

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, March 10, 2014

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the February 28th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 Executive Session minutes as amended to remain confidential.

VOTE 5/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approved the minutes of the October 9, 2012 Executive Session minutes as presented to remain confidential.

VOTE 5/0

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2013 Executive Session minutes as amended and to make the minutes public.

VOTE 5/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2013 Executive Session minutes as presented and to make them public.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move to approve the September 30, 2013 Executive Session minutes as amend to be made public.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the history behind the reason why December 24th is scheduled as a half day of school for the 2014/2015 school year. SusanMary Redinger shared that parents and teachers have concerns that the day will not be a quality or useful educational day. The administration will come back with a recommendation at the March 24th so that the Committee can review the feasibility of having school on December 24th

Student Report

Katia Schwiegershausen reported that the drama production that was performed this past weekend was a 3x3x3 performance layout with three smaller plays being performed in three locations simultaneously with one third of the audience traveling to the cafeteria, the auditorium and the drama classroom to view the performances. National Honor Society had their induction ceremony and reception this past week, the sixth grade will be going to the Museum of Science

this week and the 9th graders will be traveling to Washington, DC from March 13 through March 16th.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly explained that there would be a public hearing on the FY15 Budget at 7:00 p.m. Lorraine Leonard will present a detailed year end projection of the FY14 budget and all outside funds to date. Dr. Connelly shared a copy of the Draft FY15 Budget book for review. With approval the booklet will be printed and disseminated for the annual town meeting. Dr. Connelly shared a memo from Bill Johnson outlining the video production course that will be conducted at the HCTV studio at TBS. Twenty nine students and two teachers have signed up to take the course which will be on March 4th.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Bob Sullebarger reported that the Energy Advisory Committee will meet on March 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the Old Library.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee held 4 round table in Harvard and one at Devens and received great feedback. SusanMary thanked everyone who attended and shared ideas. School drop off and pick up, connecting walkways in town, housing and enrollment were issues of interest. SusanMary Redinger reported that the next HES School Council worked on updating membership bi-laws and the student survey. Their next meeting is March 18th. SusanMary Redinger reported that she attended the Student Council meeting with Keith Cheveralls and Kirsten Wright where they discussed the 2014/2015 school calendar issue, technology in the classroom and the importance of technology training for staff.

Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council is looking for a community member to serve on the Council. If interested please get in touch with Jim O'Shea. The SEPAC will meet on March 18th and Marie Harrington is scheduled to speak. The Policy Subcommittee met last Friday and will meet this Friday and are working on Policy J.

Keith Cheveralls shared that he is inspired to see the response to the video production class and he looks forward to the opportunities this will bring to the schools. Keith Cheveralls shared that it is an incredible opportunity for School Committee to meet with the Student Council. It is inspiring to have students contributing to adult conversation with incredible articulation and knowledge.

Patty Wenger report that the Strategic Planning Committee is in the process of completing their mission state and will bring it back to the group at their next meeting on April 10th. Patty Wenger highly recommended for people to get involved and volunteer on the Celebration Committee. Celebration events will be held on May 16th.

HES Infinity Day Presentation

Gretchen Henry along with Math Interventionist Cindy Steeves and Deb Walker as well as seven 5th graders shared with the Committee highlights of their very successful “Infinity Day” program. Infinity Day is designed with activities that were shared by the entire school K-5 on the concept of the mathematical concept of Infinity. Students in attendance paired up with Committee members and shared how to make a fractal triangle.

CPIC – Updates

Keith Cheveralls updated the Committee on recent ideas the Capital Planning and Investment Committee are considering for the future identification and processing of major town wide capital projects such as shifting the request threshold from \$10K w/3 year life to \$20K and or a 5 year life and returning to an earlier financing method: Capital Exclusion. A town meeting vote will be needed to change the current bi-laws.

Keith Cheveralls reviewed the changes to the scope of Article 20 (Hildreth Elementary School Front and Rear Roadway and Parking Lots Assessment) and Article 21 (Kindergarten Wing Building Assessment).

FY15 Public Hearing

Dr. Connelly presented the FY15 budget of \$12,019,625 which is an increase of \$125,137 over the FY14 budget. Dr. Connelly explained the increases and decreases by cost center. Committee members read by assignment the warrant articles sponsored by the School Department. Article 20 and Article 21 will have the amended text. Article 24 – Harvard Cable Television/TBS Air Conditioning will be addressed by the HCTV Committee. Lorraine Leonard also reviewed the FY14 School Outside Funding Report and the current status of available funds

Finance Report

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the projection for FY14 year-end budget and explained surplus and deficit areas and how they are being addressed. The current deficit for FY14 is \$105,156. We will be requesting additional FY14 Special Education Circuit Breaker funding that if approved to help offset the overall school deficit. The funding request will be submitted on March 30th and we should know by April 15th if we qualify for this additional FY14 financial aid.

Declining Enrollment Report – School Committee Policy Impact