

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, September 4, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katherine Alexander, Chair
Megan Panek, Tantasqua Representative
Kristen Tuohey, Secretary

ABSENT:

Mary Bellezza, Vice Chair
Jeannine Johnson, Committee Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Nosek, Superintendent; Jeffrey Zanghi, Assistant Superintendent; Kathleen Pelley, Principal; Karen Miarecki, Recording Secretary; teachers and members of the community.

Mrs. Alexander started the Regular Session at 6:34 p.m.

The committee introduced themselves to Kathleen Pelley and welcomed her to the school committee meeting.

MINUTES

Motion 14-60

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2014 Regular Session
Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 14-61

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of June 2, 2014 Executive Session
Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 14-62

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of June 23, 2014 Regular Session
Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Transportation shortfalls were due to increasing fuel costs, emergency repair needs and staff turnover. These accounts will need continued monitoring.
- Electricity Shortfall - Continues to be area of concern. Other provider options are being explored.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Flooring Update - Mary Bulso and Tom Wolfenden - Problem with flooring; under warranty. Being stripped and redone. Issues with finding equipment that is accessible. Floor is complete in the cafeteria and the band room. Next Tuesday will be a review of the floor by the flooring manufacturer and installer, who will provide cleaning techniques as well.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kathleen Pelley reviewed the Principal's Report, which was provided at the meeting. Below are the topics discussed (the full report may be viewed upon request):

- **New Staff:** Krista Starr, Jamie Desjardin, Linda Haeussler, Susan Littleton and Walter Herrick will all be invited to the October Meeting and will be introduced at that time.
- **New Assignments:** Jessica Brewster, Patricia Donato, Elizabeth Walsh, Lisa Nollstadt & Laurie Placella.
- **Retirements:** (effective June 30, 2014): Daniel Carlson, Carol McKinstry, Paul Murphy & Cheryl Soper.
- **Resignations** (effective June 30, 2014): Jana Krause
- **Enrolment Data:** Total 990 as of August 28, 2014
- **Recognition:** Kathleen Pelley thanked staff members, parents, administrative assistants, and custodial staff, to name a few.
- **Professional Development:**
 - Educator Evaluation will continue to be a focus for 2014-2015
 - Go Math training will be ongoing
 - Response to Intervention (RTI), the practice of providing high-quality instruction and interventions that match students' needs and using learning rate over time and level of performance to make important educational decisions.
 - ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training was started on August 25th and will continue on September 24th.
- **Communication:** School website has been updated, the Principal can be followed on Twitter@Burgess_School
- **School Improvement Council** - Will be held Monday, September 8th at 3:15 in the Burgess Conference Room.
- **Open House** - Has been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 17th due to cafeteria and band room floor repairs.
- **Ferry Beach Ecology School:** Sixth Grade students and staff will be travelling to Maine from September 10 through September 12. Ferry Beach provides innovative ecology education.
- **Burgess Extended Day Program (BED):** Before and after school care is offered from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.
- Important upcoming events/dates can be found on the full report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reviewed the Superintendent's Report:

- Great back to school with students/teachers; thanks to all!
- Dr. Nosek will be visiting Ferry Beach to assess the program before the students arrive
- Policy Subcommittee Finger Printing - All staff, employees, bus drivers, etc., will be required to have this performed by 2016. Will be requesting a subcommittee meeting regarding the policy for Finger Printing.
- Teacher Evaluation Education Team - Support focusing on standards and elements - linking goals and needs; will process evidence. District Determined Measures reported in June.

PUBLIC ACCESS I

Preschool- number of 75 is a tally of individual students

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

No meetings. No reports.

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE

Upcoming retreat for this weekend and next meeting is the 16th.

OLD BUSINESS

Bus Routes – Discussion on neighborhoods where bus routes change in winter; look at ways to evaluate and update routes. Update to be provided in October.

Step up Day - To be implemented at the end of this year

NEW BUSINESS

- Standards Based Report Cards - Discussed questions regarding break down categories/details, comments, assessments, level, etc., clarifying language to be provided for initiative performance and levels to be addressed (1-4), possibilities include: Adding/changing levels, providing detailed explanations for students/parents for consistency, look at providing a memo to go along with report cards to be sent home; addressing how it is measured.
- Reading Series Pilot -Update of reading program (Reading Wonders Pilot) provided by Jeff Zanghi. Reading Wonders is published by McGraw-Hill and is the first K-6 reading program built on the common core standards. A well informed decision about the effectiveness of the program will be made by March, 2015.
- Request to appoint the Superintendent as voting member to Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative

Motion 14-63

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to appoint Dr. Nosek as a voting member to the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

- Calendar - Discussion regarding school vacations (doing away with February or April vacation) going back to school later in the year. This will be reviewed/discussed further; possibly a survey provided to parents.
- PARCC - Email received by committee members regarding lack of assistance/focus to students with special learning needs with PARCC. Dr. Nosek will review the Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education information on this subject.

PUBLIC ACCESS II

None

Motion 14-64

At 8:03 p.m., Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey, to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion:

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Tuohey
Secretary

MB/km