

## **BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Meeting of Thursday, May 1, 2014

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

### ALSO PRESENT:

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

The Public Hearing on School Choice opened at 6:01 p.m.

There was discussion on the pros/cons of School Choice. Public input was requested by Mrs. Alexander.

### **Motion 14-36**

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek to not participate in School Choice for the 14/15 school year due to current class sizes.

Discussion: None

Favor: All

Hearing closed at 6:17.

Mrs. Alexander started the Regular Session at 6:32 p.m.

The committee voted to not participate in the school choice program due to current class sizes.

### **Motion 14-37**

Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to postpone the School Committee Reorganizational Meeting until the June meeting.

Discussion: None

Favor: All

### MINUTES

Minutes from April 3 will be voted on at the June meeting.

Executive Session minutes from April 3 will be voted on at the June meeting.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Dr. Nosek stated we will end the year on target. There has been some movement in SPED but we will still meet the budget.

Discussion: Question on FY 15 budget and the new bus. If the town doesn't approve using "free cash," what are our options? Can we move the "free cash" vote on the town meeting warrant before other money articles? Can we make a substitute motion? Dr. Nosek will look into these.

### COMMUNICATIONS

SWCEC 3 Quarter Report

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Carlson recognized the efforts of students in rooms A205 (Ms. Grout) and A206 (Mrs. Quinn) who raised \$180.00 to Help Save the Panda. He also congratulated the Burgess students who participated in the All-Region Choral Concert on April 9.

Kindergarten Screening will take place the week of May 5 with approximately 101 potential students.

Students in grades 3-6 will be taking MCAS this month in math and science.

Check the Burgess website for the full calendar of events in May.

Hoping that the softball field will be open to the public by Memorial Day.

### **Enrollment Data – April 16, 2014**

Total K-6 904; Total PK-6 988

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Nosek reviewed the Superintendent's Report:

- Dr. Nosek recommended moving June's meeting to June 2, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

### **Motion 14-38**

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to change the date of June's meeting to June 2, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

- This Saturday is the Team Chef competition at the Sturbridge Host, from 12-3 for \$10.
- June 17, 2014 at 6:00 will be a joint committee meeting at the Jr. High for the Superintendent's Evaluation.
- Fingerprinting~ all new hires in 2014 fiscal year need to be fingerprinted by June 30, 2014. Eventually, everyone will need to be fingerprinted. This is to be done by 2016. This is a state requirement. The cost is \$35 and for professionally licensed staff is \$55. Volunteers will also need to be fingerprinted if they will have direct and unmonitored contact with students.
- TEd brunch on May 18, 2014 is at the Public House. More details on our website under TEd foundation.
- Principal's Search Update~ Dr. Nosek interviewed four semi-finalists. All four of them interviewed very well. All four candidates have done a school visit at the school. Hopefully by Monday, May 5 a decision will be made.

### **PUBLIC ACCESS**

Lisa and Dan Carlson have been in some discussions regarding children who have nut allergies. The school is going to try a peanut free/nut free table and the child is allowed to invite two other children with them to eat at the table so they are not alone.

There has also been discussion on looking forward to next year on field trips. If it is a non-eating field trip, do we still have to pack up all the epi-pens? Very time consuming.

The school received more epi-pens.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Building Committee: Mr. Carlson stated that there was some testing over spring break on the floors. The results have not yet been determined.

### **TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE**

Mrs. Panek stated there were two new folks voted to Tantasqua School Committee. There was some discussion on MCAS and PARCC. Students still can opt out. A letter was sent home to the parents with some different wording.

### OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Nosek said Go-Math looks like it will be chosen and when it is, a letter will be sent home to parents.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Alexander discussed Step-Up day and possibly notifying families sooner to try and alleviate some anxiety for the kids. If families knew sooner, they could set up play dates, etc. before the first day of school. Also for kindergarteners, this is a very big building, maybe taking more time for them to visit.

**Discussion:** Burgess can have as many as 80 students move in or move out over the summer. The fear of telling children their class assignment in June is that there will be a change due to all of the movement over the summer. This becomes a big issue when parents are told one thing in June and then in August the school needs to make a change. This is why the school waits until late summer.

Another item brought to Mrs. Alexander's attention via parents is the process of teacher placement for their child the following year.

**Discussion:** Mr. Carlson mentioned that when he started, the current process had just been put in place. There is a parent input form currently. Parents are also allowed to send in another letter or form requesting a specific teacher for their child. Mrs. Johnson likes the form because it is based on the child not the teacher. A statement could be added to this form that if there is something over and above that the parent feels they need to explain, they can send a letter to the principal.

### PUBLIC ACCESS II

None

#### **Motion 14-39**

Mrs. moved, seconded by Mrs. to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, Section 221A (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The Committee will not reconvene the meeting in open session.

Roll call vote into Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

Mrs. Alexander-Yes

Mrs. Johnson- Yes

Mrs. Panek- Yes

Mrs. Bellezza- Yes

**Motion 14-40** (reflected in Executive Session minutes) to end the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JoDee Phillips

Recording Secretary

MB/jp