

**JOINT MEETING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWNS OF ALFORD, EGREMONT, MONTEREY, NEW
MARLBOROUGH AND SHEFFIELD
JULY 17, 2008
SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL – 2ND FLOOR
7:00 PM**

Present: Julie M. Hannum, Sheffield Chairman
David D. Macy, Sheffield
James T. Collingwood Sr., Sheffield
Bruce Turner, Egremont Chairman
Tom Haas, Egremont
Bruce Cumsy, Egremont
David Lowman, New Marlborough
Charles Loring, III, New Marlborough
Charles Ketchen, Alford Chairman
Jonathan Sylbert, Monterey

Herb Abelow, SBRSD Committee Chairman

Ms. Hannum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss collaboration efforts with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD).

Mr. Abelow stated that it was the consensus of the SBRSD Committee that he discuss collaboration efforts with Steve Bannon, Chairman BHRSD Committee. Mr. Abelow is prepared to move forward with this meeting if that is favorable with the Boards present tonight. Mr. Abelow stated that the SBRSD Committee has not discussed collaboration other than to agree that the Chairmen of both Districts should meet. Mr. Abelow said all issues would be on the table, however he would focus efforts on short-term projects.

Discussion ensued on services that could be shared. It was agreed that the first step would be to support a meeting between Mr. Abelow and Mr. Bannon. Of those present, all agreed that we need to move slowly, but keep in mind the possibility of a proposed merger. Mr. Sylbert said that we have a window of opportunity to share the services of a superintendent with the BHRSD's Superintendent retiring next year and the SBRSD post currently filled on an interim basis.

Board members agreed to entertain questions from the audience.

Sheffield resident Dennis Sears discussed the involvement of the Department of Education with any collaboration efforts.

School Committee member Susan Young discussed which services possibly could be shared.

Discussion ensued on a timeline for the next Five Town Board of Selectmen meeting. Mr. Abelow will notify the Boards with the results of his meeting with Mr. Bannon. The next meeting will be scheduled after hearing from Mr. Abelow.

Ms. Hannum adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator
Town of Sheffield