

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 12, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Jennifer Bedford, Linda Dwight, Lorraine Leonard Absent: Patty Wenger, Bob Sullebarger, Maureen Babcock

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

Review of Minutes

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to approve the minutes of the December 8th meeting as amended.

VOTE 3/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to approve the minutes of the December 15th meeting as amended.

VOTE 3/0

Student Report

Lisa Jorgensen from the Bromfield Student Council reported that there was a great turn out, the decorations were great and lot of fun was had by the seventh and eighth graders at the Snowflake dance held this past weekend. Winter Sports are in full swing, with both the girls and boys basketball teams winning their last games.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight reviewed the status of the SOI (Statement of Intent) application to MSBA. The draft should be ready for the Committee to review by the end of January. The timeline for work to begin on the project would be about two and half years. Dr. Dwight reported that the school website will soon be changing to allow for all sites to be consistent and allow for more flexibility by site managers to keep things up to date. Dr. Dwight explained that the Teacher Leadership Team worked with administrators to tackle the DESE student feedback requirement. The team met to consider the samples and craft the questions to benefit student learning in the Harvard Public Schools. Draft surveys will be shared with the entire teaching staff at the next early release day. Dr. Dwight reported the Associate Principal's job has been posted on School Spring. Sue Frederick has gathered a team of volunteers to help with the interviewing process. The final candidates will meet with the administrative team before a decision is made by the end of April.

Liaison/Subcommittee Report

Kirsten Wright reported that HCTV has a new member who is very excited to meet with Dr. Dwight to see what can be done to encourage more student involvement at the studio.

Jennifer Bedford – Hildreth School Council discussed the FY16 budget, the K-Wing timeline, play structure safety, blizzard bags and the boys health curriculum.

SusanMary Redinger reported that Patty Wenger made her aware that all of the school's capital requests were approved to go forward for town meeting. SusanMary Redinger reported that the Bromfield School Council met and discussed the Youth Risk Survey, December 24th, and the HCTV studio. The next meeting will be on January 14th and Patty Wenger will attend. School Committee

is scheduled to meet with the Student Advisory Committee on January 23rd and the Student Council on January 30th, both at 7:00 a.m.

Finance Report

Lorraine Leonard reported on the FY15 budget through December 31, 2014. Updates were made to personnel, internal articles, SPED collaborative and out of district expenses leaving a surplus at this time of \$15,799. Lorraine Leonard also reviewed the outside funds report with the Committee.

Harvard Schools Trust Grants

Dr. Dwight asked the Committee to approve the following grant requests from the Harvard Schools Trust:

HES New Program – Mary-Elizabeth Cregan for \$369.79

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to move to approve the generous gift to the Hildreth Elementary School for the news program in the amount of \$369.79.

VOTE 3/0

Approval of Field Trip

Kristen McManus asked the committee for approval to take 8 students to a state conference for youth in government at the state house in Boston from March 12 through March 14th.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to move to approve the overnight field trip to the statehouse in Boston from March 12 through March 14th.

VOTE 3/0

Review of holding school on December 24th

Dr. Dwight reviewed the results of holding school on December 24th. There was low attendance of both staff and students. Dr. Dwight would not recommend having school again. She would recommend the school winter vacation would start no later than December 23rd to avoid a similar occurrence.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to instruct the Policy Subcommittee to amend Policy IMD-R to reflect December 24th as a day of low attendance.

VOTE 3/0

Review of the draft letter to the Board of Selectmen

SusanMary Redinger presented a letter that she wrote on behalf of the School Committee to ensure the Board of Selectmen is mindful of our need for office space for the Superintendent and district administration.

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the letter as amended to be sent to the Board of Selectmen.

VOTE 3/0

Approval of the new job description

The Committee reviewed the newly created job description for the Educational Technology Coordinator. The Committee asked for clarification on the job goals and asked Dr. Dwight to bring the job description back for approval.

Update on 2015-16 Budget Process

The School Committee Chair and the Superintendent will meet with the Finance Committee on Wednesday January 14th at 7:00 at the Bromfield School teacher's lounge. Dr. Dwight, SusanMary Redinger and Lorraine Leonard responded to written questions from the Finance Committee in advance of the meeting. Budgets will not be finalized until the end of February.

Future Agenda Items

Educational Technology Coordinator – Job Description

School Improvement Plans - January

Meeting scheduled for Devens

Superintendent Update

District Improvement Plan progress

Calendar Subcommittee

Review Progress on School Committee Goals

Closing Commentary

Kirsten Wright thanked SusanMary Redinger for the work she does on this Committee. She is amazing.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

VOTE 3/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary