

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, August 26, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Keith Cheveralls, Patty Wenger, Lorraine Leonard, Bob Sullebarger (6:20) Joseph Connelly, Absent: Maureen Babcock

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

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the July 22nd meeting as amended. (Keith abstained due to absence)

VOTE 3/0

Reports

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported on a very positive opening to school this week. Staff were introduced to our new Emergency Management Crisis Plan during convocation with input from Police Chief Denmark and Fire Chief Sicard. Dr. Connelly shared Dr. Dwight's letter thanking Mass Development for their very generous furniture donation to the HES office.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Keith Cheveralls reported that CPIC has met twice over the summer. The due date for FY15 Capital requests is no later than September 27th. CPIC will meet again September 5th. Keith Cheveralls took the opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the work and support that George McKenna, Chairman of CPIC and a member of the Finance Committee has given the School Committee over the years. George McKenna has chosen not to seek another term which ended June 30th.

Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council has their first meeting of the year on September 10th.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School has their first meeting of the year on September 17th. SusanMary also reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee sent out an RFP to hire a consultant to work on developing the next phase of the town's master plan. No school input is needed at this time. The disposition of Devens will be the first order of business.

Acceptance of Gift – Sound Equipment for Cronin Auditorium

Dr. Connelly asked the Committee to approve a very generous donation from an anonymous Harvard resident of \$30,000 in sound equipment and \$10,000 in labor costs. George Kendall our English/Drama teachers has been in contact with this generous individual.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we accept the very generous donation of audio equipment described in George Kendall's letter dated July 22, 2013 with gratitude.

VOTE 4/0 (Bob Sullebarger was not in attendance until after the vote)

2013/2014 School Readiness Report

Dr. Connelly reviewed the School Readiness report including enrollments, bus counts, school facilities summer projects completed and textbook purchases.

FY14 Capital Projects – Status Report

Mark Force, Director of Maintenance reviewed the status of Warrant Articles 14-20 as follows:

Article 14 – HCTV – inside work almost complete - outside work still in progress

Article 15 – Pond Road Parking Lot – paving bid expected to go out at the end of September with work to be completed next June.

Article 16 – TBS Science Lab Renovation Design – ready for September presentation

Article 17 – TBS Chemical Storage Ventilation – work completed

Article 18 – HES Storage Shed – sheds will be delivered on September 6, 2013

Article 19 – HES Safety Gates – work completed

Article 20 – Structural Assessment & Repairs of TBH – ready for a September presentation

Personnel Report

Dr. Connelly reported the MS Special Education teacher position should be filled this week and all other vacancies have been filled. Currently the uncommitted salary balance is \$127,461.

2013/2014 School Choice Openings

Dr. Connelly reported that the three choice opening approved at the July 22nd meeting have been advertised and filled. At this time another grade 10 School Choice student has withdrawn from Bromfield. Dr. Connelly advised the Committee they could leave the vacancy open or the vacancy could be filled with a 9th grade sibling as the 9th grade choice opening has already been advertised.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we open a choice slot for Grade 9.

VOTE 5/0

The Committee asked Dr. Connelly to report back as to why the four choice students withdrew.

Special Education FY14 Budget Alert

Dr. Connelly reviewed with the Committee the development of a significant increase to the Special Education budget due to five new out of district placements. The new costs total \$518,118. Dr. Connelly has identified \$388,000 in potential offsets from personnel changes and reductions in SPED staff making the projected deficit \$129,837. Lorraine Leonard told the committee that the district may also be eligible for extra state aid. Dr. Connelly will report the SPED budget update to FinCom at their meeting next Wednesday.

2013/2014 Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments

The Committee reviewed and appointed liaison and subcommittee assignments as follows:

Liaison Assignments

Board of Selectman – SusanMary Redinger
Fin Com – SusanMary Redinger
DEAC – Kirsten Wright
SEPAC – Kirsten Wright
TBS School Council – Kirsten Wright
HES School Council – SusanMary Redinger
CPIC – Keith Cheveralls
HEAC – Bob Sullebarger
Parks & Recreation Dept – Patty Wenger
State Representative – Bob Sullebarger
Town Master Plan Steering – SusanMary Redinger
HCTV – Keith Cheveralls
Technology – Keith Cheveralls
Library – Kirsten Wright

Subcommittee Assignments

Budget – SusanMary Redinger and Keith Cheveralls
Policy – Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright
Collective Bargaining – SusanMary Redinger and Patty Wenger
Superintendent Search – SusanMary Redinger and Kirsten Wright
Wellness Committee – Bob Sullebarger and Kirsten Wright
Enrollment trends/Declining enrollment – Bob Sullebarger and Kirsten Wright
Strategic Plan – Bob Sullebarger and Patty Wenger

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger second to move that we establish School Committee liaison and Subcommittee assignments for 2013/2014 as noted.

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent Search Update

The Committee reviewed the projected time for review of Dr. Dwight for the Superintendent position. Staff forums have been scheduled for September 4th 2:30 at TBS and 3:30 at HES. A public forum is scheduled for September 9th 6:30 -7:30 at TBS with an interview to follow at the Town Hall Meeting Room from 8p.m. to 9 p.m. The Committee will meet Saturday morning, September 14 at 9 a.m. to review comments and feedback from the staff and public forums. The Committee will make a decision on or before Monday, September 16th.

School Committee/Superintendent 2013/2014 Outcomes/Goals

The Committee reviewed the draft 2013/2014 Outcomes/Goals that were identified at the July 22nd meeting. Five goals were identified which include securing a full-time, permanent superintendent, completing a technology study, reviewing K-12 wellness program, developing a new Strategic Plan, and negotiating a new contract between the School Committee and the Harvard Teacher's Association.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve the School Committee/Superintendent 2013/2014 Outcomes/Goals for the school year 2013-2014 as amended and wordsmithed by the Chair.

VOTE 5/0

Future Agenda Items

HES Climate Survey TBS & HES
Emergency Crisis Plan
Community Education Business Plan Update
CPIC update
School opening report
5 year capital needs

Closing Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – asked that a plaque be put in the Cronin auditorium identifying the sound equipment gift by an anonymous Harvard resident.

Patty Wenger – convocation was great – thanked Keith for all of his great work on the cable project.

Kirsten Wright – Shared with the Committee a picture of an Adirondack chair made by a Harvard student while attending Monty Tech. Kirsten would like to have Monty Tech attend a meeting to present on their important programs.

Keith Cheveralls – thanked SusanMary for representing the committee well at convocation

Joseph Connelly – will be developing a certificate of appreciation for members of the school and town who worked on the Emergency Crisis plan to be presented at the September 26th meeting.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked everyone for stepping in and helping out to give her time to recuperate.

SusanMary Redginer adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary