

Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee
Mt. Everett Regional School
Sheffield, MA
February 27, 2014
Meeting #1,472

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

Absent:

Administration: Mr. Hastings, Mr. Turner

Press: CTSB TV; John Sakata, Berkshire Eagle

Student Representatives: Erica Sullivan

Others: Mr. Wayne Burkhart, Monterey Select Board Member; Mr. Andrew Rapport; Ms. Danielle Goewey; Ms. Rebecca Wagner; Ms. Linda Higgins

1. Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
2. **Presentation of 2013-14 Superintendent's Award:** Superintendent Hastings explained that the MA Superintendents Award is presented to the senior who best personifies excellence each year. He introduced Danielle Goewey, noting her very extensive and impressive resume, including being the top student in her class, singing in various venues, officer in the National Honor Society, President of the Student Body, and she also works outside of school. Mr. Hastings thanked Danielle for all that she has done, inside and outside of school. Committee members congratulated her for being selected to receive the award. A break was taken to enjoy refreshments in Danielle's honor.

The meeting resumed at 7:29 p.m.

3. **Approval of Minutes:**
Ms. Sahn requested a change in the wording of the second to last paragraph on page 2 of the minutes of School Committee Meeting #1,471. Mr. Sears moved to approve the minutes of the February 6 meeting with Town Officials, School Committee Meeting #1,471, Open and Executive Sessions, and the School Committee Working Meeting of February 20, 2014, including the change that Ms. Sahn requested. Ms. Sparhawk seconded the motion, and it was so voted. (Mr. Flynn abstained.)
4. **Communications from the Audience Pertaining to this Evening's Agenda**
 - A. Student Representative Erica Sullivan reported that the students are still reviewing data from the recently completed student survey. She also reported that the seniors had visited elementary classes to read to the students earlier in the day and will go out to the community schools to read on March 4.
 - B. There were no communications from the audience.
5. **Updates/Presentations:**
 - A. Superintendent's Entry Findings Report: Mr. Flynn moved that upon the completion of Mr. Hastings' report, the School Committee approve the mid-year status report and entry findings report. Ms. Silvers seconded the motion. The motion was held in abeyance until the report was given.

Mr. Hastings presented his Entry Findings Report, based upon data he has collected thus far. He indicated that his next steps will include looking at core values, academic achievement and rigor, curriculum and instruction, staff absences, early childhood education, and alternative funding initiatives.

Following discussion and a question/answer session, Mr. Flynn reiterated his motion to approve the Superintendent's mid-year status report and entry findings. Mr. Sears seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously. Ms. Fields requested that the report be available on the District's web site.

6. **Business**

A. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Hastings played a recording of students performing a song written by Undermountain School Nurse Suzanne Teutsch and produced by District Technology Director Chris Thompson, entitled, "You Captured the Wind". The recording will be put on the Web site. Mr. Hastings also reported the following:

- Ms. Teutch continues to teach CR. Additionally, she has arranged for interns to come in from the Nursing Program at Berkshire Community College. She has also arranged a free dental program for students who may not be able to regularly go to the dentist.
- Mr. Alex Ginsburg, of Mill River, has volunteered to share his expertise with the economics class. Mr. Ginsburg formerly worked for large financial establishments, including CitiBank.
- The District is number 14 in the state for number of students signing on to the Fuel Up to Play 60 program.
- The Teen Leadership Group will work with Wendy Casey and Ellen Atkins of Railroad Street Youth Project to conduct research on the history of the Great Barrington Fairgrounds. They will also work to restore the fairgrounds.
- Michaela White will compete in the American Legion speaking contest at the state level.
- There will be more connections made with the community schools in the upcoming months.

Mr. Stewart urged all to attend the exhibit of high school students' art work, which is currently on display at the Rockwell Museum.

Mr. Hastings and Ms. Silvers reported events that will take place on March 14 in celebration of the *eagle fund's* 15th anniversary.

B. Mr. Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Sears to approve the 2014-15 school calendar, as presented. Following a brief discussion, it was so voted, unanimously.

C. Subcommittee/Representative Reports:

1. Finance Subcommittee: Mr. Valentini reported that the Finance Subcommittee had met just prior to the Open Hearing earlier in the evening and had voted to approve the new budget number. Committee members thanked Mr. Valentini, members of the Finance Subcommittee, and the Administration for their work on the budget.
2. Policy Subcommittee: The first reading of Policy JEB, Entrance Age, was observed. It was agreed to remove the paragraph entitled "School Choice". The Committee also observed the first reading of Policy IHB, Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations.

Mr. Flynn reported that he has read through the entire Policy Manual, and he noted that only Policy JD, School Census, is listed in the table of contents, but is not included in the manual. Mr. Flynn said that he intends to ask Pat Correira for a proposal on posting and maintaining the policy manual on the MASC website.

3. Executive Evaluation Subcommittee: There was no further report.
 4. Food Service Subcommittee: Ms. Sahn reported that this subcommittee had met on February 24. A local farm person had attended the meeting, and the group discussed looking at all aspects of eating, including growing and preparing food, nutrition and wellness, local agriculture, and reducing food waste. Ms. Sahn said that they would love to hear from community people who may wish to get involved.
- D. Financial Updates/Transfers: Mr. Turner reported that the new multi-functional buses had arrived and the first trip went out in them to New York City on February 25. He said that using the buses saved approximately half of what the trip would have cost using other means of transportation. Mr. Turner said that he anticipates that the buses will have a useful life of at least ten years and will provide a more comfortable and safe alternative to the fifteen passenger van.

7. **Communications from the Public/Requests for Future Agenda Items**

- A. Mr. Flynn informed the Committee that he would be unable to attend the March 13 School Committee meeting, as he would be attending the Hampshire County Select boards Association meeting. The presentation that evening will be by Susan Strate, Population Program Manager in the Economic and Public Policy Research Unit of the UMass Donahue Institute. She will discuss a recent study on Pioneer Valley population projections and how long-term population will impact their regional needs to serve an aging elder population, the potential for a shrinking or stagnant school age population, and other impacts on local and regional service delivery. Mr. Flynn suggested that other School Committee members may also wish to go to this presentation, given the similarities with what Southern Berkshire County also faces. Mr. Flynn then moved to change the next School Committee meeting date to either March 11 or March 12. Mr. Valentini seconded the motion. Following discussion, Ms. Silvers asked to amend the motion to change the March 13 meeting to March 11 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Valentini seconded the motion, and it was so voted, unanimously.
- B. There were no communications from the audience.

Mr. Valentini moved, seconded by Ms. Sparhawk, to adjourn the meeting. It was so voted, and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Documents presented at this meeting:

- *Agenda, School Committee Meeting #1,472*
- *Minutes of Meeting #1,471, Open and Executive Sessions*
- *Minutes of School Committee Working Meeting of February 20, 2014*
- *SBRSD 2014-15 School Calendar – DRAFT*
- *Policy File IHB, Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations (DRAFT)*
- *Policy File JEB, Entrance Age (DRAFT)*
- *Power Point Presentation: Superintendent Entry Findings*
- *Entry Findings Report by Superintendent David B. Hastings*
- *Presentation of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District FY 15 Budget, Budget Hearing February 27, 2014*