

School Committee Minutes
Hapgood Room, Old Library
Monday, November 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Nancy Lancellotti, Mary Traphagen, Kirsten Wright (6:26 p.m.), Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight, Absent: Jennifer Bedford and Lorraine Leonard.

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Lin read the Vision Statement.

Open to Interested Citizens' Commentary

John Babcock and Timur Sahin introduced themselves as Boy Scouts attending the meeting for the purpose of earning a Citizenship of the Community Merit Badge.

Student Report

Kenneth Lin reported that 12 students were accepted to the Central Music Festival with over half being recommended to All State. This is a remarkable achievement for our music department. Kenneth reported that the Senior Class met with Mr. O'Shea and discussed the idea of an "Open Campus". Mr. O'Shea is in discussion with the class president to see if the campus boundary could extend to the General Store. They are working on a recommendation to bring forward for School Committee.

Trip Approval

Field trip approval for the Dominican Republic in February 2017 was tabled until Ms. Mattie is available to present to the Committee.

Parking Lot Project Preview

Dr. Dwight informed the Committee that Ross Associates completed the plan for the upper Bromfield parking lot. Rich Nota led a meeting where Rob from Ross Associates described the details and answered questions. There will be 109 spaces for cars (several marked for visitors), two way traffic patterns throughout, sidewalks on both sides, trash dumpsters moved to the back corner, downward facing lighting on the islands, and drainage treatment. If the project is supported by CPIC it will be co-sponsored by the Board of Selectmen and School Committee and put forth at Town Meeting for the amount of \$275,000.

HCT MOU review

Kirsten Wright met with Koralia Franklin and Stu Sklar to review the Memorandum of Understanding between the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Board of Selectman acting through Harvard's Community Cable Access Committee (HCTV). HCTV is thrilled with their permanent space. They are looking forward to students being able to use the space more often. The MOU supports their mission statement. Currently the School Committee absorbs into their operating budget the cost of utilities and custodial care for the HCTV space at The Bromfield School. The Committee would like to see if HEAC could determine the cost of electricity based on equipment use and then determine if the agreement should be modified as it pertains to costs. The Committee asked to have the Town and School legal counsel review the MOU to define the language and to better define the CORI requirements so they align with school policy. The Committee will bring back for review again once additional data is gathered. It was also discussed that HCTV and the School Committee were open to write a combined report for the town's Annual Report.

Budget

Dr. Dwight presented changes to the proposed 2017 Budget. The changes resulted in the budget being reduced by \$90,000 to bring it to \$12,660,047 for a 2.7% increase. Reductions were made as follows:

Maintenance – various cuts \$5,000

Bromfield – reduction of ½ the graphing calculators \$5,000- Shaw Trust offset increased by \$8,445

HES – reduced one kindergarten aide - \$12,000

Technology – reduce replacement of desktops and laptops - \$20,000

Pupil Services – increase in Circuit Breaker offset - \$40,000

Dr. Dwight reviewed each section of the budget book which included budget reports from Community Education and School Lunch. Dr. Dwight reviewed the adjusted Technology plan for 1:World Device leases. The plan will include iPads for Grades 5 through 7 and MacBook's for Grade 8. The 9-12 grade rollouts will be excluded from the plan until more research can be done to determine the best platform to use in those grades. Dr. Dwight explained the plan going forward is to advance on the SAMR model and also to use technology for project based learning, global connections and authentic problem solving.

User Fee

SusanMary Redinger began the discussion of user fees by explaining the current fee schedule. Currently students are charged between \$260 and \$395 to participate in sports with no cap. Students in grades K-6 who live more than 2 miles from the school ride the bus without charge, all other students K-12 pay \$225 to ride the bus with a \$600 family cap. Harvard charge \$3,750 per student/per year for its full day Kindergarten program. The following was presented as one consideration to reduce user fees:

- The cost of coaches' salaries/stipends in the schools' operating budget - \$124,000 would allow us to reduce user fees to \$225 per sport.
- The cost to eliminate bus user fees for students in grade K-6 would be \$15,075.
- No plan to reduce Full-Day Kindergarten User Fees

After discussion it was determined that a survey would be presented to parents to get their feedback on bus user fees and how the fees impact participation. Nancy Lancellotti agreed to draft a transportation survey to parents and have the results available before the December 14th meeting. It was also discussed that the Committee would need to add at least \$22,000 to get the athletic account out of deficit. Kirsten Wright agreed to come up with a different model for lowering user fees.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight reported that 35 people attended the public forum on school safety and participated in question/answer session. The Fire Chief, Police Chief, Principals and Dr. Dwight shared updates, structures, education, and support services and then answered questions as posed by the audience members. The forum helped to gain family perspectives on several issues. It was determined that if a student is interviewed a phone call should go home to parents before the child gets home. Additionally, the security cameras will be installed in the next several weeks. They will store 30 days of data to a secure server. The cameras will be strategically placed to cover the areas identified by the team as the most critical. Future cameras may be added to the system at any time and connected to the server. Dr. Dwight also reported that the third graders continued a Thanksgiving tradition of baking cranberry bread for a local food kitchen. Parents provided the supplies and helped with the fun activity.

Report out of Liaison

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC met this morning. CPIC plans to meet on Monday night with the school department to ask follow up questions and HEAC. SusanMary Redinger reported that The Master Plan Steering Committee held a presentation on Devens. The consultant explained the different elements of the plan and how resuming jurisdiction of Devens would impact it or not. The conversation needs to get started with Ayer and Shirley about how we are going to present a recommendation to the legislature and it would be great if there was an agreement by all three towns. Maureen Babcock reported that elections were held last week for DEAC. Maureen Babcock and Deb Rivera were elected.

Mary Traphagen reported that the Athletic Advisory met and they are waiting to see how the budget is able to support their request to reduce user fees. They are willing to meet with the Finance Committee to answer any questions. Mary Traphagen reported that the Calendar Committee met and discussed conference format, early release start times, March school break and report cards.

Dr. Dwight presented two gifts from the Harvard School Trust for approval

Speaker from Alliance on Climate Change – Bromfield Green Team - \$1,500
Civil War Living History Event - \$3,150

Nancy Lancellotti made the motion Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the Harvard Schools Trust gifts as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Future Agenda Items

Science Lab

Budget -User Fees

Policy

MassDevelopment – Thatcher Keezer

Student presentations

Trip Approval

Bromfield House

Cameras/School Security

Open to Interested Citizens' and School Committee Commentary

None

Closing Commentary

Maureen Babcock – thankful for all of the hard work everyone does in the schools.
Second and third to that.

SusanMary Redinger – shout out to all of the people who put the Little Mermaid production together and for all the work putting the upcoming Les Miserable together thankful for the teachers who are amazing in their care and commitment of our students - thank you for being my partners and doing great things for the schools.

Nancy Lancellotti thanked the PTO for the teacher appreciation dinner – great event with a lot of families participating.

Adjournment:

SusanMary Redinger made a motion to adjourn with no objections at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary

