

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, November 1, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Megan Panek, Katherine Alexander, Scott Parker, Kristen Tuohey, Mary Bellezza

ALSO PRESENT

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

Megan Panek opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m., with the 4th Grade Student Showcase starting the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Google Classroom Writing - Students provided presentations with their computers using many different programs. Working together on assignments using programs such as Prodigy, Quizlet, Classroom Reading, and Worldly-Wise Writing - were a few that were reviewed. Wonderful presentations provided by all.

MINUTES

Motion 19-10

Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2018 Regular Session

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion 19-11

Mrs. Bellezza moved, seconded by Mrs. Alexander to accept the transfer funds as presented; requested for the Special Ed Program.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

COMMUNICATIONS

- October 1st Report - Information provided in packet
- Memo from Deborah Boyd - FY20 School Budget Liaisons - Information provided in packet

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Kathleen Pelley reviewed a few highlights from the Principal's Report (the full report can be viewed upon request).

- Enrollment Data: As of Sept 2018 - 897

RECOGNITIONS

The First Annual Burgess 5K earned an amazing \$4,338 to offset the overall expense of the annual sixth grade educational trip.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

Spring 2018 MCAS student reports were sent home on October 10, 2018. Burgess met its target.

- Parent teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 13th and Thursday, November 15th. Burgess will be utilizing the myconferencetime.org scheduling tool.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The professional development on Friday, October 5th provided staff with a wide variety of workshops and trainings.

TECHNOLOGY

The technology team provided mini Google workshops before and after school on Wednesday, October 17th and Tuesday, October 23rd to any interested staff members.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten students have been learning about the letters a, m, s, p and t. They are working on features of text and concepts of print as well as writing sentences to go with pictures. In math, they are learning number sense and numbers 6 to 9. In Science, they are talking about how to be a scientist, what science is, the season of fall and the five sense

First Grade:

The first-grade students are learning about Christopher Columbus for the fall season. They are also having fun working on sound and vibration. Some of the other subjects they are studying this month are addition, subtraction concepts, addition strategies, writing, spacing, capitals and punctuation, and key details in reading.

Second Grade:

All the second graders are experiencing a week of pumpkin activities. Activities have been incorporated into all curriculum areas. Students are weighing the pumpkins, measuring height and circumference, reading pumpkin themed books and conducting science experiments with their pumpkins.

Third Grade:

The guided reading groups are up and running for the third graders. The students are continuing to study characters and their traits as well as finding evidence in the text to support their thinking. The students are also studying science (weather) and in social studies they are learning about Massachusetts. The third graders have been learning cursive using the *Handwriting Without Tears* program. They have all started learning about multiplication in math.

Fourth Grade:

In October fourth grade had their first visit from Mr. Richard Haller. Mr. Haller sang several folk songs from the Northeast region to help us learn about that region's history and culture. On October 31st, students came to dress as their favorite book characters and did different activities as a culmination of a character study unit.

Fifth Grade:

In October, all fifth graders traveled to Plimoth Plantation for a field study on the relationships between the Pilgrims and the Native People. The students are learning the order of operations in math. Fifth grade teachers continue to incorporate Collins Writing into all areas of curriculum. The mid-term progress reports were sent home on October 19th.

Sixth Grade:

In math class, students have been working with fractions in various ways. Science classes have been studying matter as it relates to the density, mass and volume of both regular and irregular objects. In language arts, students continue a focus on writing by using prompts and addressing Focus Correction Areas. Students are working on a study of Greek and Latin roots, as well as literature study within the classroom setting.

READING DEPARTMENT

The students have been working hard in their intervention groups. They are working on learning decoding strategies and comprehension strategies.

FACILITIES

The custodial crew has been busy with fall cleanup of leaves. The Town of Sturbridge Highway Department has once again cut back the brush along the Cedar street entry way. The sun shades on the athletic fields are being taken down and stored for the winter. The lower north playground updates are moving along and are expected to be finished soon. The boilers have been checked by an outside vendor and all are operating properly and efficiently.

HEALTH OFFICE

The health office collaborated with the Sturbridge Council on Aging to hold a Family Fun Walk at Burgess on October 18th.

FOOD SERVICE

Starting on November 1st, the cafeteria will be offering homemade soup, cheese sticks and a dinner roll as a lunch.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The School Improvement Council will be held on Monday, November 19th.

Upcoming events can be found on the Burgess Elementary School website

MCAS Presentation for Burgess Elementary School 2018 provided by Kathy Pelley and Jodi Bourassa

Reviewed:

- Commendations/Positive Trends
- Accountability Information
- Progress toward improvement targets
- ELA, Math, Science - Overall Results
- Improvement Opportunities

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Erin Nosek reviewed the report:

- Focus was on the MCAS Presentation
- Superintendent evaluation
- High School play will be this weekend - Shakespeare
- November 10th - Tech High School Annual Craft Fair

The representative for the Superintendent Evaluation Committee Burgess Member will be Kate Alexander with Megan Panek as an alternate. Vote was not needed.

PUBLIC ACCESS I

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

None

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE

- Central Budget
- Approved Calendar for next year
- SRO; voted to support
- Approved various policies

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Kate Alexander expressed the positive feedback she has heard from the PTO Sponsored event for the Berkshire Hills Music Academy. They provided a phenomenal show.

PUBLIC ACCESS II

None

Motion 19-12

At 7:48 p.m. Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Bellezza to adjourn the meeting

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Parker
Secretary

SP/km