

School Committee Minutes
33 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA
Monday, October 9, 2012
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2012 meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2012 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

HES- Special Presentation – Jammin Minutes

Barbi Kelley with the help of several HES students discussed and demonstrated Harvard Elementary School's JAMmin minutes program.

Reports

No Student Report

Dr. Connelly reported on the Interim Special Education director position being filled with an interim from January through June. A full search will begin in February after completion of the Superintendent search.

Dr. Connelly reported that a preconstruction meeting was held on October 5 with Ostrow Electric. The work to complete the solar panel array project is scheduled to begin the week of October 15th. It is hopeful the project will be finished by the end of October and operational by December. This will be a great opportunity for students to learn about solar energy.

Liaison & Subcommittee

Maureen Babcock reported that a DEAC goal to increase communication resulted in the first published newsletter. There were five headlines articles which included facts on the new education contract with Harvard, the Minnow Cup, Ayer Shirley Regional building project, Devens enrollment figures and dates for DEAC meetings and election. Maureen will be presenting the newsletter to the MassDevelopment Board of Directors at their October 23rd meeting.

Keith Cheveralls reported that he attended the meeting with Ostrow Electric and is comfortable with the company meeting the new deadlines.

Keith Cheveralls along with Lorraine Leonard gave a final financial report on the HES playground project. The excess money raised will be evenly returned to the Shaw Trust, Town Article and HES Devens Capital account.

Keith Cheveralls reported that there is mounting excitement about the HCTV moving their operation to TBS. It is hoped that cost associated with Phase 1 will be shared between the school and town.

Bob Sullebarger thanked Kirsten and Patty for covering for him at the Bromfield School Council meeting.

Kirsten Wright reported that Dr. Connelly will be attending the SEPAC meeting on Thursday. SusanMary and Kirsten will be meeting with the HTA Chair and Co-Chair on November 9th.

Patty Wenger reported that OPEC (Other Post Employment Benefits) is moving forward. Patty reported The Bromfield School Council discussed the new family breakfast, the choral concert coming up on Thursday, the cable committee's move to TBS, the stress level amongst seniors, adding electives and the wellness program.

Approval of Gifts

Dr. Connelly presented for approval four grants approved by the Harvard Schools Trust totaling \$1300.

Rest Mat Bags for Kindergarten - \$185

Market Math - \$575

Weaving Together: Threads and Voices \$1,604

Stage Tech Power Tools - \$1063

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to accept the grants as submitted with acknowledgement and thanks to the Harvard Schools Trust.

VOTE 5/0

Enrollment Capacity Report

Dr. Connelly presented the Enrollment and Capacity Report for 2013-2022. SusanMary thanked Joe for the report and the importance of the report in managing the district. It is the ground work for the Enrollment Subcommittee to start their discussion on the issue of declining enrollment.

Keith encouraged the Enrollment Subcommittee to come up with a report to present at the annual town meeting.

CASE Collaborative 2013/2014 Classroom needs

Teresa Watts, Executive Director of CASE and Sandra Daigneault, Assistant Program Director visited HES last week and met with Dr. Dwight and Dr. Connelly to look at classroom space at HES to see if it would be possible to relocate a K-1 class currently located in Concord Carlisle. HPS would receive \$7,500 credit towards CASE FY14 tuition obligation for the use of this space. The status of this arrangement is tentative; it must first be approved by the CASE Board of Directors. Kirsten Wright read a letter from a parent indicating the positive impact the CASE class has had on HES in the past.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we authorize the Superintendent and Principal to make space available as appropriate for the CASE Collaborative.
VOTE (5/0)

Budget Review

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the FY13 budget expenditures through September 30, 2012 for expenses and August 31st for payroll. It will be determined in another month if subsidies will need to be adjusted.

Superintendent Search Update

The application documents including the brochure have been finalized and are being printed by MASC. The position has been posted in Education Week, School Spring with brochures from MASC being sent as soon as brochure is printed. The Search Committee appointed members have been notified and informed of the training orientation October 15th. Focus groups at HES and TBS have been scheduled and will be covered by SusanMary and Kirsten. The on-line staff and community survey has been completed and is now accessible on-line until October 8th.

Policy JFAB – Admission of Foreign Exchange Students – First Read

The Policy Subcommittee presented draft policy JFAB – Foreign Exchange Student Acceptance Policy. Kirsten Wright read through the first read of the policy. The committee will ask DEAC to weigh in on Deven's families hosting exchange students.

Planning Board is seeking feedback from all boards and committees on the addition of a town planner.

Although the position may not have direct benefit for the schools, Keith Cheveralls could see the value in a town planner position and urged a favorable response.

Future Agenda Items

Capital Plan

NEASC Evaluation

HCTV

Policy Review

POS Update

School Improvement Plans

MCAS, SAT AP Reports

Feedback to reduce stress at TBS

Wellness Program - Guidance

Common Core Standards-schedule dep't head for curriculum alignment presentations

Student Program Presentations

Commentary

Patty Wenger – Thank-you to Devens for having us and for the students and Barbi Kelley's presentation

Bob Sullebarger – Thanked Patty and Kirsten for filling in for him at TBS School Council

Keith Cheveralls – Thanked the parent for her letter in support of CASE classroom, it measures how far we have come.

Maureen Babcock - thanked everyone for coming and newsletter submissions from Joe and Kirsten.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked Joe for all the work in preparing the enrollment report and for Devens for hosting the meeting.

Adjournment

At 8:15 p.m. Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee enter into executive session as allowed under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (3) for the sole purpose of discussing strategies with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

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

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary