

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 13, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Patty Wenger, Keith Cheveralls, Bob Sullebarger, Maureen Babcock, Lorraine Leonard, Joseph Connelly.

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

Review of Minutes

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Reports

Student Report

Katia Schwiengershausen reported that the Snowflake dance was held for middle school students last Friday, the Snowball dance for grades 9-12 is scheduled for January 25th, the middle school students will be performing a winter concert on January 23rd that will include the high school jazz ensemble, and the high school band and chorus will be performing "Carmina Burana" on January 30th. The high school is sponsoring a blood drive on January 27th. Katia was recognized for representing The Bromfield School at the Worcester County Superintendent Scholar Luncheon held at Assumption College.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly presented a revision of the Capital Plan that eliminated The Bromfield House renovation project from the capital list. The committee will be meeting with the Board of Selectman to discuss other options for Central Office locations. Dr. Connelly presented a list of action items to bring the FY15 Draft #2 budget to Draft #3. Dr. Connelly suggested that the committee schedule an off cycle meeting due to the amount of budget work that needs to be done. The committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:00 prior to their meeting with the Board of Selectman.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Patty Wenger reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has been working to finish their core value statements and continue working on mission and vision statements as well as district goals. The results of the survey will be available after February vacation.

Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council is working on their School Improvement Plan. The Science Fair is being held on February 7th and need volunteers to judge the projects. The School Committee agreed to sponsor a Science Fair Award. Celebration is looking for volunteers and Pat Cooper is the contact person.

Maureen Babcock - reported that DEAC meets tomorrow and will be working on the 2013/2014 school year survey as well as planning for the next newsletter and updates on bus 7.

SusanMary Redinger - reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee is working on questions that will go out to boards for direction on how to answer the Devens question. The Technology Committee has had three meetings and is currently working on drafting a mission and vision and creating a survey to send out to staff, parents and alumni.

Bob Sullebarger - reported that the Principal Search Committee have received 66 applications. The Committee has been trained on the selection process, have developed interview questions and have dedicated five days to hold interviews. The semi-finalist will be interviewed by the administrative team the week of January 27th and a public interview with the School Committee

is expected to occur on February 10th. Bob also reported with regard to HEAC that Sophia Catalina is conducting a survey to gather information about room conditions with regard to heat controls to help understand the 50% increase in cost. Brian Smith requested that HEAC have a tour of the Science labs with regard to the proposed renovation project. The Committee will invite HEAC to a future meeting after they have seen the Science Labs and have received information from their survey.

Anime Club

Middle School Students, Daisy Benson, Kira Houston and Phoebe Clark along with their advisor Cindy Harris presented their request to start an Anime and Manga Club.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move to approve the Anime Manga Club at The Bromfield School.

VOTE 5/0

School Committee Approval of Donations and Grants

Dr. Connelly asked the Committee to approve a gift from the Harvard Schools Trust in the amount of \$4,000 to help fund the Model UN trip to Italy.

Dr. Connelly asked the Committee to approve a gift from the Baseball Booster club for a portable fence. The Committee asked that the Baseball Boosters work in conjunction with Mark Force and the DPW to coordinate the fence installation.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we accept the gift from the Harvard School Trust as outlined in their letter dated January 6, 2014 and approve the gift from the Baseball Boosters for a portable fence as outlined with a note of thanks to both organizations.

VOTE 5/0

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges and Careers (PARCC)

Scott Hoffman and Gretchen Henry who coordinate the MCAS testing program presented a report that outlined the PARCC tentative testing schedule and how it will coincide with the MCAS testing schedule this spring.

2015-2019 Capital Plan

Dr. Connelly presented his responses to a list of questions from CPIC for the committee to approve. Dr. Connelly presented a revised Capital Plan that reflects School Committee action on Capital projects to date. The Bromfield House renovation projected at \$686,572 was eliminated as well as \$90,000 for replacement vehicles that could possibly be reassigned from the DPW.

FY15 Budget – Draft 3 Deliberation

Dr. Connelly presented a detailed memorandum identifying background on nine budget actions that the Superintendent is asking the School Committee approve.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move to adjust the Draft #2 budget by +\$19,945 as stipulated in memorandum by Dr. Connelly dated January 13th, items 1-9 inclusive.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to amend the Draft #3 budget to include \$30K to fund the technology hardware replacement cycle from 8 years to 5 years.

VOTE 5/0

School Committee/Superintendent 2013/2014 Outcomes Mid-Year Progress Report

Dr. Connelly reviewed the status of all goals and outcomes and reported that all School Committee goals are on schedule and will be completed.

Annual Report

Kirsten Wright presented a draft of the School Committee's Annual Report and asked that any edits be sent to her by Tuesday.

Financial Report

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the financial report to date. Lorraine said that there are no changes or worries at this point.

Future Agenda Items

Budget Book
HEAC
SUPT/SC Self Evaluation
Town Meeting
School Improvement Plans
Student Achievement
Hildreth Principal Finalist
Policy Relative to Declining Enrollment

Commentary

Maureen Babcock knows of an elementary school principal who is very impressed that we have hired Linda Dwight and the confirmation that it is good to hire from within.

Kirsten Wright – Loved the middle school student's presentation and enthusiasm regarding the Amine and Manga Club.

Executive Session

At 9:00 p.m. Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move into executive session as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21 (2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and Chapter 30A (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or 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.

Redinger (Aye), Wenger (Aye), Wright (Aye), Sullebarger (Aye)

Keith Cheveralls in observance of conflict of interest law abstained from attending the Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary