

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 9, 2012
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, SusanMary Redinger, Piali De, Maureen Babcock, Kirsten Wright

Absent: Patty Wenger

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful 2012.

Dr. Joseph Connelly presented a very special award from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) for academic excellence to Erin Molinaro.

Susan Mary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2011 meeting.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to accept the minutes of the December 8th meeting.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the minutes of the December 12 meeting as amended.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Student Report

Nick George reported students are getting back to work after a nice winter vacation. The Snowball and the Snowflake dance are being planned and will be coming up at the end of January. Winter sports are underway and the boy's basketball team is doing pretty well.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that the College Board has invited The Bromfield School to be represented at a celebration luncheon to be held on January 30, 2012 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. Dr. Connelly announced that Russell Wass has been chosen to represent The Bromfield School faculty and Harvard Public Schools at this prestigious event. Dr. Connelly reported that at the next School Committee meeting principals from TBS and HES will be presenting their midyear school improvement progress report. Dr. Connelly asked that the committee approve membership to the Suburban Coalition which is an alternating yearly cost with the town and it is the School Committee's turn to pay.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we approve funding for membership to the Suburban Coalition.

School Committee Report

Maureen Babcock reported that on January 18th there will be a public hearing for the purpose of information sharing regarding the Vicksburg Square project.

Piali De reported that the NEASC Steering Committee meets next Tuesday and after Friday they will have reviewed and approved 6 of the 7 quality assessment standards.

Kirsten Wright reported that SEPAC meets tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Bromfield School library. They are sponsoring a “transition plan” presentation that will address the transitions that students are presented with when they transition from 5th to 6th grade 8th to 9th grade and from high school to college.

Kirsten reported that the Bromfield School Council met on December 13th and Glen Tarullo reported positive results from a grade 6 survey that focused on transition. The council will be meeting again tomorrow.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering committee has their survey on the town website and encouraged all Harvard residents to take the survey in order to have a say in Harvard’s future. SusanMary also reported that Hildreth School Council had met and went over the World Language initiative as well as the administrative model options.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Finance Committee and School Committee would be meeting on Wednesday to present the level service proposed FY13 budget with the prioritized list.

Keith also reported that the Capital Planning & Investment Committee will be meeting to review the FY13 school requests at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Library. Keith thanked the Student Council for inviting the School Committee to their meeting and looks forward to picking up those meeting in 2012. Keith and Kirsten are scheduled to meet with HTA co-chairs, Kellie Carlucci and Sharlene Tuttle on February 1st.

School Committee Policy Review and Amendments

The committee reviewed policy Section B in two sections, policies that were reviewed with no changes and policies that were review and amended

Pilai De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we approve the amendments to policy B as presented.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Policy D will be brought back to the next meeting with changes.

Dr. Connelly read the requirement for the Athletic Concussion policy JJIF. By law a policy must be adopted by January 1, 2012. The policy subcommittee developed an interim policy with the intent to form a committee to create a permanent policy. First reading of Interim Policy JJIF, second reading will include update on the formation of the Athletic Concussion Policy subcommittee.

District Administrative Structure second review and vote on model for FY13

The committee discussed administrative models being considered for FY13. Dr. Connelly updated the committee on Boxborough’s commitment to decide on either a union model with Harvard or a regionalization merger with Acton. Members felt that before a union model can be determined there would need to be more input from the community. Discussion continued regarding the part time superintendent model that could be more of a flexible schedule and more like a .7 or .8 FTE work year. In her absence, Keith Cheveralls read into record Patty Wenger’s comments on the administrative model she supported.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded that the School Committee negotiate a flexible work schedule for the upcoming school year 2012/2013 with Dr. Joseph Connelly and the committee begin a long term superintendent search to begin no later than October of 2012.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

District Wide Technology Plan – second reading with revisions and note on plan

The Technology Plan Subcommittee revised three sections of the technology plan to better address how the acquisition of the technology requested would be used to enhance student learning.

Piali De made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adopt the Harvard Public Schools Instructional Technology Report dated 2011-2014 with revision to guide and inform technology expenditures up to \$362,000 with a funding source to be identified.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

FY12 Budget with all revolving funds update and also including review and vote on changes to school lunch program.

Lorraine Leonard reviewed with the committee all revolving fund totals to date. Of note is the Devens revolving balance of \$262,000 which could be encumbered for technology plan purchases. Dr. Connelly explained to the committee steps taken to offset the deficit in the food service program. Increase in school lunch costs requires a School Committee vote.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we approved an increase effective January 3rd to increase the adult lunch from \$3.00 to \$4.00 and increase the student hot lunch from \$2.00 to \$2.50.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the omnibus budget with changes made to accounts surplus over the past month. Attention was brought to the \$168,000 surplus in the omnibus budget with the possibility of using up to \$100,000 to fund remaining part of technology plan.

FY13 Draft 1 Budget and Capital requests. Review of revisions to finalize draft and prepare for meeting with Finance Committee

The Committee went over recommended actions/considerations on the proposed FY13 draft #1 school budget, which netted an overall increase of \$81,726 to the FY13 proposed budget. The committee would like to lobby for Item 5 (World Language Initiative \$20K) and Item 8 (textbooks and curriculum materials TBS – \$38,000) from the prioritized list to be funded.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we adopt suggested revision to the proposed FY13 Draft #1 budget.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we encumber \$362,000 to implement our technology plan with \$100,000 coming from unspent FY12 omnibus budget and the remaining \$262,000 coming from the surplus in the Devens revolving fund.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

The following technology equipment was approved to be immediately purchased totaling \$94,840.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Wireless Wan - | \$10,000 |
| Fiber OptioConnection | \$25,000 |
| Wireless Coverage | \$10,000 |
| Misc Connector, Cables | \$ 650 |
| LCD Projector | \$ 5,114 |
| 24 Desktop Computers | \$10,800 |
| 24 Laptop Mice | \$ 360 |
| 24 Headphones with Mic | \$ 816 |
| 8 Laptops for Teachers | \$ 8,800 |
| 2 Color Laser printers | \$ 1,800 |
| Adobe Software | \$ 13,000 |
| Language Lab Contact | \$ 8,500 |

Piali De made motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we authorize the spending as identified from the FY12 omnibus budget.

VOTE (4/0) to accept

Future Agenda Items

School Improvement Plan update
Policy D, K, L
Annual report

Commentary

Piali De – Making lots of decisions, loves working with this committee

Kirsten Wright – Wow!

Keith Cheveralls – Overwhelming and staggering amount of work to get through – accomplished a lot.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.

VOTE (4/0)

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary