

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 24, 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 6:02 p.m.

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2012 meeting as presented.

VOTE 3/0/2 Bob Sullebarger and Kirsten Wright abstained due to absence from the meeting.

The committee delayed approving the September 10th minutes until the next meeting.

Reports

Nick George reported that everyone is getting into the swing of things at Bromfield. The Open House went well and picture day was held during the past week. The Sophomore Class welcomed the 7th grade with a Dodge ball game and Grades 7-9 had a dance. Everyone has adjusted and things are pretty set.

Dr. Connelly reported that Gretchen Henry would be kicking off the special presentations portion of the meeting by playing a video using her i-Pad. Dr. Connelly reported that Harvard will receive 70% Circuit Breaker reimbursement rather than the 65% that had been planned. This will be shown in the subsidy page of the budget. Joe confirmed that the next School Committee meeting on October 9th will be held at Devens in the MassDevelopment building, 33 Andrews Parkway.

Lorraine Leonard requested that the Superintendent and the Chair sign the end of the year report that will be submitted to DESE. The committee reviewed the FY12 one page summary that Lorraine prepared and discussed various lines. The Committee discussed reviewing the School Choice Out expense line to see the trend over a five year time line.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to authorize the Chair and the Superintendent to sign the FY12 End of the Year Report (EOYR).

VOTE 5/0

Liaison & Subcommittee

Keith Cheveralls reported that the relocation of HCTV to Bromfield is inching forward. They are looking into options for entry and exit to the building and plan to visit other school districts that house their cable television studio in their schools.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Capital Plan and Investment Committee are under way for FY14 planning. One big capital item is The Bromfield House. Based on the Galeotto report the building is in need of repairs that will be costly. Keith recommended an agenda item for the October 22nd meeting to discuss and review capital requests.

Kirsten Wright reported that SEPAC would like to invite Joe to a meeting to discuss the process and be involved in the hiring of new special education director. The Policy Subcommittee met to discuss and develop a policy on the admission of foreign exchange students at the high school. The Subcommittee hopes to have a draft policy ready to bring to the next meeting for a first read.

Bob Sullebarger attended his first School Council meeting. The discussion circled around the security enhancements at the school, new clubs, the superintendent search and establishing a school motto. Bob Sullebarger also reported that he attended the “Charting the Course” workshop on Saturday and learned a lot.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC met on September 18th. The group will be sending out a Fall Newsletter. The MassDevelopment Board of Directors will meet on October 11th. The meeting is open to the public from 12 – 1 if anyone wishes to attend.

SusanMary reported that the HES School Council welcomes Risa Goldman as a parent member. The Council is still looking for a community member.

HES – Welcome to School Using Technology

Gretchen Henry presented a Welcome Back to HES PowerPoint presentation using her i-pad. The presentation was played on the Hildreth website and on the television outside the main office. It was very well received by the children as well as the parents.

The Bromfield School New Clubs Approved

Chris Hogan sought approval to start a Mock Trial Club at TBS. The mock trials look at criminal cases and are staged by the Massachusetts Bar Association. The club offers students the opportunity to improve critical thinking, be able to creatively prepare a case from beginning to end and to become better public speakers.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the establishment of the Mock Trial Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

James Authier, Caitlin Marksteiner and Griffin Kenna sought approval to start a Acapella Club. Membership will be held by auditions. The group will come up with fundraising idea to get the money to purchase music. The group will be performing at the Coffee House and the TBS Choral Concerts. The committee looks forward to the group coming back to sing for them.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the establishment of the Acapella Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Harvard Energy Advisory Committee

Jim Elkind reported that challenges are still halting the installation of solar panels on the HES gym roof. After consultation with town counsel Mark Lanza, Oskrow Electric must supply a building permit by October 1st and has agreed to finish the panel project by November. Jim will be in touch with Dr. Connelly and Dr. Dwight to schedule a preconstruction conference to ensure everyone is safe and informed as the project moves forward.

Brian Smith presented an optimistic report on the decrease in energy usage for the Harvard Public Schools. The biggest improvements came from the Bromfield heating system switching from oil to gas. With the many upgrades energy costs have dropped from \$414,036 in 2008 to \$265,624 in 2012. The committee complimented HEAC for their accomplishments.

The Bromfield School Survey Reports

Jim O'Shea reported to the committee the results of the Harvard "climate survey" and the Massachusetts Teaching, Learning, and Leading Survey (TeLLS) initiative. The TeLLS survey was conducted this past spring. The climate survey assesses the staff and parent input regarding the climate at each school and is an annual effort. Jim reported that steps have been taken to address areas of concern.

Superintendent Search Update

The committee reviewed the Superintendent Search Committee composition. Maureen Babcock notified the committee she would not be able to commit to being on the search committee. There will not be an alternate DEAC member. The Finance Committee will be appointing a member at their next meeting. Members are: SusanMary Redinger, Joseph Connelly, Linda Dwight, Jim O'Shea, Keith Cheveralls, Rob Cullinane, Deb Pierce, Catherine Polis, Sarah Connelly, Sharon Cronin, Mary Zadroga and Lorraine Leonard.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we appoint the Superintendent Search Committee as noted still need a Finance Committee member. Appoint SusanMary Redinger and Joseph Connelly, Co-Chairs of the Committee.

The committee reviewed the application packet and made a few corrections.

Appoint School Committee Liaison to Harvard Cable TV

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to appoint Keith Cheveralls to be School liaison to the Harvard Cable Television Committee.

VOTE (5/0)

Future Agenda Items

Capital Plan

NEASC Evaluation

Policy Review

POS Update

Update Enrollments

Designee for Mass Conference by November 1st

Coordinate Student Council coming to meeting

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

Student Program Presentations

Commentary

Keith Cheveralls – Happy Birthday to Joe!

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Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls 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