

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, May 5, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Katherine Alexander, Chair
Mary Bellezza, Vice Chair
Kristen Tuohey, Committee Member
Scott Parker, Committee Member

ABSENT:

Megan Panek, Tantasqua Representative

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Kate Alexander opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Reorganization will be on June's agenda.

Introduction of new school committee member, Scott Parker.

MINUTES

Motion 15-38

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of April 7, 2016 Regular Session.

Discussion:

VOTE: Bellezza - Yes, Tuohey - Yes, Parker - Abstain

FINANCIAL

No significant variances.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Letter from DESE re: TRSD/Union 61 Special Education Parents Advisory Council - provided in the packet.
- Massachusetts Senate Press Release re: Education Reform Legislation - The RISE Act - 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 as of April 2016 is 961.

Recognition:

All Region Chorus Concert on April 28 - Congratulations to all who participated.

Tri-Community Citizen Award - Congratulations to Lorelai Soper and Ian Anderson.

Staff Development:

Professional Development Day - Staff will work on student placement.

Curriculum:

- Statewide assessment - PARCC began on Monday, April 25th and will close on Monday, June 6th.
- The MCAS Science, Technology and Engineering assessment will be administered to fifth grade students on May 11th and 12th.
- Fifth and sixth grade teachers have completed a report card survey. Results will be shared and discussed with the subcommittee.
- All grade levels continue to work on a wide variety of topics. Kindergarteners learned from the School Resource Officer how and when to call 9-1-1. The SAFE trailer visited and firefighters showed the students what to do in case of a house fire. In reading they are studying transportation, letters and sounds. In math, they are focusing on measurement, and sorting and classifying data. In science, they are working on life cycle units of plants and animals and spring weather. First Graders learned about various habitats of animals. Many completed reports on an animal of their choice. They also participated in a project in which they created their own family timelines. In reading, students continue to learn new strategies for decoding and comprehension skills. In math, they learned about time, measurement, and geometric shapes. Second Graders are continuing with dinosaur research. Others are studying volcanic landforms. Earth Day was celebrated. Students are working on writing opinion pieces. Two classes celebrated Opening Day at Fenway Park with a baseball themed math competition. Third Graders have selected biographies to read. Fourth Graders worked on a science unit on light. Fifth Graders have been diving into the world of measurement and unit conversions. Students studied the Declaration of Independence. Sixth Graders are concentrating on data displays, measures of center, variability and data distributions in math. In science, students are relating modern geological processes to rock and fossil evidence. In English/language arts, students are working on determining key ideas and details in a variety of genres. In social studies, work continues on ancient civilizations.

Kindergarten Screening and Open House - Kindergarten screenings took place May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

Health Office - The Health and Diversity Fair was well attended. There were 22 terrific vendors including two sled dogs.

School Improvement Council - Will meet on Monday, May 9th. Agenda items include the School Improvement Plan and the end-of -year schedule.

Upcoming events can be found on the Burgess Elementary School website.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Coordinated Program Review - Update provided in the packet
- Day on the Hill April 26th - Met with representatives. Discussions took place regarding the Charter School Legislation; Press Release was provided by Senator Ann Gobi.
- June meeting will be held in the Tantasqua High School in the cafeteria

Motion 15-39

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey, that Burgess Elementary School vote to not participate in School Choice for FY 2016/2017.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

PUBLIC ACCESS I

Large unit building to be built behind the Scottish Inn buildings on Route 131, It has been approved for 102 units. The impact would be an estimated 200 children; huge impact on Burgess. The school was not allowed to weigh in on this topic due to Section 8 Housing.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE - Reviewed the following:

- Start-Time Legislation - Senate Bill 254: A number of senators are putting together a subcommittee for a study on school start time.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- June School Committee Meeting Date/Time

Motion 15-35

Mrs. Tuohey moved, seconded by Mr. Parker, to move the June School Committee date to June 6, 2016 at 5:45 p.m. at Tantasqua Senior High School.

Discussion:

VOTE: Alexander - Yes, Tuohey - Oppose, Bellezza - Yes, Parker - Yes

PUBLIC ACCESS II

None

Motion 15-40

At 7:20 p.m., Mrs. Alexander moved 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, Parker - Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Alexander
Chair

KA/km