

School Committee Minutes
MassDevelopment Meeting Room 2
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the September 25th meeting as submitted.

VOTE 4/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the September 30th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Reports

Student Report

No student report.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that George O'Neill of GRLA Architects met with school representatives to rework the cost estimates of the Bromfield Science Labs based on a reduction in the scope of work. The report will be forthcoming. Dr. Connelly reported that he has enclosed a letter from Town Administrator, Tim Bragan giving the alternative sites to house the Superintendent's Office. Dr. Connelly made the Committee aware of several upcoming meetings between October 21st and November 5th.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Keith Cheveralls reported that the HCTV informed him that they are inches away from being able to tape live from the Bromfield School Media Center. Once HCTV gives us the green light we can start having our meeting at TBS. Keith Cheveralls reported that CPIC will begin to review capital plans November 21st and will be making a determination of what projects will move forward.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC met last Tuesday and Dr. Connelly and Dr. Dwight were both present. Maureen passed out copies of the presentation that was presented to the MassDevelopment Board of Directors. Maureen shared the "DEAC News Fall 2013" newsletter. Maureen reported that the MassDevelopment Board of Directors was happy with the selection of Dr. Dwight as Superintendent of Schools. Maureen thanked everyone for coming out to Devens for the meeting.

Bob Sullebarger reported that HEAC will meet again on October 23rd.

SusanMary Redinger and Bob Sullebarger met with the Student Council and talked to students to get their perspective on the number of electives at the high school and if students are missing out on classes they want to take due to scheduling conflicts. Students also discussed the physical condition of the Science rooms/labs and how that affects their Science experience.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Committee approved the Chair to sign a contract with RKG. Outreach will start within the next two weeks. SusanMary Redinger reported that Hildreth School Council will meet again October 22nd

Patty Wenger reported that the Policy Subcommittee met and will be bringing forward policies for review and amendments in the near future.

Dr. Connelly reported that he will be making three very important appointments to Subcommittees in the coming weeks. Dr. Connelly has spoken to the entire staff and invited them to submit their names for consideration to the Strategic Plan Committee, the Technology Committee and the HES Principal Search Committee.

Grade 5 Nature's Classroom Student Presentation

Fifth Grade students along with Rob Cullinane, Grade 5 Teacher and Nature's Classroom Coordinator reported on their Nature's Classroom experience and shared their journals with the Committee.

HES 2013 Climate Survey

Linda Dwight presented results of the School Council's parent survey which was responded to by 213 families. The School Council plans to spend time making recommendations for improvements based on the data. The parent survey will be given every other year in cycle with all stakeholder surveys.

2014-2019 HPS Enrollment Capacity Report

Dr. Connelly presented the annual school enrollment report. Significant aspects of this year's report are as follows:

- Birth rates for the past year in Harvard dipped to only 18. This will impact Kindergarten Class in school year 2017/2018.
- Deven's enrollments are projected to be impacted by the approval of the Grant Road residential development which calls for 120 residential dwellings to be built and occupied over the next three fiscal years.
- K-5 enrollments over the next 5 years are now projected to require only 3 grade level sections starting with Kindergarten in 2014/2015 and eventually involving Kindergarten to Grade 4 by 2018/2019.

Dr. Connelly will share this information with budget holders to help them prepare for their FY15 staffing needs. The Committee will use this data to identify potential School Choice openings for next year. Dr. Connelly will prepare the budget funding 4 section of Kindergarten for now.

GRLA Capital Reports – Further School Committee Discussion

Dr. Connelly reported that the George O'Neill from GRLA Architects will be submitting a new cost estimate for a substantial reduction in the scope of work to the Bromfield School Science Lab renovations. George is expected to bring in a cost in a few days. Town Council, Mark Lanza will provide the School Committee with a legal opinion identifying what town board and/or other legal entity has authority over the future status of The Bromfield House if it is no longer used to house Central Office personnel. SusanMary is tentatively scheduled to meet with the Board of Selectman on November 5th to come to an agreed upon approach and process moving forward.

FY15 School Budget Guidelines and Timeline

Dr. Connelly reviewed the budget guidelines and projected timeline to develop a zero based school budget for 2014/2015. The Finance Committee is requesting that all departments submit a level service budget which identifies the funds needed to maintain existing services and staffing. The FY15 Draft 1 budget will be presented to the School Committee at the November 25, 2013 School Committee meeting.

Personnel Spreadsheet Update

Dr. Connelly shared with the Committee the updated Personnel Spreadsheet which identifies \$210,683 currently unspent. These funds have been identified to offset the Special Education budget deficit.

Superintendent Contract Execution

SusanMary Redinger reported that contract negotiations with Dr. Dwight have been successfully completed. Dr. Dwight's salary for the three year contract is \$150,000 in year one, \$155,000 in year two, and \$160,000 in year three with COLA considerations in FY16 and FY17. The Committee is thrilled to have Dr. Dwight on board.

Future Agenda Items

TBS Meeting Locations

Strategic Plan Committee Finalized

School Choice Allotment

Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – congratulated SusanMary Redinger wrapping up contract negotiations with Dr. Dwight.

Maureen Babcock – Great to hear from students. The enrollment projection numbers are fascinating. Maureen offered to provide tours of Devens to anyone interested.

Keith Cheveralls – Thanked Maureen Babcock for her tireless work and for being an outstanding ambassador. Very much appreciated.

SusanMary Redinger – Thanked and acknowledged Lorraine, Mary Zadroga and the Central Office staff for their work in preparing School Committee materials, binders and reports.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger 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.

Keith Cheveralls is excused from the Executive Session.

Cheveralls (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Sullebarger (Aye), Wenger (Aye)

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary