

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 28, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the January 14th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

SusanMary Redinger announced that superintendent finalist Mr. Scott Carpenter had withdrawn from the superintendent search. SusanMary Redinger also announced that the superintendent search is now closed. The Subcommittee is recommending continuing with an interim superintendent for next year and starting a new search for a permanent superintendent in the fall. The committee will need to apply for a critical shortage waiver from the state if members wish to rehire Dr. Connelly for another year as interim. SusanMary Redinger recommended debriefing with the members of the Superintendent Search Committee to get the benefit of wisdom from the first search and consider options moving forward.

Reports

Student Report – Arpitha Hayes reported that the second semester ended and everyone will start third semester with a clean slate, A+ in all classes! The Snowball was held by the junior class this past Saturday. The theme for the night was Atlantis and everything was great, including the live fish!!

Superintendent Report - Dr. Connelly shared with the committee the quote to install a swipe card security system at the Bromfield School. Funding for the buzz in security system has already been approved and the swipe card could be added to allow for staff to enter and exit the school throughout the day. The committee decided to wait on the swipe card system at this point.

Liaison & Subcommittee

Bob Sullebarger reported that the solar system training was performed today. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 22nd to run in conjunction with the Earth Day Fair. The HEAC is seeking students as a possible senior project opportunity to collect and report data on the system.

Bob Sullebarger reported that the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee will be meeting every other Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the Bromfield School to collect information for their declining enrollment report.

SusanMary Redinger reported that she had met with Steve Beckman and Jill Reiter to discuss the upcoming Town of Harvard Public Safety Symposium to be held on March 23rd at The Bromfield School – Cronin Auditorium. Featured speakers promise to make this a very worthwhile "can't miss" program for school and public safety personnel.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council is working on the School Improvement Plan and reviewing growth and development video's in order to make a recommendation for implementation to the wellness program.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council will meet tomorrow at 3:00.

Kirsten Wright reported that SEPAC met last week. Dr. Dubrule and Dr. Dwight attended the meeting. The meeting highlighted the Peter Pan Center in Ayer, which is a great resource for social learning opportunities for students on the Autism spectrum. The center has a great working relationship with teachers in Harvard.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the CPIC met on January 17th and completed the rating procedure for all capital requests. The Finance Committee will meet on Saturday to finalize the list, the only school project at risk is the HES storage shed which may need to be funded from outside of capital. Keith will keep the committee updated as to what made the cut list.

Keith Cheveralls offered accolades to The Bromfield School, the PTO and the Lions Club for their cooperation and responsiveness in accommodating the HCTV project. The project is off to a fantastic start. The project creates a great opportunity for students to visit the site to see their Monty Tech peers in action.

FY14 Budget School Budget Deliberation – Draft #2

Dr. Connelly reviewed the FY14, Draft #2 budget which reflects the School Committee action taken at the January 14th meeting increasing the FY14 budget from \$11,812,996 (2.85%) Draft #1 to \$11,840,378 (3.09%). Additional actions for the School Committee to consider are eliminating the funding for the Minnow Cup program, adjusting the superintendent salary line, and possibly reducing the transportation line after a complete review of the bus bids is finished. Keith and Kirsten agreed to brainstorm with Community Ed, the Town Library, Parks and Recreation and the Community Center to see if there is an opportunity to stimulate a town wide dialogue about what services the town wants to provide and come back to the next meeting with some direction.

Harvard Public Schools Technology Plan Phase 5 Purchase Plan Approval

Dr. Connelly presented purchases identified in Phase 5 of the Technology Plan for School Committee consideration. The plan is 90% expended with Phase 5 being consider for tonight.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we approve expenditures of all items present in Phase 5 dated Dec/Jan 2012/2013 as presented

VOTE 4/0

TBS & HES School Improvement Plan

Dr. Linda Dwight and Mr. Jim O'Shea presented their School Improvement Progress Report for 2012/2013, highlighting progress as of January 2013. Jim O'Shea also reported on the NEASC recommendations and identified timelines and processes for developing responses to the recommendation made by the association in its report and the accreditation letter of January 11, 2013.

Special Education Director Job Posting

Dr. Connelly reviewed the job posting and timeline for the Director of Pupil Services. The posting will be advertised in the Boston Globe, School Spring and the MASC website. It was decided to add one person to the search committee that would represent an out of district parent. Also rather than identifying a specific salary, the language under salary will be changed to “regionally competitive salary”.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move to authorize the Superintendent to post for the Director of Pupil Services position as presented and amended tonight.

Discussion on “Going Paperless” on School Committee Packets

The Committee discussed the possibility of going paperless. There is interest in pursuing this possibility. Patty Wenger and SusanMary Redinger will investigate other communities that do it and bring back ideas to the community.

Future Agenda Items

Educator Evaluator
Newsletter
SC Self-Assessment
Superintendent Evaluation
Draft #2 budget
Presentations
Capital

Commentary

Kirsten Wright – shared her experience with how valuable the “Get Real” wellness program is working to help students understand how to deal with real life issues.

Bob Sullebarger – Invited members of the committee the guest author appearance of Paul Toft, author of “How Children Succeed” at the Fenn School on Thursday at 7:00. Paul Toft has been featured on NPR and is doing ground breaking research on the subject of children’s success.

SusanMary Redinger – passed on thanks and appreciation to Chris Boyle for the work involved in processing Phase 5 of the Technology Plan.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.
VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary