

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, May 29, 2012
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Kirsten Wright, Bob Sullebarger, SusanMary Redinger, Patty Wenger, Joseph Connelly, and Lorraine Leonard, Maureen Babcock – Absent- Keith Cheveralls

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to accept the minutes from the May 14, 2012 meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Global Child Presentation

Global Child instructors Suni and Diane along with several students from Hildreth Elementary attended the meeting to present some of the Spanish words and songs they have learned this year. The Global Child program will continue next year at Hildreth Elementary School

Student Report

Nick George reported that school is winding down and graduation will be held this Friday at 5:30. The sports season has finished up and school is heading into the home stretch to summer vacation. The prom and celebration were very well run, it was above and beyond. There was tons of food and things to do and there was approximately 90% participation.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that 16 applications were reviewed for the IT Manager position being vacated by Mark Lavertue. Second interviews will be held tomorrow and the final candidate will hopefully be selected by Friday, June 1st. Dr. Connelly also reported that the kindergarten enrollment stands at 52 students. We are keeping a 2nd grade teaching slot vacant in case the fourth full day kindergarten class does not fill. Linda Dwight is confident that she has qualified candidates to fill that position if a determination is made to have four full day kindergarten classes.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Patty Wenger would like to have the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee on the agenda in July. Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council has a parent opening and for any interested candidate to contact the PTO. The Council is working on the School Improvement Plan. Jim O'Shea has put together a subcommittee to update the wellness policy. It is hoped that the amended policy can be reviewed at the June 11th meeting. The 7th grade Wellness Seminar was well attended. Chief Denmark commented on the great partnership and communication between schools, parents and police to keep students safe.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC meets tomorrow.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the administrative team is working on the website improvements with the expectation that the site will be more user friendly. The Master Plan Steering Committee is ready to send out an RFP for Stage 2 of the plan which was funded at town meeting. The schools will be more involved in this phase. HES School Council finalized their School Improvement Plan for presentation at the June 11th meeting. Elections for School Council membership is underway with 4 people running for 2 open slots. There is a need for one community member. If interested please contact Linda Dwight. There is also a need for the Monty Tech representative from Harvard. Please contact SusanMary Redinger if interested. The Board of Selectman would like the slot filled by the end of June.

Bromfield Journalism Class Field Trip to The New York Times

Jessica Hyde presented a request to the committee that she and Barbara Shea be given permission to take students from the Journalism class to New York City to visit the New York Times. The trip is being funded by the Harvard Schools Trust and the students will travel to and from New York City on the same day by bus.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we approve the out of state trip to the New York Times building in New York City on June 8th.

VOTE 4/0

Personnel Update

Dr. Connelly informed the committee that Linda Dwight and Pam DeGregorio have determined that two Special Education positions will not be required this year. To date the current 2012/2013 personnel salary balance is 472,109 with 5.2 positions yet to be filled.

FY12 Year End Projections

Lorraine Leonard reported that there are very minor changes to the projected year end surplus. Lorraine reported that she will not be in attendance at the June 11th meeting, but will send Joe Connelly the information so the committee can discuss how best to spend the surplus funds. The Committee suggested inviting Linda Dwight and Gretchen Henry to the next meeting to discuss the cost and implementation of the elementary Math program that is being considered for purchase.

User Fee Comparison Study

Superintendent Connelly shared a user fee survey he completed of Central Mass Public Schools which indicated that Harvard ranked first in the sports fee category. Dr. Connelly indicated by adding the Athletic Director's salary of \$25,009 to the omnibus budget, user fees could be reduced by 10% based on revenue of \$250,000.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded that we approve the proposed 10% reduction as presented of 2012/2013 Athletic User Fees.

VOTE 4/0

Summer Meeting Dates

The Committee chose to meet four times over the summer. The Committee will meet:

July 11th - 9:00 a.m. to close out the books

July 30th - 6:00 p.m.

August 27th - 6:00 p.m.

Preliminary Discussion on Superintendent Search

Joe Connelly suggested inviting Mike Gilbert or Glen Koocher as consultants to discuss first steps and sort through the information to determine the disadvantage or advantage of advertising for a part time or full time position and the approach to use with going with a private firm or MASC. It was suggested that we get a list of other School Committees who have hired Superintendents in recent years to talk to them about the process they used. The decision was made to talk with a private firm and MASC to see which direction and approach to use and then have an RFP prepared. A Subcommittee will be put together at the next meeting.

Preliminary Discussion on Superintendent and School Committee Goals

The Committee came up with a preliminary list of goals/outcome for the 2012/2013 school year.

*Superintendent Search and transition

*Implementation of Common Core State Standards

*Development and negotiation of Educator Evaluation Model to be implemented in the 2013/2014.

*Continued implementation and oversight of the Harvard Technology Plan.

*Development of a long range plan/strategy for potential declining enrollment that will guide the district's management of class sizes and use of school choice

*Mission statement for the District.

*Long Term Planning and Capital needs

*Identify Curriculum needs

*HES Math Program

SusanMary will send out the list and will ask members to brainstorm any more suggested items to add to the list. The committee will consider all items submitted at the June 11th meeting at which point they will finalize the outcomes selected.

School Committee Self-Assessment Report and Discussion

The Committee discussed the result of the School Committee Self-Assessment Report. The scores ranged from low to high 3's out of a four point system. One area that the Committee scored high was on its ability to work well together. It was suggested that the Committee share this self-evaluation instrument with the prospective superintendent candidates.

Future Agenda Items

School Improvement Plans

HEAC meeting – July

Wellness Policy June 11th

DEAC Survey June 11th

FY12 close out

K-update

Personnel

Flashing Light grant

Liaison - drop/add

Superintendent Search

Goals

Commentary

Patty Wenger – Celebration was well done

Bob Sullebarger – Looking forward to attending graduation, had fun signing diplomas

Maureen Babcock – Enjoyed the Global Child presentation and excited about the opportunity of embracing world language at the elementary school.

SusanMary – Loved the Global Child presentation – such a fulfillment.

Kirsten – So thankful to live in a town where there is so much community support and the right message is being sent that we care and support our students.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullegabarger seconded to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary