

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, February 6, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katherine Alexander, Chair
Megan Panek, Vice Chair/Tantasqua Representative
Mary Bellezza, Secretary
Kristen Tuohey, Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent; Dan Carlson, Principal; teachers and members of the community.

Mrs. Alexander started the Regular Session at 6:31 p.m.

MINUTES:

Motion 14-22: Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014 Regular Session.

Discussion: None

VOTE: Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT

Deb Boyd says we are in good shape for 2013-2014. There is a small concern over the electricity budget due to our variable rate. However, our last water/sewer bill was considerably lower than anticipated. If the electric is higher than anticipated, we can possibly use the water/sewer money to cover.

2014-2015 school budget:

Burgess is slated to receive an increase in Chapter 70 money for next fiscal year.

Discussion: Additional full-time custodian is \$34,500. Additional bus route/bus is approx. \$49,000. Mrs. Alexander raised a concern on the electric budget. Is Fiscal 2015 electric budget too low? Mrs. Boyd suggested that we wait a month or so and see how water and sewer come in this year. We can see if some of that money can move to electric. Mrs. Boyd will also check to see when our contract is up for electric.

Burgess is proposing a full time custodian for grounds keeping and will be assigned specific areas inside the building when they are not working outside. The majority of the time would be grounds keeping, allowing Burgess to have a custodian inside at all times.

Motion 14-23: Mrs. Alexander moved to bring the budget of \$9,679,168.00 to the public hearing, on March 6th. Mrs. Bellezza seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

The public hearing will be on March 6th at 7p.m., following the school committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Bournedale Letter – Dr. Nosek spoke about the decision to attend Ferry Beach Ecology School vs. Bournedale, as in the past. The cost will be slightly less than Bournedale and a better fit for the educational needs of our kids.
- End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report (for June) - Dr. Nosek pointed out the new document that everyone will be asked to fill out. It will be sent via email.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Carlson reviewed the Principal's Report, which was included in the packet, below were the topics discussed (the full report can be viewed upon request):

Enrollment Data – January 30, 2014

Total K-6 897; Total PK-6 981

Staff Recognition

This past fall, a Reading Committee consisting of teachers from grades one and two as well as reading department staff under the coordination of our Literacy Leader, began researching several new Reading Programs to replace our current outdated program utilized at grades one and two. After presentation by several publishing firms and site visits to schools using these programs, the Reading Wonders Series published by McGraw-Hill was selected by the committee. The program will be piloted by all grade one and two teachers during the 2014-2015 school year. We commend the following staff members for their many hours of research and discussion: Lynn Menard, Cheryl Soper, Beth Ramirez, Sheila McCormack, Judi Konkel-Dery, Lauren Arruda, Cheryl Hannon, Amy Cantwell, Emily Gordon and Literacy Leader Katie Bernier.

Community Programs

Community and Staff involved with Community Programs: Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Holiday Food/Gift Program, Festival of Giving Trees, Holiday Wreaths, Project Bread, Toys for Tots, Music Department Performance at Senior Center, Heifer Read to Feed Program, Typhoon Hainan Relief Drive, and Valentines for Veterans. Additional community outreach programs will occur this spring.

After-School Enrichment Program

After-School Enrichment Program – spring session coordinated by Tammy Edmonds is scheduled between February and April vacations. The eight classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons and will run for seven weeks.

Food Allergies-Epinephrine Training

To date, approximately thirty-five adults have received training from Lisa Meunier on Food Allergies and Epinephrine Administration.

Upcoming Events

- The PTO will sponsor their Annual Penny Drive during the month of February.
- “Read to Feed” and “Read to Succeed” Programs come to an end on February 7th.

- The PTO will hold Uno Dough-Raiser Nights on February 7th and 8th.
- A Spirit Day will be held on February 14th.
- The PTO will sponsor a Family Night at the Worcester Sharks on February 22nd.

The field on property needs another season to grow and flourish. The hope is that in the fall, teams will be able to use it.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reviewed the Superintendent's Report:

- Superintendent Evaluation (Goals and Elements Update) - Dr. Nosek gave a brief update on her goals that were established last year. She has created a schedule that allows her to be in the schools and classrooms monthly, working with teachers and principals to help students and teachers meet the Common Core. This schedule also helps her with discussions on increasing enrollment by 2-3%. Dr. Nosek has also reviewed academics and scheduling at the Jr. High and Sr. High level- this is a five-year plan. She is also cultivating relations between the schools and the communities. Dr. Nosek has created a Twitter account and this feed is also on the Superintendent's page.
- Principal Search Update – Dr. Nosek announced a committee has been created and will meet Feb. 11th. The job has been posted and the application process will stay open until March 3rd. The hope is to have the job filled by April vacation.

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SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds – There was a meeting and the flooring concerns in the cafeteria were discussed. Contractors and architects are being polled for recommendations. The glass tiles have been replaced.

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE

There was a very short meeting due to the weather and FY 2015 budget was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Trail Information Update; letter provided in packet- The Eagle Scouts and the PTO would manage the project and be liable for the up keep. Ben Ouelette is the Eagle Scout representative. Mrs. Alexander asked who would be handling the permits; it is the consensus that the PTO would handle the permits.

Motion 14-24: Mrs. Alexander made a motion to approve the PTO trail project utilizing school land, pending proper financing, permitting and legal opinion from District Council. Mrs. Bellezza seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

None

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None

Motion 14-25

At 7:30 p.m., Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek, to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bellezza
Secretary

MB/jp