

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

Absent: Art Batacchi, David Travis

Administrators: Superintendent Regalbuto, Peter Dufresne, Sandra Hubbard, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter, Chris Desjardins

Press: CTSB TV; Evan Triantafilidis – Berkshire Record

Others: Amanda Rogers-Thieriot, Doug Daponde, Tricia Zucco, Amy Carpenter, Michelle Raszl, Stephanie Graham, Vicky Russell, Lacey Zucco, Brady Carpenter

1. **Call to Order**

Jane Burke called meeting #1570 to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of School Committee Minutes #1569 of September 12, 2019

Motion to approve the minutes of #1569 of September 12, 2019 with change.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Marcella Bush

Discussion: Change Mr. Dennis to Mr. Sears

Vote: Unanimous

b. Enrollment

Superintendent Regalbuto reported that enrollment was at 683 as of October 1, 2009 down by 3 students from September 1, 2019. Also included was a report showing the enrollment from prior years as of October and June. Enrollment was down from October 1, 2018 from 697 to 683 as of October 1, 2019 and down from June 2018 from 692 to 689 as of June 2019.

c. Miscellaneous Correspondence - None

3. **Student Representative Report** – Michelle Mary Shalaby was unable to attend to present the Student Representative Report.

4. **Student Spotlight**

Lacey Zucco and Brady Carpenter talked about their visit to the Sheffield Historical Society for a day of living history. Slide Show followed.

5. **Public Comment**

Amanda Rogers-Thieriot informed the school committee that the PTO, in conjunction with the Sheffield Police Department, will again be holding “Trunk or Treat” on October 25, 2019 from 4 – 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

6. **New Business**

a. Request from Michelle Raszl to establish a Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Art & Literary Magazine “The Alter Ego”

Motion to approve the Student Activity Account for the Mt. Everett Art & Literary Magazine “The Alter Ego”

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: Michelle explained that this club was founded in 1981 and then there was a hiatus. There are currently 12 students interested and in 2019 a graduate received a literary award from ARISIA and part of that honor was a \$150 award allocated for The Alter Ego. This money will be used for printing costs. The goal is to **sell and** distribute two issues of The Alter Ego each academic year.

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Request to Set June 6, 2020 at Tanglewood for Commencement Ceremonies to begin at 10:00 a.m. - Mt. Everett Class of 2020

Motion to approve June 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. for Tanglewood commencement ceremonies.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- c. Approval of the National Art Honor Society Class Overnight Field Trip to New York City from October 24-27, 2019 – S. Graham

Motion to approve the overnight field trip to NYC from October 24-27, 2019

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Marcella Bush

Discussion: Stephanie informed the committee that the group will be going to NYC and also meeting up with the students who will be visiting from China and will be returning with them.

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. Graham also informed the school committee that some of our students are participating in a visual art/dance workshop in conjunction with Cave Dogs. The production Liquid States will be performed at Bard College on Friday, October 11th at 7:30 p.m.

- d. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding, Unit E, Extension of Contract – Vote Required

Motion to approve the MOU, Unit E, Extension of Contract to June 30, 2021.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. **Unfinished Business** – None.

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

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. SBRSD SBEF – Dennis Sears

Mr. Sears reported that the SBEF subcommittee had met on October 2, 2019 and the main topic of the meeting was the discussion going on between the eight towns and the two districts.

The subcommittee would like to bring forward the following motion:

The SBRSD School Committee endorses the formation of a Regional School District Planning Committee.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: Ms. Silvers reported that the decision that they came to yesterday was that both the towns and school committees have the ability to move ahead. The formation of this committee was not to begin anything, but to show in good faith that we are prepared to move ahead with our discussions by requesting approval of forming a Regional School District Planning Committee.

~~The planning committee will become the actual planning board.~~

All 8 towns have expressed an interest in investigating this. Mr. Sears will check with DESE to see if it is possible to add town members to this committee and not just limit it to school committee members.

Bonnie reiterated that the purpose of this motion was only to give the authority to establish the committee, and not to name who was on the committee or take any further actions.

Vote: Unanimous

- b. Policy Subcommittee – Dennis Sears reported that no meeting was held.
- c. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee – D. Travis
Ms. Burke reported that the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee had met on September 18, 2019. David Travis was unable to attend but Mr. Bruno reported on the meeting as follows:
 - The committee had reviewed and discussed the new evaluation tools that would be used for the Superintendent’s evaluation and performance and that had been recently proposed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.
 - Superintendent Regulbuto’s 2019 evaluation was also reviewed. Copies were available at the meeting and also posted on the website.
 - Progress that the Superintendent and her team have made towards the “Next Steps” that were called out in the evaluation, in particular, improved communication.
 - More opportunities have been created for various stakeholders to work together to continue to improve communication channels to strengthen the community’s awareness of the District’s priorities.
 - A calendar listing all of the meeting dates for faculty, curriculum leaders, PAC, Instructional Support Teams, etc. was distributed to all staff at orientation.
 - The committee will be looking at the Superintendent’s FY20 goals and will consider making a proposal to the full school committee at the October 24th meeting regarding her contract.
- d. Negotiation Subcommittee – B. Silvers reported that no meeting was held but that the negotiation subcommittee will need to meet soon to review and approve some stipends.
- e. Building, Grounds & Technology Subcommittee – A. Batacchi was not present, but no meetings have been held.
- f. Community, Input and Outreach Subcommittee – B. Silvers reported that no meeting was held.
- g. Curriculum Subcommittee – D. Travis & P. Dufresne reported that no meeting had been held.
- h. Finance Subcommittee – D. Sears reported that no meeting had been held.

10. Chairman’s Report

Jane Burke, Chair, thanked the school committee for all their hard work. On September 17th the school committee held their retreat with 2 consultants from MASC. Another session is scheduled for October 23rd. Jane recommended that everyone communicate via the school email and to check to see if they are working. Nadine Hawver has invited the committee to attend the October 15th meeting. She also thanked the administrative team for doing an excellent job.

11. Superintendent's Report (attached)

Superintendent Regulbuto reported on the following:

- Jesse Carpenter introduced Mr. Douglas Daponte the new Secondary Assistant Principal to the School Committee.
- **Student Opportunity Act** significantly helps school districts that serve high percentages of low-income students. According to the Joint Committee on Education, this Act makes an unprecedented, new \$1.5 billion investment in public education in an attempt to ensure that public schools have adequate resources to provide a quality education to students regardless of zip code or income level. Of importance to note – the Governor's Office released projected Chapter 70 estimates to the public yesterday, and the Senate President Spilka issued a statement saying that the information was incomplete and inaccurate and advised communities not to rely on this information for FY21 budget planning.
- **Rural Aid Funding** – Again this year SBRSD was not one of the 34 school districts located in western and central Massachusetts and on Cape Cod, to receive the FY20 Rural School Aid award. Superintendent Regulbuto reported that she, and the Business Manager, had spent time last year advocating strongly to have criteria 2 of the formula reviewed and changed to support the needs of the communities. She encouraged the School Committee, District and member towns to contact our legislative representatives to express our disappointment and to renew our requests.
- **After School Programing** – Ms. Julie Barros has taken on the role of After School Program Coordinator and created a survey for the school community to respond to in an effort to find out what needs and interests exist for this type of programing.
- **South County Speaker Opportunity – Vaping, Juuling & E Cigarettes**
Superintendent Regulbuto reported that the nurse from the Town of Richmond has been working on this initiative, and Peter Dillon, BHRSD Superintendent, has reached out to all South County Districts to see if they would be interested in co-sponsoring a speaker on the topic of Vaping, Juuling and E Cigarettes.
Patrick Reynolds, the grandson of tobacco company founder R.J. Reynolds, who turned his back on the family business, is a national speaker on this topic. Mr. Reynolds' speaker fee is \$4,000 plus travel of \$1,500. This fee will cover two talks. Superintendent Dillon would like to know by October 11th if we would co-sponsor one of the talks for our community. The Administrative Team is on board with this.
Discussion ensued. Mr. Blaugrund would like to see quantifying data after the presentation.
Motion: School Committee approves up to \$2,000 to be used to co-sponsor a presentation by Mr. Patrick Reynolds on the topic of Vaping, Juuling and E Cigarettes.
By: Bonnie Silvers
Second: Marcella Bush
Vote: Unanimous

12. Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report (attached)

Mr. Dufresne reported that the 2019 MCAS results are in and will be mailed out to the parents sometime next week. Also, the half professional day on October 11th will focus on educator licensure, FASTBridge software training, and a tabletop safety exercise led by Superintendent Regulbuto and Officer Zucco.

13. Director of Student Services Report (attached)

- Ms. Hubbard reported that the IDEA240 and Integrated PreK 262 grants were submitted and approved.
- The SEPAC meeting was held on September 23rd. The next meeting is scheduled for October 23rd in the Eagles Loft.
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), which is funded by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is being offered to some of our students. The goal is to assist high school students to prepare for the “world of work and adulthood” by providing career counseling, work readiness training and work based learning experiences.
- Berkshire County high school students, ages 16 (sometimes younger) to 24 currently enrolled in high school or post-secondary education established on a MRC Rehabilitation Counselor’s caseload are eligible.

14. Business Manager’s Report

a. Approval of Warrants: September 20, 2019

Motion to approve the warrant of September 13 and 20, 2019 as presented

By: Jonathan Bruno

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion ensued.

Vote: Unanimous

b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts – None.

c. Budget Transfers

Motion to accept budget transfers as presented (\$1,700 from Contracted Services SPED to General Supplies SPED to cover cost of furniture).

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Dennis Sears

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Chris Desjardins reported that the minimum contribution for 3 towns increased by \$26,670 due to Chapter 70 adjustments. We will not be getting the money and will have to be absorbed.

15. Future Agenda Items

- Superintendent’s Goals – October 24, 2019 meeting
- MCAS Presentation – October 24, 2019 meeting
- Strategy for Continuous Improvement – November 14, 2019 meeting
- School Improvement Plans – December 19, 2019 meeting

16. Executive Session

Pursuant to Exception 3 - Motion to discuss strategy with respect to litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Committee and District, as declared by the chair and not to reconvene in open session.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Jonathan Bruno

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

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda Meeting #1570*
- *Minutes meeting #1569*
- *Request to establish The Alter Ego student activity account*
- *National Art Honor Society Class Field Trip*
- *Approval of MOU, Unit E, Extension of Contract*
- *Superintendent Evaluation*
- *Superintendent's Report*
- *Curriculum & Professional Development Report*
- *Director of Student Services*
- *Warrant of September 20, 2019*
- *Budget Transfers*