6 b. **Adoption of School Committee Goals and Discussion**

Chair, Jane Burke, mentioned that at the summer retreat it was decided to create a school committee handbook as part of their goals. She would like to formally adopt the handbook and called for a motion.

Motion that the School Committee adopt as one of its goal the creation of a handbook for current and future school committee members guiding them through procedures and duties.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion ensued.

Vote: Unanimous

c. **School Committee Retreat Dates to Debrief on the MASC Fall Conference findings and Self-Evaluation Process.** Jane Burke asked the committee to choose a date to review strategy on how to meet the School Committee goals.

Monday, February 24th was selected as the date for this meeting.

7. **Unfinished Business**

a. **Vote on School Committee Norms and Beliefs**

The committee discussed the Norms and Beliefs that were developed during the retreats (copy attached). David Travis made a few corrections to this document. Jane Burke, Chair, asked for a motion to formally approve the school committee Norms and Beliefs
Motion to approve the School Committee Norms and Beliefs with corrections.

By: Jonathan Bruno

Second: David Travis

Discussion:

Vote: Bonnie Silvers – Abstain, Others – Yes. Motion passes.

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

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Finance Subcommittee – No meeting nothing to report.
- b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears reported that the subcommittee had met. It was a very productive meeting. The policies that were reviewed will be brought forward for a first reading at the next meeting and will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- c. Building, Grounds & Technology-Art Batacchi reported that a meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2020.
- d. Community Outreach and Input – have not met.
- e. Executive Evaluation – have not met since the last meeting.
- f. Negotiations – have not met since the last meeting.
- g. Curriculum – David Travis will be scheduling a meeting.

10. **Chairman’s Report**

Jane Burke advised that most of the towns are recruiting members for their school planning committees, and making a nice effort to reach out to their communities. We should also be active in using whatever communication tools we have to reach out so that everyone in the community knows about the consolidation process and maybe encourage participation.

11. **Superintendent’s Report**

Beth reported that January 17th is a half day for students, and teachers will be doing professional development. The elementary teachers will be working on FastBridge and data analysis. Secondary will be working on Program of Studies for next year. The Administrative Teams will be working on the budget.

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

13. **Director of Student Services Report** – No Report

14. **Business Manager’s Report**

- a. Approval of Warrants – December 27, 2019
Motion to approve the Warrant of December 27, 2019
By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Art Batacchi
Vote: Unanimous
- b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts
Motion to accept the gift of \$3,750 from the Kare Bear Foundation as presented
By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund
Vote: Unanimous
- c. Budget Transfers - None

15. **Future Agenda Items**

Topic on Tolerance and Anti-Semitism
Evaluation the Middle School program
8 Town Committee
Consolidation Status and Update

Motion that all school committee members inform Jane Burke by Monday if they are going to serve on the consolidation committee.

By; Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

16. **Executive Session**

Motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a) (2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent of Schools) and not to reconvene in Open Session.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Bonnie Silvers

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

17. **Adjourn 7:25 p.m.**

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda #1574*
- *Minutes of meeting #1573*
- *Enrollment Report*
- *School Committee Norms and Beliefs*
- *Warrant Report*
- *Donation from Kare Bear Foundation*



SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Norms and Beliefs

Who We Represent

We represent the needs and interests of all students in the district and place their interests above all others in the decisions we make.

How We Govern

- We shall conduct business through a set agenda that is tied to district goals with a focus on student needs, growth, and achievement. Emerging items shall be addressed in subsequent meeting unless circumstances require immediate action. Requests to add agenda items shall be made to the chair of the appropriate committee.
- We shall make each meeting effective and efficient, giving each member an equal opportunity to express their views and convey the input in a concise and topic-focused manner. We shall attend meetings prepared to discuss agenda items and to participate in efficient decision-making.
- We shall base our decision on the best available information, avoid bias, and vote our conviction in conjunction with constituent input.
- We shall respect staff and fellow committee members and exhibit professional conduct and behavior at all times.
- We shall uphold all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including the code of ethics.
- We shall maintain confidentiality of privileged information, including but not limited to, items discussed in executive session.

How We Treat Each Other

- We shall debate the issues keeping an open mind regarding other members' opinions and positions.
- We shall work to build trust between and among School Committee members, the Superintendent and the administration by treating everyone with dignity and respect, even in times of disagreement.

How We Communicate

- The Superintendent and the School Committee recognize the importance of proactive communication. School Committee members should make their best effort to convey their questions or concerns to the chair and the Superintendent in advance of the meeting. We support the "no surprises" philosophy.
- We will follow and respect the chain of command and direct others to do the same, referring constituent complaints and concerns to the appropriate individual within the district chain of command and referring personnel complaints and concerns to the Superintendent.

How We Will Improve

- All newly elected School Committee members will attend a MASC orientation session.
- All members will be open to continued personal growth through participating in training opportunities.
- We shall review and revise operating protocols at the beginning of each new term.
- We shall develop and maintain a district new member mentoring and orientation program.