

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, March 11, 2013
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 Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting as presented

VOTE 5/0

Interested Citizens Commentary- None

Special Presentation – Costa Rica Trip

Bryce Mattie and Jennifer Fraser of The Bromfield School updated the School Committee on the upcoming Global Student Leadership Summit in Costa Rica that (24) Bromfield students will be participating in during April school break. They will be addressing things such as world environmental issues.

Ms. Mattie and Ms. Fraser look forward to returning with the students to a future School Committee meeting to share their experience at the summit.

Reports

Student Report – Nick George reported that The Bromfield Drama Club performed the play “The Arsonist’s” at the State Semi Finals and did a fantastic job. Danny Hayward, Will Ashley, Daniel Jackson, and the entire crew received recognition.

Superintendent Report – Dr. Connelly suggested that other funding be considered for TBS Curriculum Materials(textbooks) rather than through the warrant article which would be presented at the town meeting. After the March 12 Bromfield School Council meeting the policy subcommittee will get together to discuss the international travel policy. Dr. Connelly also informed the School Committee of the status of his work schedule to include upcoming days off in March which will reduce his excess days worked to six (6). Dr. Connelly updated the status of the Director of Pupil Services candidate search. He is hoping the School Committee can approve the recommended candidate on the April 8th meeting. Dr. Connelly acknowledged Kellie Carlucci for her involvement in the National Honor Society Induction planning and also mentioned the Science Department on a job well done despite the weather, and faculty involved in the Drama Festival.

Approval of Gifts – Harvard Road Race Association

Dr. Connelly presented for approval, \$3550 in gifts from Harvard Road Race Association. Boys JV basketball uniforms -\$1800, Girls lacrosse uniforms - \$1000 and Field Hockey (general expenses) - \$750.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the gifts from the Harvard Road Race Association.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison and Subcommittee

Bob Sullebarger will be attending the Earth Day ribbon-cutting ceremony held by the EAC on 4/22. The Declining Enrollment subcommittee is moving forward. He will plan on having more information by the 4/8th meeting.

Bob indicated that he has been in touch with 7 of the 12 Superintendent Search Committee members to get the feedback on the search. Sticking points varied for each member asked. Others offered ideas on what might help guide and clarify responsibilities of search committees. Over all response, team was positive and seemed to agree they worked well together.

Maureen Babcock said she would have a DEAC update at a future meeting based on the upcoming meeting on Tuesday.

Keith Cheveralls spoke of the continued progress Harvard Cable TV is making and that the Budget subcommittee continues to meet to make sure all is in place for March 25th meeting.

Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright are continuing to work towards finding search firms for the next Superintendent search. Goal is to come up with 3-5 firms for School Committee to choose from.

SusanMary reports HES School Council met and Parents Survey coming out soon and are working on wellness initiative also. SusanMary said she is filing a "Critical Needs" waiver (#2) to the DESE requesting Dr. Connelly for another year.

School Committee 2012/13 Self-Assessment

Most areas in the Self-Assessment from last year to this year were similar if not a bit higher, within two tenths of last year's assessments. The Student Achievement increased also but School Committee members agreed that further discussion would be a valuable tool in helping to better understand the committee's role and expectations in this area. This should be considered as a future agenda item. Patty Wenger suggested the committee as a whole take the opportunity to make narrative comments as a part of the process.

Review March 1, 2013 Enrollment K-12 for School Choice 2013/14 Openings

Dr. Connelly discussed the enrollment numbers for the upcoming 2013/14 school year. He reviewed the process for how we determine the number of students that could be considered for School Choice.

We currently have 75 after several choice students left the system this year and 6 will graduate in June. School Committee had agreed to 78 thus being said 9 students would be needed this year to keep the number at 78. Grades that could benefit are Kindergarten, Grades 1, 2, 6 and 9. The possible School Choice openings for 2013/14 will be on the agenda for the March 25th School Committee meeting for further discussion.

Final Preparation for March 25, 2013 Public Hearing on FY14 School Budget and Warrant

Joe Connelly and Susan Mary Redinger will have letter for the budget book which is due by Friday, March 22.

Patty Wenger made the motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded, that the warrant article requesting funding for textbooks be passed over at town meeting, with the intention of purchasing the textbooks through Devens revolving fund.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary will notify the finance committee of this decision.

School Committee confirmed who was presenting each article at the town meeting. As follows:
Keith Cheveralls – Harvard Cable & TBS Disability Access (Article 14), and The Bromfield House Repairs (Article 20)

SusanMary Redinger – TBS Pond Road Parking Lot (Article 15), HES Storage Shed (Article 18), and HES Safety Gates (Article 19)

Bob Sullebarger – TBS Science Lab Renovation Design (Article 16), and TBS Chemical Storage Ventilation (Article 17)

TBS Curriculum Materials (Article 9) to be passed over. Not assigned.

Newsletter Update

Patty Wenger was happy to report that the first mailing of “Education Matters” was complete which also included parents and community members of Devens. It was also agreed to extend the mailing of the newsletter to all School Choice families. There was mention of getting the Newsletter online and also make sure the town library and senior center were included in the distribution.

Financial Report

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the reports, FY13 School Budget, Revolving Funds, and subsidies with the School Committee and spoke of some changes to the budget to reflect some pending issues related to special education. Specifically \$49,000 more taken out of “other professional services” and “out of district placements” reducing the current surplus. Dr. Connelly and Dr. Dubrule have been working together to make the necessary changes.

HCTV MOU Final Draft Approval

Keith Cheveralls requested the School Committee review the draft and share any concern and considerations that may need to be addressed before the final draft is brought forward. Some of the items of concern or to consider were theft/insurance/damage policy and CORI checks of volunteer’s. Goal is to have the final draft ready for vote on Monday, March 25th.

Future Agenda Items

Budget Recap - 3/25

Declining Enrollment – 3/25

School Choice – 3/25

Educator Evaluator Ratification – 3/25

Superintendent Evaluation – 3/25

Wellness – End of the year – Elaine Beckett

Student Council morning meeting

Commentary

SusanMary Redinger – Thank you! It is amazing the amount of work that gets accomplished at this time.

Patty Wenger – Busy month. Great job and thanks to everyone!

At 8:15 p.m. Patty Wenger moved to adjourn and Keith Cheveralls seconded the motion.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Shuttle

Recording Secretary

