

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee  
Mt. Everett Regional School  
Sheffield, MA  
February 20, 2014  
School Committee Workshop

School Committee Members: Mr. Stewart, Ms. Rundle, Ms. Fields, Mr. Flynn, Ms. Silvers, Mr. Valentini, Ms. Sparhawk, Ms. Sahn, Mr. Sears

Absent: Mr. Batacchi

Others: Ms. Linda Higgins

1. Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
2. Committee members began the self-evaluation process by looking at the indicators associated with Standard 1. It was decided to assign a letter to each indicator, in place of the bullets. Much discussion took place regarding the District's vision and mission statements.

#### Standard 1: Leadership: Mission, Vision and Goals

It was generally agreed that indicators A, B, and C should be scored "needs improvement", although it was also noted that the current School Committee is just reaching a place where they can start the process. It was also the consensus of the Committee that a working meeting should be scheduled during the summer months to develop proposed goals of the Committee for the ensuing school year. Such goals would be voted by the Committee at the September meeting.

#### Standard 2: Policy and Governance

It was agreed that the Committee generally meets all indicators under this standard. If a letter grade were to be given, they agreed that they would score a B+.

#### Standard 3 – Community Relations

Ms. Fields and Ms. Sparhawk informed the Committee that they have been invited to meet with the New Marlborough Select Board on a quarterly basis. The Committee discussed how much of the work towards seeking cooperative agreements belongs to the School Committee and how much belongs to the superintendent. It was generally agreed that a goal for next year should be to address the community schools and the District Agreement. Ms. Sahn suggested that an action item for indicator D might be to host a social in each of the five towns, to include five or more School Committee members, plus the superintendent. It was agreed that the Committee will assist Michele Shalaby in her efforts to bring together the PTO, PTA, and two school councils at the end of the year.

#### Standard 4: Cultural Responsiveness and Educational Equity

It was agreed to change indicator A to read, "Committee outreach and community engagement activities accommodate cultural and socioeconomic differences in values and communications."

The Committee discussed their role in these items. It was agreed that although the District's student body and staff is somewhat lacking in overall diversity, they are, as a rule, very inclusive of everyone and seem

to enjoy the differences in people. It was noted that the superintendent also does a very good job welcoming all people.

Standard 5: Accountability and Performance Monitoring

It was agreed to eliminate indicators C and G. It was also agreed to re-write indicator F to read, “The Committee ensures that student results are measured against expectations set by the District, state and Common Core standards. In general, members agreed that the Committee meets the indicators of Standard 5.

Standard 6: Committee Operations – Meetings

It was agreed that the Committee meets the indicators for this standard.

Ms. Fields requested that all members be addressed by their first names during meetings. She noted that often the female Committee members are addressed by their first names, but the male members were addressed as “Mr.” Although Messrs. Stewart, Valentini, Flynn, and Sears indicated that they had been unaware of the inconsistency, they agreed to address each member by first name in the future.

Committee members also discussed the need to exercise self-discipline in order to make the meetings more efficient.

Standard 7: Committee Operations – Committee member communications

It was agreed that the Committee meets or exceeds expectations for the indicators for this standard.

It was agreed to remove Indicator E.

Standard 8: Committee Operations – Committee-staff relations

It was agreed that the Committee meets or exceeds expectations for the indicators for this standard.

Standard 9: Committee Operations – Committee-superintendent relations

Mr. Stewart noted that all members are able to speak with the superintendent about anything they may wish.

Members discussed how to gain feedback from the superintendent as to how he feels they are performing as a group. It was agreed to add Indicator E. “Committee members establish an opportunity for obtaining feedback from the superintendent about the School Committee’s performance.” The superintendent will be invited to provide feedback at the working meeting of the Committee in the summer.

Standard 10: Values, Ethics and Responsibility for Self

It was agreed to change Indicator A to read, “The Committee monitors its own members when they step outside of Committee policy and agreements.”

It was agreed that the Committee meets or exceeds expectations on the indicators for this standard.

### Standard 11: Committee Systematic Improvement

It was agreed that in the years that the School Committee performs a self-evaluation (bi-annually), the superintendent will be asked to evaluate the group with the same evaluation instrument.

It was agreed to distribute the minutes of subcommittee meetings in draft form to all School Committee members.

Mr. Flynn suggested that when Committee members meet with town officials (outside of a School Committee meeting), they prepare a bulleted “trip report” upon return.

It was generally agreed that there were areas in need of improvement under this Standard.

Mr. Sears moved that the Committee had evaluated themselves and found that of the eleven standards, the Committee was graded reasonably good or better in nine. Of the two standards that were shown to need improvement, (# 1 and 11), they have generated action plans to improve going forward. Mr. Valentini seconded the motion. It was so voted, unanimously.

Ms. Sparhawk moved, seconded by Ms. Silvers to adjourn the meeting. It was so voted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

#### *Documents presented for this meeting:*

- *Agenda, School Committee Workshop of February 20, 2014*
- *Minutes, School Committee Workshop of December 4, 2013*
- *Document titled, “Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee Self-Evaluation Instrument, December 4, 2013*