

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, November 24, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the November 10th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Student Report

Alyson Codner reported that Winter sports will begin next week at The Bromfield School.

Approval of Harvard Schools Trust grants

The Harvard Schools Trust voted to approve the following grant requests at their October 8, 2014 meeting: Model UN- Bryce Mattie, \$3,450 and 2nd Grade Goo Kit-Dawn-Marie Ayles - \$269.99

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to accept the generous donation from Harvard Schools Trust for Model UN at \$3,450 and the Geo Kit for \$269.99 as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Club Status Update

Dr. Dwight reviewed with the Committee the status of extra-curricular clubs at The Bromfield School based on data she collected from club advisors. The data included information on when the clubs meet, what types of projects they are working on and if they would be interested in presenting their work to the School Committee. It was suggested that the video club film various clubs in action for a video clip presentation. Dr. Dwight agreed to review the stipends for new clubs that have been in existence for over one year with Jim O'Shea and Kellie Carlucci and come back to the Committee for their approval of stipended amounts as well as a list of clubs that are no longer running.

Memorandum of Understanding on Contribution

Dr. Dwight presented a Memorandum of Understanding which reflects the participation of HTA members in retirement accounts, not limited to the 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity defined in section 17., Tax Sheltered Annuity, p.18, in the "Contract of the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Teachers' Association", September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2017. The memorandum of understanding will be added as a side letter of agreement to the contract. The change is as follows:

Retirement Accounts

As defined by the IRS, retirement accounts for elective salary deferrals (such as 403b or 457b), will be established.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the MOU as submitted and to authorize the chair to sign the side letter to that effect amending the teacher's contract.

VOTE 4/0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight shared that Bromfield staff benefited from a half day event hosted by Burlington High School. The event was led by senior students that have had iPads for 4 years. It was clear that the students were excited and technology was used as a part of their studies to complement instruction. Dr. Dwight also shared that 15 Harvard teachers attended the iPad Summit in Boston. The two days were full of valuable sessions which were a blend of hands on learning, keynote speakers and break-out sessions on a wide variety of topics. The Summit confirmed our work with technology and pushed us to advance further by ensuring that our work leads to deeper student learning. Dr. Dwight was impressed with the high level theatre by elementary students in their performance of Honk Jr. this past weekend. They spend a lot of time preparing and do an incredible job.

Liaison/Subcommittee Report

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Devens forum for the Master Plan Steering Committee has been rescheduled to December 6, 2014 from 9-12 at the Old Library. There will be a presentation by the consultants. They are hoping to get feedback from residents regarding how the jurisdiction of Devens would impact the Master Plan as presented.

Patty Wenger reported the Capital Planning and Investment has been meeting regularly and is hoping to get the ranking of projects done by the end of December. Patty Wenger reported that the School Committee had a great meeting with the Student Advisory Council last week. They will meet again on January 18th. Patty loved the Honk Jr. Play, it was absolutely adorable and fun and the kids were great.

Maureen Babcock reported that the Bob Quarry, Kristen Stoffregen and Heather Knowles are the newly elected DEAC members.

Choice Off-set

In order to prepare the FY16 budget offset for School Choice revenue, the Committee reviewed current enrollment and determined that they would be comfortable with a place holder of 5 School Choice In students for the 2015/2016 school year. This will maintain the FY16 School Choice off-set at \$350,000.

Entry Plan Review

Dr. Dwight reviewed with the Committee her entry plan which identified key action steps which will provide her with important information and views from stakeholders. Action steps are: 1. Conducting Interview/Focus Groups/Survey, 2. Reviewing Documents/Student Achievement Data, 3. Visiting Schools and Classrooms. 4. Ensuring Financial/Operational Responsibility, 5. Meeting with District Leaders, 6. Communicating with the School Committee and Public, 7. Sharing Findings and Next Steps. Dr. Dwight is looking at themes that pop up when interviewing people. She intends to present a written summary and will follow up in January when the fact-finding and information gathering is complete.

Calendar Sub-Committee Work

The Calendar Review goal requires that a subcommittee be formed and combine with the district calendar committee to optimize the calendar for student learning and efficiency. The Committee discussed the makeup of the Calendar subcommittee to include 2 School Committee members, 1

student, 1 parent, 1 teacher, 1 administrator and the Superintendent. It is hoped this subcommittee can be formed and begin meeting before the end of the December.

K-Wing Update

Dr. Dwight reviewed the timeline of events to date regarding the proposed K-Wing renovation project. At this point the Board of Selectman tabled the vote to December 2nd to move the Statement of Interest forward to the MSBA. The Board of Health has qualified the K-Wing mold as a hazard but no risk at this point. The Committee agreed to not include the cost of the feasibility study on the CPIC requests for this year but inform the public in April and then hold a Special Town Meeting to fund the feasibility study once the project has been approved by MSBA. The Committee asked Dr. Dwight to resolve any lingering questions that the Board of Selectman have regarding the SOI and to contact MSBA to see if a vote to approve the SOI is valid before the application has been published.

December 24th Update

Dr. Dwight informed the Committee that school will be business as usual on December 24th with teachers who will be absent producing regular plans. The administration is working on bringing in guest teachers and volunteers to help staff the schools. At the request of the the Student Advisory Committee a video clip will be prepared by School Committee and Administration to inform students why we are holding school on December 24th, what is planned and the likelihood that we'll continue to have school on December 24th in the future. The Bromfield School administration along with the School Committee will be holding a panel discussion during Advisory period for students in grades 10, 11 and 12 to ask questions and gain perspective on the subject.

Future Agenda Items

Harvard Schools Trust
Cost Center Budget meetings – December 15th
CPIC update
K-Wing update
School Improvement Plans - January
Meeting scheduled for Devens
Science Lab Upgrades

Closing Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – Happy Thanksgiving
Patty Wenger – enjoy your time off
Kirsten Wright – Happy Thanksgiving
Maureen Babcock – Happy Thanksgiving
Linda Dwight – thanked Dawn-Marie for getting the mocked up signs of the vision statements up on both schools this week.
SusanMary Redinger -grateful to have the opportunity to be on this committee working with great people. I appreciate the time, energy and commitment. Have a safe Thanksgiving and safe driving on Wednesday.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary

