

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Mt. Everett Regional School
Sheffield, MA
April 28, 2016
Meeting #1507

School Committee Members: Maria Rundle, Kristin Sparhawk, Carl Stewart, Vito Valentini, Marcella Bush, Arthur Batacchi, Charlie Flynn, Francois Lartigue, Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears

Administration: Superintendent Hastings, Ms. Regan

Press: CTSB, Berkshire Record (Julie Ruth)

Student Representatives: Marya Makuc, Marina Germaine

Others: Alice Tortoriello, Karen Frighetto, Michelle Shalaby, Chuck Ketchen, Connie Gott, Karen Chamberland, Danielle Melino, Nat Yohalem, Tara White, Nadine Hawver, Sarah Siket, Clark Rowell

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Stewart, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** No minutes to approve.
3. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
 - A. Marya Makuc, Grade 10 Student Representative, provided an update on Spirit Week and Fundraisers including one to purchase school supplies for the middle school and another one with Monument Mountain High School.
4. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - A. Mr. Clark Rowell, UniBank Fiscal Advisory Services, presented on the Roof/Boiler Project Short-Term Borrowing Offerings
 - Short-term note matures on May 5, 2016.
 - \$4.6 million in borrowing put out to bid
 - Offer: \$2 million by Easthampton Bank at .75 % and \$2.6 million at Eastern Bank at .80% maturing on February 1, 2017.
 - By February 1, 2017 the project and audit should be complete and will know the exact dollar amount and can begin selling bonds in the fall.
 - Handout: update of projections for debt service schedule and projected impact 10 year, 15 year, and 20 year.
 - Dennis noted that the school committee pledged money from sale of energy credits to pay down the bond at a faster rate. Mr. Rowell will look into any potential impact from that. Vito Valentine requested that this topic be placed on the next school committee meeting agenda.
 - *Dennis Sears moved to sell the note and Ms. Lartigue seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of motion.*

5. UPDATES

A. FY-2016 Budget Amendment Proposal Presentation and Vote (Vito Valentini)

- Nadine Hawver asked the School Committee to vote in favor of the amendment
- Vito stated that Chris Regan has worked hard to evaluate exactly where the budget stands and presented it to the Finance Committee. Finance Committee voted to bring the issue to the full School Committee.
- Vito made a motion for the School Committee to consider further reduction in assessment of \$168,826.00 which would bring Sheffield's share to \$0 and bring increments to the other towns. Fran Lartigue seconded the motion.
- Vito explained the original reduction of \$287,002.00 did not have any break down of where it came from. Vito provided a hand-out explaining where the reductions come from. It was mentioned that transportation money needs to be used this year so a portion of the reduction comes from that fund.
- There was a discussion about the risk of using E&D money and Chris Regan clarified that it is not a big risk especially because excess E&D funds do not become available until November anyway.
- A discussion ensued about the School Committee making a good faith effort to resolve the assessment issue and reduce the budget without any good faith effort on the part of the towns; discussion continued about the negative letter sent by the Town of Sheffield to Sheffield citizens/resident.
- Roll Call on the motion: All School Committee members voted YES except Carl Stewart who voted NO

6. BUSINESS

A. Request for Approval for the Senior Class Trip to Lake George: Charlie Flynn moved to approve the trip and Fran Lartigue seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

(Kristin Sparhawk left the meeting at 7:34 pm)

B. Request for Approval of the 5 Day Overnight Hike, May 8-12, 2016: Fran Lartigue made a motion to approve the trip and Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

C. Approval of the New Contract for the Student Services Director, Sandi Hubbard: Fran Lartigue moved to approve the contract and Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion. Charlie Flynn believes the contract amount of \$99,000.00 is too high. Dave Hastings indicated that the amount was previously voted upon by the School Committee. Roll call on the motion: All School Committee members voted YES except Charlie Flynn voted NO.

D. Vote to Participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program for the 2016-2017 School Year: Fran Lartigue made a motion to participate in the Massachusetts School Choice Program and Bonnie seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

E. Approval of the request from Connie Gott for a waiver of the remainder of her tuition bill in the amount of \$10,913.71 for her daughter Morgan Gott to attend Mt. Everett as an out-of-state student: Connie Gott explained she lives in Lakeville, Connecticut and works as a substitute teacher almost every day at SBRSD. SBRSD is a special place and Morgan has excelled - she has gone from being an okay student to being an excellent student. After moving to Lakeville, Connecticut family income is down by about \$45,000.00. Bonnie Silvers indicated that School Committee adjusted tuition for another student a few years ago. Bonnie made a motion in favor of waiving the remaining balance on tuition and Fran Lartigue seconded the motion. Roll Call on the motion: All School Committee members voted YES except Charlie Flynn who voted NO

F. Vote by the School Committee That Christine Regan, as Business Administrator of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, is hereby appointed and authorized by and on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to execute and deliver any amendments to the Project Funding Agreement between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the "Agreement") on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and to bind the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to the terms and conditions of such Agreement and amendments thereto for or relating to a project for the replacement of a roof and boilers located at the Mt. Everett Regional School at 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, Massachusetts in in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (the "Project").

Bonnie Silvers made the motion seconded by Fran Lartigue. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

G. Vote by the School Committee that Christine Regan, as Business Administrator of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District is hereby appointed and authorized by and on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District to make final, binding decisions with respect to the Project described in the Project Funding Agreement, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

Bonnie Silvers made the motion seconded by Art Batacchi. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

H. Vote by the School Committee that the Clerk/Secretary for the School Committee, is hereby authorized to provide legal counsel for the Committee with a certification that such votes were taken by the Committee and such certification may be so provided prior to final approval of the minutes of this meeting.

Bonnie Silvers made the motion seconded by Maria Rundle. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

I. Discussion and Vote on Chris Clark's Request for 75% pay and benefits during upcoming leave of absence to obtain his doctorate.

- Chris Clark Handout/Proposal.
- Discussion about whether the school committee can vote a lower percentage of 50%.
- Dennis believes it must be 75% because it is in the Union contract.
- Fran believes Chris Clark should have the right to negotiate for a lower percentage.
- Charlie Flynn believes we should contact the District's attorney to get an opinion on this.
- *Fran moved to accept the 75% and 3 year commitment in accordance with the contract but if approved by District's attorney accept the 50% with a 2 year commitment, giving Chris Clark the option. Maria Rundle seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.*

J. Superintendent's Report:

- Dave Hastings discussed the items listed on the Superintendent Report handout.
- Danielle Melino gave a report on the Galapagos trip. 12 students were generously sponsored for the trip through donations and fundraisers. Also, the students would like to sell crafts to send money to a family that lost everything in the earthquake. They would like to raise \$300.00. Students went through their luggage to donate to the Red Cross. Danielle also commented on the letter from Sheffield and noted she was offended by it. She works hard and over the past four years has raised \$70,000 for various trips and projects. She works 20 hours a week beyond regular school hours, she has recruited students to come to this school, she started the recycling program, she is senior class advisor, she buys lunch for the FFA kids on trips, etc. She just wanted to take the time to make these points while she had the audience.
- SBREA Proposed MOA: Theater Stipends – Ask Committee to negotiate
Bonnie Silvers stated legal counsel has not seen the MOA yet.
Dennis Sears moved to take the proposed letter to the negotiations committee meeting tomorrow, April 29th. Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion.
- A discussion ensued about legal interpretation of the contract.
- Charlie Flynn left prior to the vote on this motion and stated the committee had already voted.
- Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

K. Subcommittee Reports:

1. No reports from the Finance Committee
2. No reports from the Executive Evaluation Committee
3. Policy Subcommittee
 - Dennis Sears made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy ADDA. Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.
 - Dennis Sears made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy EBC. Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

- Dennis Sears made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy ECAF. Bonnie Silvers seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor of the motion.

L. No financial updates or transfers.

M. Meeting Adjourned: Motion by Ms. Lartigue, Seconded by Ms. Silvers to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 pm. All voted in favor of adjournment.