

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, March 25, 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.

SusanMary Redinger began the meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Ann Gould, a beloved and admired kindergarten teacher. SusanMary also acknowledged Nashoba Regional Superintendent Mike Wood and Ayer/Shirley Superintendent Carl Mock for providing several grief counselors from their districts. Also appreciation was extended to Jim O'Shea, Scott Hoffman, Lisa Soldi, Father Kilcoyne and Reverend Schmidt for their valuable and sensitive support during this difficult time.

#### **Review of Minutes**

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented.

VOTE 5/0

#### **HES – School Song – Arlene Sullivan**

A group of Grade 5 students along with third grade teacher Arlene Sullivan performed their newly adopted school song “We Love HES”.

#### **Reports**

Student Report – Nick George reported MCAS testing is going on in several grades this week, spring sports started on Monday and the third term ends on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Report - Dr. Connelly reported that the last official day of school is now June 20<sup>th</sup>. To date 5 snow days have been used.

#### **Liaison & Subcommittee**

Maureen Babcock reported that the DEAC will be meeting on Tuesday and for the first part of their meeting they will be attending the Mass Development meeting to get an update on the RFP for Grant Road.

Bob Sullebarger – HEAC had no update and will meet next week. The Declining Enrollment Subcommittee is in writing mode and hope to have their report ready for review soon.

SusanMary Redinger – announced the request for Senior Project presentation judges on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The critical shortage waiver for Dr. Connelly was submitted to DESE today. Testing done at the Bromfield House confirmed no concern for asbestos. HES School Council is planning a project to memorialize BA Gould and are working on the school improvement plan and the wellness survey. SusanMary has April 5 or April 26 for School Committee to meet with Student Council. Day on the Hill scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> has been change to May 25<sup>th</sup>. OPEB briefing meetings to address recommendation will start in May.

Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council is discussing international travel, school improvement plan and the climate survey. On April 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation to share the results of the Risk Youth Survey. Next meeting is April 9<sup>th</sup>. SEPAC will have their next meeting March 28<sup>th</sup> at The Bromfield School. The topic is Sage Crossing which is a foundation that connects adults on the Autism spectrum through a farming program.

Keith Cheveralls discussed with the committee expenses incurred at The Bromfield House due to necessary air quality and asbestos testing. A funding source for these expenses will be discussed later in the meeting.

### **Award of Bus Bid**

Lorraine Leonard shared the results of the recent public bid for regular bus transportation contract for the next three years. The successful low bidder was Dee Bus Service. Lorraine reported that Dee Bus Service agreed to lower their Athletic bid to match Gokey's bid.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we award the Harvard bus contract including the Athletic bus effective August 1<sup>st</sup> to Dee Bus Service.

VOTE 5/0

### **FY14 Budget Subcommittee Recommended Alternative Funding Allocations**

SusanMary Redinger reviewed recommendations from the Budget Subcommittee meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> that listed FY13 projected revenue sources, items needing funding and suggested funding sources. Suggested funding sources and items needing funding are as follows:

Shaw Trust to fund HCTV Build-Out, HES and TBS Replacement Furniture

Devens to fund TBS Textbooks and NEASC Summer Rubric Workshop and partially fund HES Reading Program.

Circuit Breaker to fund SPED OT Equipment

Projected Year End Balance to fund any SPED costs not covered by Circuit Breaker and HES ELA K-5 Program.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to support the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee as outlined.

VOTE 5/0

### **FY14 School Committee Budget Report Approval**

The FY14 Budget book was distributed for review. The Committee will meet on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. to vote to approve.

### **PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

SusanMary Redinger presented the FY13/14 budget. Individual committee members read through the school warrant articles requests which are under consideration at the Annual Town Meeting.

### **TBS Summer Rubric Workshop Request**

Jim O'Shea along with Scott Hoffman and department leaders from the Bromfield School presented a detailed proposal for a summer In-House workshop to respond to the need to develop academic expectation rubrics as required by the recent NEASC accreditation report. Funding for this project was approved through the recommendation from the Budget Subcommittee to use Devens funds.

### **Director of Pupil Services Search Update**

Dr. Connelly recognized the great work of the Director of Pupil Services Search Committee. Site visits are being scheduled for two finalist and it is anticipated that Dr. Connelly will bring forth the preferred candidate at the April 8<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

### **Superintendent Search Firm Update**

Kirsten Wright and Patty Wenger have assembled information that was sent out to several of the most frequently used Superintendent Search Firms. They will bring back the information collected as soon as possible for the committee to review and discuss.

### **Educator Evaluation Program Contract Ratification**

SusanMary Redinger asked for signatures to ratify the agreement between the HTA and the School Committee. The document will be submitted to DESE. SusanMary thanked the entire HTA with special thanks to Kellie Carlucci who took a leadership role for the past four to five months to develop this Educator Evaluation Program. SusanMary also recognized Dr. Connelly Dr. Dwight and Jim O'Shea for their guidance. The energy now will shift to the required training to implement the system.

### **School Committee Approval of 2013/2014 School Choice Openings**

The Committee discussed School Choice openings and how best to distribute the nine openings in grade k-12 that generates the \$385,000 subsidy for FY14.

Kirsten Wright and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we add School Choice students as follows – 4 students in Kindergarten, 3 students in Grade 1, 1 student in Grade 2.

After discussion Kirsten withdrew the motion.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten seconded to put School Choice student in grades as follows:

2 students in grades K, 1, 3, and 6.

VOTE 2/3 (Patty Wenger and SusanMary Redinger voted in favor of the motion)

Motion did not carry.

The School Choice decision was tabled to April 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **HCTV MOU Further Discussion**

Keith Cheveralls presented the Memorandum of Understanding between the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Board of Selectman acting through Harvard's Community Cable Access Committee (HCTV) for approval. The Chair asked that the working document clarify responsibility and liability.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger second to move that we accept the Memorandum of Understanding for HCTV as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger to accept the request for the Chair's signature.

VOTE 5/0

### **Future Agenda Items**

Declining Enrollment

Director of Pupil Services

Superintendent Search Firm Update

District Mission Statement

Strategic Plan

Vision and Mission Evolution

Student Achievement Assessment

Policy – 3 year review

### **Commentary**

Bob Sullebarger – College acceptance letters are due out this week for seniors

Maureen Babcock – Enjoyed the singing of the HES school song, very positive message

Joe Connelly – so impressed with how serious you all take your job

SusanMary – Ongoing support and appreciation to HES staff

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary