

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, April 8, 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 Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the March 25th meeting as presented.

VOTE 5/0

HES – Use of iPads in the Classroom

Dr. Dwight, Pam Chapman and Dawn-Marie Ayles shared with the Committee how iPads are used by children in the classroom and how they are used by staff as a tool for assessment.

Reports

Dr. Connelly updated the Committee on PreK and Kindergarten enrollment. For Kindergarten 40 registrations have been received. 28 are for full day, 6 for half day and 6 undecided. For PreK there are 13 enrolled which will allow for one section next year.

Dr. Connelly reported that the point of sale system for the cafeteria is in its second week of operation. This system allows parents to pay for lunches on line. Comments and reaction has been very positive.

Liaison & Subcommittee

On April 6th (Annual Town Meeting) the FY14 school budget passed as well as all of the submitted warrant articles submitted by the school department. SusanMary acknowledged the Committee, Dr. Connelly and his team and the people of Harvard for their continued support of the schools.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee and the Board of Selectman for HCTV has been approved with the exception of the executive summary. The document is being collated and will be signed by Lucy Wallace and SusanMary Redinger.

With the approval of the Bromfield House warrant article, Keith Cheveralls has offered to work with Ron Ricci, Tim Bragan, Mark Force and Joe Connelly to develop a brief of what needs to be evaluated.

Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council is scheduled to meet on April 22nd. Kirsten reported that the choral concert held on Thursday night was amazing and inspiring for the younger kids to watch. The Middle School drama club presented 2 short plays this weekend and chose to preform “A Simple Task” at the Drama Festival on April 27th.

SusanMary Redinger wanted to clarify that the approval of the bus bid was done by choosing the reasonable and responsive low bidder. Dee Bus Services was the only choice presented.

The School Committee is scheduled to meet with the Student Council on April 26th at 7:00 a.m. The HES School Council is scheduled to meet on April 23rd. The Aladdin production done at HES this past weekend was phenomenal. The level of talent is amazing.

The Harvard Energy Advisory Committee is planning a ribbon cutting for the solar panel project on Monday, April 22nd.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC published their 2nd newsletter and the Devens community 2013 Education Survey is underway, she will bring results when they are done.

Field Trip Approval - Philadelphia

Patricia Nilan, Bromfield's Community Service Club Advisor, requested approval for eight students to participate in a community service/learning experience in Philadelphia. The students will travel from May 22nd through May 27th. The committee was reluctant to approve the trip given that the students were missing 2 days of school. Since the trip is being co-sponsored with North Middlesex High School, TBS has no control over the dates of the trip. In the end the Committee agreed to support the trip this year, but will expect the dates to not interfere with school in the future.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the service learning trip to Philadelphia, PA as outlined in the packet.

VOTE 5/0

Director of Pupil Services

Dr. Connelly reviewed the process of the successful search for a Director of Pupil Personnel and recommended Dr. Marie Harrington from the Wachusett School District as the new Director of Pupil Services. The Committee then met and interviewed Dr. Harrington.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we accept the recommendation of Dr. Connelly for Dr. Marie Harrington to be the Director of Pupil Services as of July 1st subject to successful negotiations.

VOTE 5/0

HES English Language Arts K-5 Program Adoption

Dr. Linda Dwight presented details of the ELA K-5 program selection process. The committee has already identified the funding source for this K-5 program adoption as unspent FY13 year-end omnibus funds and Devens funds. The Committee will approve the apportionment of funding from the two funding sources in late June 2013.

Declining Enrollment Subcommittee Report

Bob Sullebarger introduced the Declining Enrollment Report as a working draft that contained lots of data to be considered. The Committee felt that it needed more time to review the document and decided to hold an off cycle meeting on April 24th at 9:00 a.m.

School Committee Approval of 2013-2014 School Choice Opening

The Committee agreed that in the future the number of School Choice openings will be made before the budget is determined so that policy not money drives the decision. For this year the committee budgeted for 77 school choice openings at \$385,000.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that for this coming school year 2012/2013 we add School Choice students in the following grade

4 students in Kindergarten, 2 students in First Grade and 2 students in Grade 3

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent Annual Evaluation

SusanMary Redinger discussed the newly completed Superintendent's evaluation and said that Dr. Connelly had received "exemplary" or "proficient" in every category of the evaluation. The committee is pleased with the job you are doing. We have accomplished a great deal this year.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to accept the Superintendent's evaluation as presented and authorized the chair to sign.

VOTE 5/0

Policy Subcommittee Report

The School Committee Policy Subcommittee submitted for review the recommended amended policy language to existing field trip policy IJOA. The Committee discussed changes and clarifications that need to be made to the policy. Policy IJOA will be brought back to the April 29th School Committee for adoption.

Personnel Salary Spreadsheet

The Committee reviewed the Personnel Salary Spreadsheet as presented with the only change being the 27K for HVAC project being taken out.

Superintendent Search Firm Update

Kirsten Wright reported that questions had been sent to five search firms in regard to hiring a professional company to lead the superintendent search next year. At the next meeting the responses will be reviewed.

Preplanning 2014-2019 Strategic Plan Development

Tabled

Future Agenda Items

Executive Session

Move the May 27th meeting to May 28th

Wellness Report

Search Firm Review

Strategic Plan Development

Bromfield House – next steps

New positions
Community Ed Business Plan
International Policy – Second Read
Paperless meetings

Commentary

Maureen Babcock loved having teachers here showing how the iPads are used in the school.
Looks forward to having Dr. Harrington in the district.

Bob Sullebarger – very happy about Marie joining the system.

Kirsten Wright –being on Director of Pupil Personnel Search Subcommittee and the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee she has really gotten to know Joe and Bob a lot more and it has been great.

Patty Wenger – thanked the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee for the fabulous report and thanked Joe for another great year.

SusanMary Redinger – Thanked Keith for representing the School Committee so well with the CPIC and Finance Committee. Fabulous job.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary