

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 27, 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. and welcomed members of Kathleen Doherty's Current Events Class.

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting as submitted.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary announced through a press release that the HTA Membership approved the negotiated changes to the HTA/HSC contract as contained

Reports

Student Report

Katia Schwiegershausen reported that the Snowball dance was held for high school students last Saturday, the high school jazz ensemble, and the high school band and chorus will be performing "Carmina Burana" on January 30th, twenty nine students from The Bromfield School will be attending the Model UN Conference January 31st, February 1st and 2nd and students have been participating in a competition called "Waste Watchers" which happens at lunch and the class that creates the least amount of waste is recognized. The Ludo Festival is planned for February 13th at 6:00.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly updated the Committee on the HES principal search. It is expected that the Administrative Team will be interviewing the 2 semi-finalists over the next week. Dr. Connelly informed the Committee that they would be asked to approved a gift from the Harvard Athletic Association in the amount of \$2,000 to offset the cost of sanding and resurfacing the gym floor which is in the school capital request for FY2015.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Patty Wenger reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has sent out a survey that will help the Committee gain input from stakeholder on core values, resources, and school climate. The survey results will be compiled during the week of February 13th and used for creating the vision and mission statements.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Science Fair will be help on February 7th and they are looking for volunteer who could serve as judges from 2:45 to 5:00 in the school cafeteria.

Kirsten reported that Gail Coolidge is looking for input from the schools for the library's upcoming landscaping renovation project.

Bob Sullebarger reported on the progress being made by the Principal Search Committee. Bob Sullebarger agreed to invite Brian Smith from HEAC to an upcoming meeting for an update.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC is looking for articles for their upcoming newsletter.

Maureen also reported that DEAC is very appreciative of the schools.

SusanMary Redinger reported that she is looking for dates that the Committee can meet with the Student Council to update them on the Strategic Planning process and to get feedback from students about assessment. SusanMary reported that the Technology Committee is close to identifying their mission and vision statements and are preparing to send out a survey.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee have developed questions and plan to interview department heads on priority areas that are relevant to each organization. SusanMary reported that HES School Council is working on their improvement plan, wellness and the survey. SusanMary briefed the Committee on the Finance Committee meeting held Saturday, January 25th where the FY15 Draft #4 budget was presented with under a 1% increase. The Finance Committee told the School Committee that at this point expects nothing from the above level service (Wish List) to be funded. SusanMary will report back to Marie Sobalvarro that March 18th is a better time frame to meet to follow up on The Bromfield House conversation, in the meantime the question that needs to be answered is can funds from the sale of the Bromfield House be diverted to fund repairs to the Old Library.

TBS and HES 2013/2014 School Improvement Plans – Mid Year Progress Report

Jim O'Shea and Linda Dwight reported the progress being made on the School Improvement Plans for both schools. They reported activities being done to accomplish the goals as well as the percentage of the goal completed as of January 2014. SusanMary Redinger commented that she appreciates how the improvement plan dove tails into what is already being done. Keith Cheveralls commented that he would like more student achievement indicators identified in the report in addition to MCAS, SAT and AP scores.

Harvard School Committee and Harvard Teachers Association Ratification Agreement

SusanMary Redinger read a joint press release announcing the ratification of a new three year contract with the Harvard Teachers Association. SusanMary underscored the collaborative bargaining process stating that it was respectful and collaborative and every individual at the table contributed in making this the best school district possible in the interest of the students.

FY15 School Budget Draft #4 Deliberate and Take Action

Dr. Connelly presented an updated budget action memo that highlight the changes from Draft #3 to Draft #4 which included adding the 2% COLA and other related compensation agreement as negotiated. Draft #4 also adjusts salaries of teaching positions where retirement and resignations have been announced. One additional budget change is a correction to the Special Education Pupil Supply line item which eliminated \$3,500 for eSped because it was counted twice. The total increase to the FY15 budget over the FY14 budget is \$84,667 which is .71% increase.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve items 16-27 from Dr. Connelly's memo dated January 27, 2014 Draft #3 to Draft #4 Action Memo.

VOTE 4/0

Keith Cheveralls abstained in observance of the conflict of interest law.

After a lengthy discussion the School Committee agreed that the .5 FTE Wellness teacher at HES and the additional .4 Wellness teacher at TBS were on going, previously identified needs. Due to the importance of these two positions the School Committee identified Devens outside funds as a source of funding to support these two important positions.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we increase the Devens off sets by \$22,226 to fund increment .4 Wellness teacher at TBS and by \$25,000 to fund a .5 FTE position at the elementary school.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redigner thanked Dr. Connelly for his management of the budget and thanked him on behalf of the residents of the town for leaving us in a favorably financial fiscal position.

FY15 Capital Plan Update

Keith Cheveralls reviewed the list of items that were approved by the Capital Improvement and Investment Committee as items to be place on the town meeting warrant. The total of requests moved forward is \$398,000. The TBS Science Lab renovation project was not moved forward. The School Committee discussed withdrawing the Science Lab project for this year and to move forward next year with a more narrowly defined project.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded that with regret the capital request for \$1.9 for science lab renovations be withdrawn for Fiscal year 2015.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Connelly will talk with Mark Force to see if there are any short term solutions to the heating issue in the sixth grade science room.

A meeting will be scheduled with Dr. Connelly, Tim Clark and Dr. Dwight to discuss the HES paving project and how it relates to safety, sidewalks and traffic flow.

SusanMary Redinger thanked Keith Cheveralls for all of the hard work he has put in to CPIC and for being a wonderful advocate for the schools.

2014/2015 School Calendar - Draft

Dr. Connelly shared the draft copy of the 2014/2015 school calendar. The calendar will be shared with the PR&R committee for the HTA and the next School Committee meeting the Committee will take a formal vote to approve the calendar for the 2014/2015 school year. Detail relative to early release days will be added later in the year.

School Committee Annual Self-Assessment Process and Timeline

The committee reviewed the self-evaluation process and timeline. Each member will complete the electronic version of the evaluation form and return it via email to SusanMary before February 24th.

Financial Report

Lorraine Leonard presented the FY14 financial report through November including the outside funds report. Dr. Connelly explained the reason for some adjustment to the FY14 subsidies. Dr. Connelly recommended that the Committee address the Athletic Department deficit projection in September of 2014.

Future Agenda Items

Master Plan Steering Committee
Budget Book
Public Hearing on the Budget
Policy G
Special Staff – Student Presentations
2014/2015 Calendar
Pond Road Paving Project Update
Library Landscaping Update
Athletic Program Expenses
HEAC
SUPT/SC Self Evaluation
Town Meeting
Hildreth Principal Finalist
Strategic Plan Update
Technology Committee Progress Report

Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – glad to have served on the Principal’s Search Committee. It has been a good exercise working with a positive group of people and meeting a variety of candidates.

Kirsten Wright – Thanked Maureen Babcock for doing a lot for her community and for her great leadership.

Keith Cheveralls – thanked his colleagues for completing the teacher negotiations – it is a critical component and wishes that he could have contributed and thanked Patty and SusanMary for a job completed exceptionally.

Patty Wenger – thanked Keith for the work he has done on the Capital Planning and Investment Committee and his shoes will be big to fill. The budget was an amazing process and can’t wait to meet the new principal.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked everyone – asked Joe to extend our thanks to his wife and apologize to her for all the time Joe has committed to Harvard. Behind every great man is an extraordinary woman.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary