

Monterey Administrative Assistant

From: Hastings, David <dhastings@sbrsd.org>
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 4:50 PM
To: Monterey Administrative Assistant; Mary Brazie; 'Nat Yohalem ([REDACTED]); [REDACTED]'; Michele Shalaby; Charles Flynn ([REDACTED]); Turner, Bruce; Alford Town Offices
Cc: Carl Stewart; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Maria McMahon Rundle ([REDACTED]) ([REDACTED]); jennifer sahn ([REDACTED]); Francoise Lartigue ([REDACTED]); [REDACTED] Arthur Batacchi ([REDACTED]); Charles Flynn ([REDACTED]); Higgins, Linda
Subject: SBRSD January 8 school committee vote
Attachments: Vote - January 8 -Roof Boiler.dot

Dear All,

I am writing to let you know that I will be sending each town a formal letter early next week regarding the Roof and Boiler project.

In this email, I am simply providing you with informal advance information. I don't want you learning this information through the newspapers. I am copying members of the school committee to keep them informed and to make sure that the contents of my formal letter to you next week contains no inaccuracies or omissions, as this email could.

First of all, you should know that on Thursday, the school committee unanimously passed a motion to appropriate the amount of \$7,741,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of the SBRSD Roof/Boiler Project, replacing the reference to Chapter 71, **Section 16 (d)** with **Section 16 (n)**. The attached document was amended to reflect this vote.

I am providing you with the link to Chapter 71, **Section 16** below so that you can better understand the move from Section 16 (d) to Section 16 (n).

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/partI/titlexii/chapter71/section16>

The change from **Section 16 (d)** to **Section 16 (n)** replaces the two-step process of town meeting and election with a one-step process (election only), with the district picking up the costs of the election instead of the towns, as would be the case under Section 16 (d).

The committee reasoned that this change would:

1. Take the financial burden of the cost of the election off of the towns. Towns would have had to carry that burden under Section 16 (d).
3. Allow more voters to participate. With winter weather, many people might stay away from a special town meeting (Michele's concern).
4. Result in a single vote count (district-wide) instead of five separate town votes.
5. Give the district more control over the timing of the vote to ensure that the necessary deadlines would be met.

Under Section 16(n), the district will develop the ballot. The school committee suggested that it **may** be possible for towns to include related ballot questions in the district-developed ballot. While the committee knows that it would like

to have the election in late February or early March, it does not have a firm date. I will consult with each selectboard on this.

The committee hopes that absentee or early voting would be available to voters to allow the highest possible participation in this election.

In the next few days, I hope to have additional guidance from legal counsel to ensure that we proceed appropriately.

I hope that you have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Dave Hastings

David B. Hastings
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Southern Berkshire Regional School District
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SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

JANUARY 8, 2015

David B. Hastings
Superintendent

Bruce C. Turner
Business Administrator

Carl Stewart
School Committee Chair

E. Bonnie Silvers
School Committee Vice Chair

School Committee Members

Arthur J. Batacchi, Jr.

Charles B. Flynn

Françoise Lartigue

Maria Rundle

Jennifer Sahn

H. Dennis Sears

Kristen Sparhawk

Vito Valentini

FORM OF VOTE FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

VOTED: That the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (“SBRSD”) hereby appropriates the amount of \$7,741,000.00 for the purpose of paying costs of the **SBRSD Roof/Boiler Project at Mt. Everett/Undermountain School, 491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield, MA 01257 consisting of replacing the entire roof and three boilers**, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the “Project”), which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended at the direction of **SBRSD School Building Committee**. To meet this appropriation the District is authorized to borrow said amount, under and pursuant to Chapter 71, Section 16(n), of the General Laws and the District Agreement, as amended, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The District acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA shall not exceed the lesser of (1) **thirty-nine and twenty-one one hundredths percent (39.21%)** of eligible, approved Project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA and any additional grant funding received for this project by the District.

FURTHER VOTED: That within **seven (7)** days from the date on which this vote is adopted the Secretary be and hereby is instructed to notify the Board of Selectmen of each of the member towns of this District as to the amount and general purposes of the debt herein authorized, as required by the District Agreement and by Chapter 71, Section 16(n), of the General Laws.

