

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, March 12, 2012
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Kirsten Wright, Patty Wenger, SusanMary Redinger, Piali De (arrived at 6:50 p.m.) and Maureen Babcock (arrived at 8:25 p.m.)

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Dr. Joseph Connelly read a prepared announcement regarding the closure of the Route 110/111 overpass/bridge over Route 2 which was closed by the State Highway Department effective Tuesday, March 13th for emergency repairs.

KirstenWright made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting as amended.

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

Student Report

Nick George reported that last Friday's Student Council meeting with the School Committee was very productive and enlightening. The Student Council is grateful to have met and shared information. This past weekend was the Drama Festival and Bromfield Drama is very excited to have moved on to compete at the state level and hope to do well. Spring sports start next Monday. Kids are looking forward to getting outside in the fresh air.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly shared the invitation for the "Day on the Hill" coming up on March 27th. The final date for registration is March 19th. SusanMary and Joe plan to attend. The Superintendent discussed a conflict on the School Committee meeting calendar for May 28th which is Memorial Day. The Committee will move their meeting to Tuesday, May 29th.

School Committee Report

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council talked about the need for a Wellness Curriculum at HES. Discussion at School Council around what could be implemented without added costs. School Council is working on their School Improvement Plan.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council is discussing the Wellness topic as well. Jim O'Shea is attending training on the "Get Real" health curriculum today and will bring back information to the council.

Kirsten Wright reported that SEPAC met on March 2nd and plans to partner with Bolton on some parent workshops. SEPAC is looking at the wellness overlap.

Kirsten Wright reported that DEAC met and discussed the Devens education survey that will be sent out by DEAC member Leslie Doolittle.

Keith Cheveralls gave a recap on Capital Planning and Investment. The six items heading for town meeting approval are School Signs \$13,000, TBS carpet replacement \$22,500, TBS Alarm System \$10,600, TBS Pond Road parking lot \$75,000, and TBS Tennis Court \$24,500. Each of these items will need to be spoken about at the annual town meeting.

Keith thanked the Finance Committee for their work and support of the FY13 budget.

The Bromfield School Student Presentation –Wyatt Holt – Debate Club

Clara Wang founded the club three years ago when she was an 8th grader. Mr. Holt is the advisor for the club. At meetings the group practices arguments and oral speeches. The club has participated in three debate competitions this year. Nick George also a member of the Debate Club reported that it helps student with presentations and writing papers. The club has gone from arguing to debating issues. Nick said the club is growing and Mr. Holt is a great coach.

Five Year Financial Plan

Lorraine Leonard talked through updates to the five year financial plan. COLAs in the projection are only shown if an existing contract has negotiated COLAs. The assumption is that retirements balance column moves so neither one is included in the report. Devens and School Choice are level funded. When the “calculator” is finished, Lorraine will bring forward to the School Committee to review so they can get a sense of what things look like going forward.

FY13 School Budget Update

The committee discussed the increase of \$5,253 approved by the Finance Committee for the FY13 budget. The committee discussed a request from the Finance Committee to move \$23,475 from the Maintenance Department salary line to the DPW salary line to cover the cost of the groundskeeper/field maintenance. The committee discussed having a Memorandum of Understanding written up so that the DPW will not lose sight that this person will still have responsibilities to maintain the school grounds. The Committee scheduled a special meeting for Monday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m. to finalize the FY13 budget.

HES Interim Positions (Associate Principal, Director of Reading K-8, Literacy Coach .5 Vertical team leader

Dr. Linda Dwight presented a report on the HES positions that were created this year as interim positions. Dr. Dwight reported on the effectiveness of these positions and the positive impact these positions make on the instructional program at HES. Dr. Dwight congratulated Piali De and Kirsten Wright for their vision of this very collaborative effort. The intention of the positions being made interim for the first year was so as not to impose something on a new principal.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we make the positions as outlined (Director of Reading K-8, Literacy Coach .5 FTE, Associate Principal and Math Curriculum Coordinator and Curriculum Leaders) into permanent positions.

VOTE (4/0) to accept (Keith Cheveralls abstained from discussion and voting)

Administrative Restructuring Study

Dr. Connelly reported that the expanded “School Union” study committee has been busy researching and finalizing answers to questions dealing with the impact of forming a Harvard/Boxborough School Union. During the past week several members met with the Tri-Town School Union representatives who currently hold the jobs being considered by Harvard and Boxborough. The study committee will meet again tomorrow with Superintendent Bates from Boxborough and Superintendent Creeden from the Tri-Town School Union to ask questions to help formulate answers to the many identified questions about the School Union model. A public hearing has been schedule for April 2nd at Volunteers Hall to address community concerns and answer any questions. The School Committee will take a position on the school union administrative model on April 9th.

2011-2012 Superintendent/School Committee Annual Goals Report

The committee reviewed the annual goals report with Superintendent Connelly. The intent of the goals report is to assist the School Committee as they complete their individual Superintendent Evaluation form.

Superintendent Annual Evaluation Process

All School Committee members will complete the evaluation instrument and submit to the evaluation subcommittee on or before the March 26, 2012 School Committee meeting. The evaluation subcommittee will develop a composite evaluation to be presented to the Superintendent before the next School Committee meeting (April 9th, 2012). At the April 9th School Committee meeting the annual Superintendent Evaluation will be presented and discussed in open session.

After two minor changes to the Superintendent Evaluation form the committee voted to approve the instrument and the procedure.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the Superintendent Evaluation and Procedure instrument as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we make SusanMary Redinger and Kirsten Wright the Evaluation Subcommittee for school year 2012.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

2012-2021 Enrollment Capacity Report

Dr. Connelly presented through PowerPoint presentation the enrollment capacity report. Dr. Connelly explained how the report was developed reviewed the data for future enrollment projections. The data always can be used to see if and how the approval of the Vicksburg Square development would impact the enrollment number for Harvard.

Mass Development Readiness Meeting in preparation for Super Town Meeting

In preparation for the Super Town Meeting the Board of Selectman suggested that Mass Development meet with the Harvard School Committee to discuss long range plans for educating the Devens children. On March 2nd the School Committee met to discuss what they would ask Mass Development. Kirsten Wright, SusanMary Redinger and Joseph Connelly met with Mass Development in what was described as a productive, positive meeting. Mass Development and Harvard want to maintain a positive working relationship. Mass Development is not looking to drastically lower the per pupil costs and are interested in negotiating a fair and equitable long term contract. Keith will work with George Rameriz to draft a joint statement.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we authorize Keith Cheveralls to work with George Rameriz from Mass Development to create a communication to be distributed to Harvard and Devens residents.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

Future Agenda Items

Budget book contents

Public Hearing

School Committee self assessment

Strategic Plan update

Security System at Bromfield

Accountability around NEASC

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the committee go into Executive Session as allowed under MGL Chapter 30A Section 18-25 for the sole purpose of contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. Following executive session the Committee will reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjourning only.

Cheveralls (Aye), Wright (Aye), Redinger (Aye), De (Aye), Wenger (Aye)

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

VOTE (5/0)

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary