

Eagles Loft, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA
February 24, 2020
Special School Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present: David Travis, Jonathan Bruno, Jeffrey Blaugrund, Dennis Sears, Art Batacchi, Marcella Bush, Mary Ellen Brown, Jane Burke

Absent: Danile Kelly and Bonnie Silvers

Administration: Beth Regulbuto

Presenter: Liz Lafond (MASC)

1. Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

Motion: Change order of agenda to put executive session as number 1 and then proceed

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jonathan Bruno

Vote: Unanimous

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 Office of the Attorney General by Jennifer Brown and to reconvene in open session.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jonathan Bruno

Roll Call Vote: David Travis-Yes, Jonathan Bruno-Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund-Yes, Dennis Sears-Yes, Art Batacchi-Yes, Marcella Bush-Yes, Mary Ellen Brown-Yes, Jane Burke-Yes

Motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 6:12p.m.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: Jonathan Bruno

Roll Call Vote: David Travis-Yes, Jonathan Bruno-Yes, Jeffrey Blaugrund-Yes, Dennis Sears-Yes, Art Batacchi-Yes, Marcella Bush-Yes, Mary Ellen Brown-Yes, Jane Burke-Yes

Reconvened in open session at 6:22 p.m.

2. Workshop Meeting

a. Self-Evaluation – Led by Liz Lafond and Jane Burke. First time committee has done this process. Discussion of how to use the results of the survey sent out by Ms Lafond since only 5 members responded.

Motion: Reopen survey so more can respond and revisit results after budget is passed

By: David Travis

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous

- b. School Committee Handbook – Ms Lafond spoke about the handbook becoming more popular as there is increased turnover in school committee. She presented three samples from other districts as models to consider. Discussion touched on desired type of handbook for SBRSD
- i. Style
 - ii. Everything in one place
 - iii. Warm and friendly
 - iv. Pertinent policy available
 - v. FAQ –separate document for community at large

Motion: Speak to request whether Bonnie Silvers will do initial draft of an SBRSD version of the Belchertown school district handbook in google doc and if she is unable to do it have Jonathan Bruno do it.

By: Dennis Sears

Second: David Travis

Vote: Unanimous.

Motion: to create an Ad Hoc Subcommittee of three members and an alternate to create a draft of the handbook

By: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Second: Jonathan Bruno

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: Any school committee member can act as an alternate

By Dennis Sears

Second: Art Batacchi

Discussion- Liz Lafond said that is unwise because you need continuity in the work. She said since that by law, the chair can be the built in alternate for any meeting that might be preferable. To allow all members to participate suggesting can be submitted to the superintendent who will send them on to the committee.

Vote: Unanimous no. The motion failed.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

By: David Travis

Second: Jeffrey Blaugrund

Vote: Unanimous