

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, December 10, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Keith Cheveralls, Patty Wenger, Bob Sullebarger (arrived at 6:20), Joseph Connelly, Lorraine Leonard, Absent: Maureen Babcock

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

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2012 meeting as amended.

VOTE: 4/0

TBS – Special Presentation – French Presentation

Bromfield School French teachers Anastasia Townsend and Janet Lombard along with students Charlotte Durham and Brigitte Lewis presented some of the new cultural elements that are being introduced into the grade 8 World Language curriculum.

Reports

Student Report – Sam Jones reported that things at Bromfield are going well, students are anxious for winter break. The Drama Club is presenting a holiday musical call 3 Ghosts. Many students are excited to attend. The girls indoor track team has a new coach who is very dedicated to working with the team. Winter sports teams are doing well.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly gave the committee the changed pages to the Draft #1 budget. Dr. Connelly shared the letter of hire and tentative work schedule for Dr. Michael Dubrule as Interim Special Education Director. Dr. Connelly recommended to the School Committee the dates of early release days be modified for the current school year. April 10th will be transferred to April 9th to accommodate the town election and April 30th will be made a full day of school. Because the school year usually has 20 early release days (rather than 23 scheduled for this year), there will be 2 additional early release days converted to full days.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move the April 10th early release day to April 9 and remove April 30th.

VOTE: 4/0/1 (Keith Cheveralls abstained)

Liaison & Subcommittee

Patty Wenger reported that she is moving forward with the School Committee newsletter. She will be gathering information until January 15th from school events, principals and school committee members for the publication in the first edition. She hopes to get 2 newsletters out this year.

Kirsten Wright reported that Bromfield School Council meets tomorrow at 3:00 and the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee meets tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. Bob Sullebarger reported that the HES energy project is being withdrawn from the Capital Plan. Jim Elkind called Bob last night and informed him that it will not be a part of this budget process. The HEAC found a company to do the blower test at the Bromfield House for free. The test will be done on 12/18 and the building may need to be vacated during the test. SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council met and discussed a growth and development movie that may become part of the wellness curriculum. Dr. Dwight will be starting a coffee hour. Parents will be invited by grade level. SusanMary extended an invitation from Jen Benson to a presentation with Tony Bent referring to education in Finland. SusanMary is looking for members to volunteer to judge at the Bromfield Science Fair on February 8th. Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright volunteered to judge and stay to present the School Committee award.

Harvard Cable TV Potential Use of the Bromfield School

The Committee discussed the cost of renovating space at TBS to house the cable television facilities. The costs of interior modifications to TBS are estimated at \$69,000 but if the town partners with Monty Tech that cost could be reduced to \$54,000. The committee discussed their willingness to step up and fund \$27,000 towards the cost with the remaining \$27,000 coming from a vote of the selectmen.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to earmark \$27,000 to partially fund build out costs for HCTV, funding source to be determined at a later date from FY13 funds or other source to be identified.

VOTE: 5/0

CPIC Capital Plan – Final Preparation/Review

The School Committee will go before the Capital Planning and Investment Committee on December 18th to answer questions on eight capital item requests. Dr. Connelly reviewed the items. The committee discussed that the K-wing bathroom mold remediation will be removed from the capital list as it is no longer needed. OccuHealth performed testing in the six HES classrooms and reported that no mold problems currently exist in the sink areas of these classrooms.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to remove the 20K for the K-Wing sink/mold remediation project.

VOTE: 5/0

FY14 Draft #1 Budget Deliberation

The Cost Center Managers from HES, TBS and SPED, Principal Linda Dwight, Principal Jim O'Shea, and Special Education Director Pam DeGregorio, presented their FY14 draft #1 level service budgets.

FY14 Supplemental “Above Level Service” Budget Needs

Dr. Connelly reviewed the supplemental “above level service” budget list that exceed level service budget guidelines, developed by the Administrative Council by priority.

1. Increase system-wide nurse coverage, 2. K-12 Adjustment Counselor, 3. Three additional .2FTE’s for TBS, 4. Increase guidance personnel’s work year, 5. Increase HES secretary work year, 6. TBS textbook replacement, 7. System wide K-12 Dep’t Leader for Unified Arts and Guidance.

The Bromfield House Continued Use Options – review and Approve BOS letter

Galleota is willing to meet with Keith and Mark to go through the Bromfield House and prioritize a list of items that need immediate attention due to safety reasons.

SusanMary asked for a vote of the committee to send a letter to the Board of Selectman asking them to begin dialogue regarding the long term disposition of the Bromfield House and the allocation of municipal office space for the Harvard Public Schools’ administration.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to authorize the chair to sign this letter as presented as the chair.

VOTE: 5/0

FY13 Budget Review

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the FY13 budget and reported that there is close to \$110,000 in surplus at this time. Lorraine is working with Nutri-systems to finalize the POS system for the school lunch program. It is expected that the cost will be about 15K.

Superintendent Search Update

SusanMary Redinger thanked members of the Superintendent Search Committee for a job well done in presenting the 3 finalist. The candidates are Jessica Huizenga, Judith Paloucci and Scott Carpenter. Judy Paloucci has been offered another position but will move forward as a finalist until we hear from her that she is dropping out. Kirsten Wright and Bob Sullebarger will be making reference checks. Site visits will be scheduled for January 4th and 7th and candidate site visits to Harvard and final interviews will be schedule for January 10th and 11th. Keith thanked SusanMary for executing the superintendent search flawlessly.

Future Agenda Items

Goals

Newsletter

School Improvement Plans

Point of Sale System

Community Ed

School Committee Self-Assessment

Feedback to reduce stress at TBS

Wellness Program – Guidance

Educator Evaluator package

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

Student Program Presentation

Commentary

Patty Wenger – appreciated the foreign language presentation, when Patty's daughter visited Argentina she was able to communicate in French from her study of the language at TBS.

Kirsten Wright Appreciates the group of amazing people on this committee and how everyone is treated with respect which brings out the best in each other. The 3 Ghosts this weekend will be absolutely fabulous.

Bob Sullebarger – is looking forward to meeting the Superintendent candidates and making reference calls.

Keith Cheveralls – reflecting back on the work accomplished in 2012 by this committee.

Amazing thing happen as you work together. Thanked Joe for his continued leadership.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked Joe for his guidance, time, energy, effort and passion. Could not have done it without you.

Adjournment

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary