

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 23, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright

Absent: Piali De and Lorraine Leonard

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Susan Mary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting.

VOTE (3/0) to accept Patty Wenger abstained due to absence.

Student Report

Carolyn Mazzola report that the junior class hosted the Snowball dance on Saturday night and it was a huge success, with a good time had by all. This week the Student Council will be hosting the Snowflake dance for grades 7, 8 and 9. The Model UN will be attending a conference this coming Thursday through Sunday at Harvard University where they will be showcasing what they have been working on all year.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that Drama/Theatre Arts teacher Ted Zayka resigned for personal health issues. Immediately Mike McGarty was sought to fill in as a sub until long terms plans could be made. Much thanks to Mr. McGarty for his help. Mr. Jerome Babst has been hired to replace Ted for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Connelly report that he has received a resignation from fourth grade teacher, Tamara Wilkinson and retirements from Grade 5, Terry Monette, math Department, Dennis DeGara and Social Studies Department, Karen Deneen. The administration and HTA is working to bring forward a draft 2012/2013 school calendar for approval at the first meeting in February. Dr. Connelly reported that Jim Keefe from Mass Development reported that a Super Town Meeting is scheduled for March. Joe reported that Lorraine Leonard has agreed to establish a separate technology fund so that the Devens fund earmarked to be used for the Technology Plan purchases can be transferred immediately. Mark Lavertue has agreed to be the administrator responsible for processing all purchase orders from this account so that we will maintain complete control over what equipment has been purchased and at what price.

School Committee Report

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council met and brain stormed next year's School Improvement Plan and began the discussion of researching Wellness/Health curriculum. SusanMary also asked that if you have not already done so please take the Master Plan Steering committee survey.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council met and discussed Project Interface. Jim O'Shea explained the changes being made to regarding study halls. Tomorrow School Council meets at 3:00. The NEASC Steering Committee has done amazing work and is making arrangements for the visiting team's visit. Kirsten also reported that there is a short time line to get firm answers to Boxborough regarding Harvard's interest in a union operation. It was decided that a subcommittee would be formed in order to get the questions out there and then strategize to get answers and let people know the process.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary seconded to move that we charge the Administrative Model Subcommittee with the task of expanding the committee to no more than 12 members constituted by the people that will be deemed appropriate for the purpose of bringing back information needed in order for the School Committee to plan to evaluate the Boxborough Unionization model.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

The Administrative Model Subcommittee will update the full committee at every meeting.

The committee discussed appointing a designated person to negotiate a flexible work schedule with the Superintendent.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we authorize Keith Cheveralls to enter into contract negotiations with Joseph Connelly to work out the detail of a flexible schedule and bring draft back to the full committee at the earliest convenience.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Maureen Babcock reported that several residents of the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone are headed to the statehouse on Wednesday, January 25th to present their petition before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. The next DEAC meeting is scheduled for January 31st at 7:00 p.m.

Keith Cheveralls reported that Trinity Financial has invited any interested School Committee members to attend a tour of their Appleton Mill property in Lowell. The tours are being held February 9th and February 23rd. Keith reminded the committee that they will need to be prepared to answer questions on the town meeting floor regarding education should the Vicksburg Square development go through. The committee may have an agenda item to prepare for the special town meeting. Keith reported that he had updated the CPIC that the technology plan would be taken off the capital plan and be funded through school funds. Keith Cheveralls reported that the School Committee will be voting on the school budget at their February 13th meeting. Keith Cheveralls was asking for volunteers to attend the Science Fair on Friday, February 10th as judges.

Harvard Schools Trust Gift Acceptance

Dr. Connelly presented the following gifts for School Committee approval.

HES Microphones \$276, TBS “Connected” Screening \$1,900, HES Lobby display \$1,515.40, TBS “World of Difference \$3,800, HES Star Party \$110.00, TBS Model UN Russia trip \$3,000.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger second to move that we accept the six grants from the Harvard School Trust as describe by Dr. Connelly with deep appreciation and gratitude.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

School Committee Policy Review and Amendments

The committee reviewed policies in Section D that had no changes.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we accept the recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee to approve the list of existing policies with no change.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Policy D Fiscal Management changes to policy DAA, DB, DBD, DBJ DIC, and DKA

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we approve the Section D policies as amended with the exception of policy DBJ.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Policy DBJ requires further review and the committee would like input from the Finance Director, Lorraine Leonard.

The committee reviewed the policies in Section K that had no changes.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we accept the recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee to approve the Section K policies that have no recommended changes as presented.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Under the Policy Section K of the policies that were amended there were two corrections regarding the capitalization of "School Council" and fixing "chairmen" to chairperson.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we accept the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee to approve the Section K policies as amended.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

The committee reviewed policies in Section L that had no changes.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we accept the recommendations of the Policy Subcommittee to accept Section L policies as presented with no change.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Adoption of Interim Athletic Concussion Policy – second reading

The committee read through the Interim Athletic Concussion Policy and after a few grammatical corrections SusanMary made the following motion.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we accept the Interim Athletic Concussion Policy File JJIF as amended.

Review and approve School Committee's report to be submitted for the Town's Annual Report

The School Committee reviewed the submission of their annual report.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we accept the current draft of the School Committee submission of the annual report as presented.

Bromfield School Improvement Plan

Jim O'Shea and Linda Dwight presented the School Improvement Plans for The Bromfield School and Hildreth Elementary School– mid-year update. Jim and Linda gave an overview of steps taken and progress made relative to specific goals in the school improvement plan.

FY13 Draft 2 Budget Review and Further Action

Dr. Connelly presented for review the Draft #2 budget with an increase of \$128,806 or 1.13% from the Draft #1 budget. There are still 8 items left not funded from the “unmet” needs list. We may be able to fund remaining items with unanticipated personnel changes. We are in a very favorable position and better than we have experienced in years. We will be voting on the budget at our next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Vicksburg Square discussion
Admin structure model update
Special presentations
Superintendent evaluation subcommittee
User Fees Surveys
Five year strategic Plan Review

Commentary

Patty Wenger – Great meeting
Maureen Babcock – Glad to see the principals coming in and sharing progress
SusanMary Redinger – Amazing how much we are getting done
Kirsten Wright – Refreshing to see how its all connected to what matters
Keith Cheveralls – Good stuff !

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.

VOTE (4/0)

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary