

BURGESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Meeting of Thursday, December 1, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Erin Nosek, Associate Superintendent; Jack Canavan, Assistant Principal; Karen Miarecki, Recording Secretary; teachers and members of the community – 11 attendee's noted.

Working Session for the MCAS Overview started at 6:00 p.m.

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

Mrs. Alexander introduced Mary Bellezza to the Committee.

MINUTES

Motion 11-62

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to approve the Minutes of October 6, 2011 Regular Session

Discussion: Add "Mrs. Alexander" to the Vote on 11-57

VOTE: Alexander-Yes, Barnicle – Yes, Tuohey- Yes, Panek – Abstain, Bellezza – Abstain,

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Durgin reviewed the Financial Report provided in the packet, no significant issues.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Memo to Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees re: FY 13 School Budget Liaisons – Weekly Tantasqua budget meetings will be held at elementary schools as working sessions to allow each community to have a better understanding and comfort level with the school budget before the March public hearing.
- Student Transportation Bid – For the four other communities

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Canavan reviewed the Principal's Report, which was included in the packet; below were the topics discussed in detail (the full report can be viewed upon request):

- Reviewed Enrollment Data
- Student/Staff Recognition – Provided information regarding the Festival of Giving Trees, Wreath Project, Holiday Food/Gift Baskets, Toys for Tots Drive, Flu Shot Clinic, Mobile Dentist, US Army Jazz/Rock Band, Tree Scavenger Hunt and Operation First Response. (details are in the full report)
- Report on Professional Development – Nine teachers from Burgess attended the workshop on 6 Traits Writing on November 21 & 22. Inclusion/co-teaching teams continue to work with consultants Donna Simone and Karen Martin.
- School Improvement Council – The council will meet on December 12. Agenda items will include the FY13 Budget and revision of the School Improvement Plan.
- Fall After-School Enrichment – Finished the fall sessions on November 17 and 22. Thanks to Kim Peretti for coordinating this entire program.
- Upcoming Events: Holiday performances are scheduled throughout December at different times/dates. (details are in the full report)

- Academic Support Tutoring Program – An academic support program coordinated by Jo-Lyn Parenteau will run from early January through mid March.
- Facilities/Storm Damage – A tree company was contacted to take down any trees/branches on the facility. The main parking lot will have no nighttime lighting until the project is completed next fall.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Durgin reviewed the Superintendent’s Report:

- Worked with National Grid during the October storm, number two priority was getting regional shelter up at high school, had a generator to assist with the shelter.
- June 21st marks the last day of the school year; making up the 5-days from the snowstorm, recommendations will be provided as to how to make up these days, such as Good Friday, extending the school day, school vacation weeks; number of alternatives and still plenty of time.
- Army band – Performance by the Army band for the 4th, 5th and 6th grade band students, also with a performance for the high school students, tremendous musicians. They also worked with the jazz band students individually; it was tremendous.
- Beauty and the Beast – Tremendous show, set design all by the technology students, great job.
- Professional Development – Provided the committee with the assessment sheets regarding professional development; very positive response.
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarships – 86 students received the scholarship which allows them to have free tuition to any of the allocated state universities.
- Joint Meeting – December 20th at 6:00 p.m. discussion of makeup on the search committee.

PUBLIC ACCESS I

Sarah Maxfield and other community attendee’s discussed their concern regarding the “bus situation” within their route. She stated that for the past 8-years the bus would travel on their street picking up their children in front of their homes, but just recently this has changed. They received a letter notifying of a change from now until March in that the buses would pick up the children at the end of the street due to inclement weather and the bus not being able to adequately turn around. Their concern is for their children’s safety now they have to wait in a group on the main road without sidewalks. They inquired why the older children are still picked up on the route while the younger children are not. Mr. Durgin will look into why both bus routes have not changed. Mr. Durgin noted that with development changes over the past 8-years, there are a lot more students who take the bus; planning needs to be accounted for as well as traveling time in the snow. The question was asked if another bus would be able to be added for planning purposes. Mr. Durgin will look into justification and budget to seek adding an additional bus to the route.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Committee – Mrs. Alexander noted that they are ahead of schedule; some floor issues have been corrected. The sub floor that they poured over glue isn’t holding in certain areas, they will revisit, but still way ahead of schedule. Fields are really starting to take shape; will take two growing seasons for its full effect. Ribbon cutting is expected to take place in March (rescheduling due to the snow storm in October).

TANTASQUA REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Barnicle reviewed the Tantasqua Representative Report:

- Budget process to begin in January - in an effort to make the Tantasqua budget process more accessible to member communities the meetings will be held throughout the towns, all of the meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m.

- Superintendent Dan Durgin is retiring in June. To fill this position in a timely manner with school and community input, the joint school committees will meet on December 20th before the Tantasqua meeting. This is an extremely important meeting, as a process will be discussed and voted on that evening. Voting members of the joint committees are requested to attend this important meeting to voice their opinion and cast their vote.

OLD BUSINESS

MCAS working session will be held on January 5th at 5:30 p.m., in reference to “Test Item Analyses” and “Common Core Assessment.”

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion 11-63

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to recommend Mrs. Panek as the New Vice-Chair.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 11-64

Mrs. Barnicle moved, seconded by Mrs. Tuohey to recommend Mrs. Bellezza as 1st Alternate for Union 61 Member.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

Motion 11-65

Mrs. Alexander moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle to recommend Mrs. Panek as 2nd Alternate for Union 61 Member.

Discussion:

VOTE: Unanimous

PUBLIC ACCESS II

Motion 11-66

At 7:28 p.m., Mrs. Tuohey moved, seconded by Mrs. Barnicle, to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion:

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Tuohey
Secretary

KT/km