

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Nosek, Superintendent; Deborah Boyd, Associate Superintendent; Kathleen Pelley, Principal; Karen Miarecki, Recording Secretary; teachers and members of the community.

Mrs. Alexander started the Regular Session at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion 14-65

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of September 4, 2014 Regular Session
Discussion: Change Mary Bellezza to "Vice Chair" and Kristen Tuohey to "Secretary" under Members Present as well as signature at bottom of minutes.

VOTE: Unanimous as amended

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Professional Staff negative balances due to budgeting prior to negotiation settlement; attached transfers provided in packet for correction.

Motion 14-66

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to approve the transfers as discussed as provided in the packet
Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

- Discussion on electricity concern; quotes on vendors are being laid out
- Bus routes and figures were discussed/provided

COMMUNICATIONS

PARCC Accommodations - Overview provided in packet - FYI on Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Differences between PARCC and MCAS were included.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kathleen Pelley reviewed the Principal's Report, included in the packet. Following are the topics discussed (the full report can be viewed upon request):

Introduction of new staff:

- **New Staff:** Krista Starr, Kindergarten Teacher; Jamie Desjardin, School Psychologist/Team Chair; Linda Haeussler, Interim School Psychologist; Susan Littleton, Interim Reading Specialist; Walter Herrick, Custodian; Lisa Cave, Educational Assistant; Tracy Lemieux, Library Assistant and Deborah Maus, Cafeteria Worker, were introduced to the committee.
- **Enrolment Data:** Total 989 as of September

- **MCAS:** Congratulations to students and staff for our Level 1 MCAS accountability status. Parent reports will be mailed home on October 1st. Staff will be analyzing the results and will make any necessary adjustments to ensure future growth and success.
- **Professional Development:**
 1. A.L.I.C.E Training - Burgess staff members participated on September 24. It is a safety measure intended to enhance the current safety plan.
 2. October 10th - Professional Development Day, teachers and paraprofessionals will be offered a wide variety of workshops and trainings.
 3. Go Math and Reading Wonders training are ongoing.
- **SRO: Open House** - Officer Dadalt was present; she will be available at the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences as well.
- **Recognitions:** Congratulations to Pat Donato - Selected by the State to be an MCAS ALT Training Specialist.
- **Programs:** After-School Enrichment Program will begin October 15th and will run for six weeks.
- **School Improvement Council:** Met on September 8th; School Improvement Plan was reviewed and previous work was discussed.
- **Ferry Beach Ecology School:** Student feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The vast majority of the staff expressed great satisfaction regarding the entire experience.

For more information, important upcoming dates/events are provided on the Burgess website and in *The Connection*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Nosek reviewed the Superintendent's Report:

- October 10th - Professional Development Day. Staff members have volunteered to identify skills that they want to share, as well as couple with the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative
- School vacation days and start date survey - Data has been assessed from surveys received from other schools; Burgess is normal within starting before Labor Day.
- One-week vacation vs. two-week vacation survey - State wide survey proved to reflect that keeping the two-week vacation was best due to difficulties with staff child care as well as other circumstances.
- Curriculum Summit - Professional Development district wide offering leadership teamwork and sponsored by Department of Education for "Initiation Integration".
- MASS/MASC Joint Conference - First week of November
- MCAS - Congratulations to all staff and families for working hard to get to level one
- Standard Based Report Card - Professional Development work with elementary principals redefining numbers (ex. # 4 defined with examples/language/comments). Working on new information - to be provided.

PUBLIC ACCESS I/OLD BUSINESS

- Question regarding enrollment figures for Pre-K - 75
- Ferry Beach – Questions and discussion regarding sleeping spaces and food allergies. School Committee members discussed a number of possible enhancements and improvements to the selection process and overall experience of the 6th grade trip. All concerns are taken seriously and will be reviewed fully. Overall there was positive feedback from the ecology field trip.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Committee - Molding and all seams were completed; flooring all set.

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE - Reviewed the following:

- School Committee Retreat was held at the beginning of September

- Building Committee and Finance
- Secretary resigned - Nominating replacement; yet to be determined
- SRO - Voting to discuss SRO; will be placed on future agendas

NEW BUSINESS

- School Activities - The calendar will be reviewed school wide to see if activities can be set at different times to allow parents to be able to attend.
- Meeting of January 1st for budget will be moved to January 7th
- Grounds – Questions on groundskeeping. Administration reported that they are working on an effective schedule.

PUBLIC ACCESS II

Nurse - letter went home to all students; there is a designated table in the cafeteria for allergy nut-free students. Wording will be reviewed and revised to reflect what should be designated. (Students may eat nuts at the regular cafeteria tables). The nurse will provide changes at next meeting.

Motion 14-67

At 7:52 Request to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21A(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation as 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 reconvene the meeting in open session.

Mrs. Alexander -Yes, Mrs. Panek- Yes, Mrs. Johnson-Yes, Mrs. Bellezza - Yes, Mrs. Tuohey-Yes

At 7:55 p.m., reconvened meeting in open session

Motion 14-68

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza, that clarifying language regarding longevity in the Sturbridge Teachers’ Association contract should read “that in years 26+ of the longevity schedule, at least 15 years have been in a teaching position at Burgess”.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 14-69

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

Discussion:

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Tuohey

Secretary

KT/km