

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, January 7, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Jeannine Johnson, Secretary

ALSO PRESENT:

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

MINUTES

Motion 15-20

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the minutes of December 3, 2015 Regular Session

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 15-21

Mrs. Tuohey moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to approve the minutes of December 3, 2015 Executive Session.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Current budget shortfall discussion

Motion 15-22

Mrs. Panek moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to recommend an article for \$100,000 from the town to be added to the Burgess School Budget line item to be taken from free-cash or available funds, not to be implemented until June FY16 with the intension of reviewing in June FY16 with the possibility of reducing the amount requested.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

- Reviewed FY 17 Budget

COMMUNICATIONS

- SWCEC FY 15 Annual Report - Provided in the packet
- SWCEC FY 15 Auditor's Report - Provided in the packet

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Kathleen Pelley reviewed the Principal's Report, which was included in the packet. Below were a few highlights discussed (the full report can be viewed upon request):

Enrollment Data: Total 959 as of December

Curriculum Instruction and Assessment:

- Book Study Part I of the text *Driven by Data* by Paul Bambrick-Santoyo. The goal of this voluntary professional development will be to advance the district's initiative in utilizing data to make informed decisions.
- Variety of Professional Development Workshops will be offered at the next early release day scheduled for January 26th.
- The Ted Foundation will sponsor a grant writing seminar on January 26th.
- Burgess Elementary School students in grades 3-6 will participate in the PARCC online testing in the spring.

Student/Staff Recognition:

- Thank you to Mr. Dan Minchoff and Mr. Bob Krilovich for their tireless work in preparing the holiday concerts and all they do throughout the year to provide students with an outstanding music education.
- The annual Fifth/Sixth Grade Burgess Geography Bee took place on December 17th; Congratulations to all contestants.
- Thirty-seven families were provided with food and gifts this year during the holiday season.

Technology:

- Burgess students have opportunities across the curriculum to utilize a variety of technical tools. With the anticipation of PARCC assessments, teachers have been asked to share strategies for preparing students for the online assessments.

School Improvement Council:

- The Council will meet on Monday, January 11. The agenda will include PARCC 2015 results and 2016 schedule, safety plan review and FY 17 budget discussion.

Upcoming events can be found on the Burgess Elementary School website

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Reminder that the Ted Foundation is having their Tastefully Ted Event on January 29th; \$20 per ticket available on line as well as at the door
- Legislative updates were sent out regarding municipal finance
- Two Sturbridge residents were selected as Superintendent's Scholars

Invited Guest - James Donahue, President/CEO Old Sturbridge Village, Patrick Sweeny

PR – A few highlights:

- OSV has submitted an application for a charter school to include grades K-8, 360 students, 12 or 13 towns, within a 5-mile radius of OSV. The charter school will start with grades K-2.
- Moving the museum forward to help the communities - OSV possesses a number of underutilized resources; especially in the winter time. This would create positive impact on the community by offering this school option.
- Partnering with “Expedition in Learning” - Students who struggle in school would benefit by being able to access this resource.
- Timeline - At the final round right now, board will meet in February to approve or deny the applications. If approved, would intend to open school at end of August.
- Principal and teachers have been identified.
- Would be supported by two teachers and two paraprofessionals per grade
- Sports - Looking at creating field space on the site
- Country Bank Educational Museum - Modify for playground/school yard
- School hours - traditional hours - Slightly longer year by 10-days (190 - days) 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
- Before and After-school programs would be implemented (looking into a grant to be able to provide free to all) and summer program (for additional days the town would not transport); summer program would be open to public
- Kindergarten cut off, August 31st - 5-years old

PUBLIC ACCESS I

Question regarding the Kindergarten cut off for the Charter School

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Committee Meeting - None

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE - Reviewed the following:

- School Committee approved funding of the two fields which would include track; football field and the cage. \$100,000 for design and services. Will go to all 5-towns to be supported at town meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- Basketball hoops done except for the wiring
- With spring break coming up possibly looking into the children being able to bring home a "snow bag" (work packets).
- Enhance the summer program – Ongoing

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC ACCESS II

None

Motion 15-22

At 7:24 p.m., Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Panek to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A, Section 21A(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 adjourn the meeting from Executive Session.

VOTE: Tuohey - Yes, Alexander - Yes, Bellezza - Yes, Panek - Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannine Johnson
Secretary

JJ/km