

School Committee: Jonathan Bruno, Maryellen Brown, Dennis Sears, Bonnie Silvers, Danile Kelly, Jeffrey Blaugrund, Art Batacchi

Absent: Jane Burke, David Travis, Marcella Bush

Administrators: Superintendent Regulbuto, Charles Miller, Jesse Carpenter, Chris Desjardins

Press: CTSB TV; Ted Remsnyder, Berkshire Record

Others: John Hammill, Shira Sawyer, Mrs. Sayer, Mable Wheeler, Mrs. Wheeler, Austin Murray, Vicky Russell, Mr. Thieriot

1. **Call to Order**

Jonathan Bruno, Vice Chair, called meeting #1575 to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Standing Reports**

a. Approval of Minutes of School Committee Meeting #1574 of January 9, 2020
Motion to approve the minutes of meeting #1574 of January 9, 2020 as presented.

By: Bonnie Silvers

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

b. Miscellaneous Correspondence – Letter dated January 7, 2020 from the Town of Sheffield Board of Selectmen to the Superintendent, Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee requesting that the District make every effort in developing a FY21 budget that achieves a zero percent change, or less, over last year's budget.

3. **Student Representative Report**

Austin Murray gave an update on events that are happening at the school. Robotics are moving on to the next competition on February 15th. Grade 11 students are working on completing the cash calendars and they hope to have them out by the end of February. The middle school production of "Frozen, Jr." will be held January 31 and February 1 at 7 p.m. and February 2 at 2 p.m. Carolyn Heist won Poetry Out Loud and Madeline Soudant came in second.

4. **Student Spotlight**

Odie Fields and 2 cast members from Frozen, Jr. invited the school committee to attend their production on the above stated dates.

Jesse Carpenter introduced Grade 8 students, Shira Sawyer and Mable Wheeler, and asked them to report on their participation in Project 351. Grade 8 students are selected from Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns to participate. The concept of Project 351 reflected Governor Patrick's belief in the community and the unlimited potential of young people. This led to the realization of Project 351 as a one-day celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., statewide unity, and youth leadership. The students participated in a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King Day in Boston. They made valentine cards for the veterans and blankets for the homeless and packed food for those in need.

5. **Public Comment - None**

6. **New Business**

a. Draft of School Year 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

Superintendent Regalbuto informed the school committee that included in the packet were three versions of the new calendar. These were just drafts and no decision had been made. The union were still reviewing the calendar and once a decision is made, the chosen calendar will be presented to school committee for final approval. Results of the survey (87 participants) were not to remove April vacation, take away Good Friday, and maybe a long weekend in February but the majority voted to keep February vacation. There was also discussion on whether to start on August 24 or August 31 because Labor Day is late next year.

b. Implicit Bias and Diversity

Jesse Carpenter reported that the teachers in EK – Grade 12 are all involved in the Coordinated Program Review and looking at bias in everything we use.

John Hammill went to a training in mid-September put on by the ADL “A World of Difference” and came back to identify students in Grades 9-11 who would be viable choices to participate in the program.

This program recognizes that attitudes and beliefs affect actions, and that each of us can have an impact on others, and ultimately, on the world in which we live.

The origins of the A World of Difference Institute date back to 1985, when ADL and WCVB-TV in Boston initiated the A World of Difference campaign, a series of education and media-driven programs designed to combat prejudice and create effective tools to address these issues in the classroom and community.

This program is designed to help participants:

- recognize bias and the harm it inflicts on individuals and society
- build understanding of the value and benefits of diversity
- improve intergroup relations
- confront racism, anti-Semitism and all other forms of bigotry

The peer education program prepares middle and high school students to confront bias and create inclusive environments in the schools and communities. Peer training will begin February 4 -14th at Monument Mountain High School in conjunction with Lenox. The second training is February 13th and 27th. This training will enable them to gain necessary knowledge and skills to facilitate discussions on discrimination and prejudice. This will be implemented this school year in grades 6 – 12.

Jesse reported that they are working with the ADL to do a workshop this March or next year with the whole staff (teachers, bus drivers, ESPs).

Discussion and questions and answer session followed.

7. **Unfinished Business - None**

8. **Business with District Member Towns**

a. 8 Town School Consolidation Committee request: (letter attached)

Jonathan Bruno stated that the 8 Town School Consolidation Committee had submitted a letter requesting a motion be made to create a Regional School District Planning Committee.

Motion: In accordance with M.G.L. ch. 71, section 14 and the vote of the board of selectmen of each of the five member towns of the SBRSD, the school committee votes to create a Regional School District Planning Committee for each of the towns of Sheffield, Monterey, New Marlborough, Alford and Egremont.

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Bonnie Silvers

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

9. **Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Finance Subcommittee – Mr. Sears reported that there have been no meetings.

Dennis Sears wanted to make a motion that funding for this program be added to the budget. Superintendent Regulbuto stated that this program was supported through a grant. Mr. Blaugrund stated that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires had funded this program.

- b. Policy Subcommittee – Mr. Sears reported that the following policies were reviewed by the subcommittee and are being presented for first reading.

First Reading

1. BEDG – Minutes of Meetings
2. EFD – Meal Charges
3. JJF – Student Activities Fund
4. JBB – Educational Equity
5. JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
6. JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
7. JFABEE – Admission of Children of Out of State Employees in SBRSD (Note: not really new, just renumbered because of a new MASC one that had the same number, JFABE)
8. JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

- c. Building, Grounds & Technology – Mr. Batacchi reported that BG&T subcommittee had met. Chris Thompson and Jeremy Wells had submitted reports of what is needed.

- d. Community Outreach and Input – Ms. Silvers is looking to hold a meeting either on February 5th or 11th. Superintendent Regulbuto suggested that the subcommittee develop a budget letter similar to last year.

- e. Executive Evaluation – Mr. Bruno reported that this subcommittee met last week and finalized the Superintendent's action steps. These will be updated and posted on the website soon.

- f. Negotiations – No meeting

- g. Curriculum – This subcommittee met. There were discussions on a variety of issues.

10. **Chairman's Report - None**

11. **Superintendent's Report** – Superintendent Regulbuto reported on the following:

- Alto Ego Magazine
- Budget Process – meetings with teachers, department heads and administrators.
- Focusing on school culture and adult culture

- The Administrative Team has and will continue to show tokens of appreciation to the staff every month
12. **Curriculum & Professional Development Coordinator's Report - None**
 13. **Director of Student Services Report** – Report is attached.
 - DESE Sped Director meeting – each district must designate a Secondary Transition Coordinator in the 2020-2021 school year
 - Continue to use Learning Ally on a regular basis
 - Looking at the Early Childhood screening process to include testing for dyslexia
 14. **Business Manager's Report**
 - a. Approval of Warrants – January 10 and January 24, 2020
 Motion to approve the warrants of December 31, January 10 and 24, 2020 as presented
 By: Jeffrey Blaugrund
 Second: Art Batacchi
 Vote: Unanimous
 - b. Vote to Accept Grants and Gifts - None
 - c. Budget Transfers – None

Motion to approve payment of FY19 invoices in the amount of \$711.05 and \$576.97 for copier expenses. The invoices were originally sent to the wrong email address.
 By: Dennis Sears
 Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund
 Vote: Unanimous
 15. **Future Agenda Items - None**
 17. **Adjourn**
 Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.
 By: Bonnie Silvers
 Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund
 Vote: Unanimous

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda #1575*
- *Minutes of meeting #1574*
- *Letter from Town of Sheffield dated January 7, 2020*
- *Draft Calendar for 2020-2021 school year*
- *Letter from 8 Town School Consolidation Committee*
- *Policies for First Read*
- *Director of Student Services Report*
- *Warrant Report*
- *Preliminary FY21 Cherry Sheet Estimates*