

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, February 23, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

Review of Minutes

SusanMary Redinger moved to approve the minutes of the January 12th meeting as amended.
VOTE 3/0

Student Report

Alyson Codner reported that both the girls and boys basketball teams have made it to the playoffs. The girl's first playoff game is tomorrow. The Science Fair will be held this Friday. Bromfield students will be participating in the Drama Festival this Saturday in Chelmsford.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight explained the attendance policy changes that are being mandated by the state. The new law requires each school committee to establish a pupil absence notification program in each of its schools. Under the provision, the program must ensure that the school notifies a parent or guardian if the student was absent and the parent has not notified the school of the absence within 3 days of the absence. The district must make reasonable efforts to meet with the parent or guardian of a student who has 5 or more unexcused absences to develop an action plan for student attendance as prescribed in the statute. A trip form was discussed to develop a pre-approval form for all families to get preapproved for up to 5 days to travel to college visits etc. The Administrative team will work on the trip form and policy language and bring back for Committee review and approval.

The Committee discussed the contents of the school specific budget books to include subsidy explanation, technology plan summary, Devens contract information and warrant articles. The School Committee will hold a budget hearing on March 9th at 6:00 p.m. prior to their regularly scheduled meeting. Copies of the budget book will be printed for distribution at town meeting and will be posted on the school website.

Dr. Dwight met with Lorraine Leonard over the vacation week to work on the MSBA application. The draft should be ready shortly for review before presenting it to the BOS for review and signatures.

The DESE Commissioner is allowing districts to change their testing dates this year due to the five snow days. The leadership team will meet on Thursday to review the pros and cons and make a final recommendation.

School Committee/Superintendent Goals update

Dr. Dwight and the Committee reviewed the progress of the five joint School Committee/Superintendent goals for 2014-2015. Goal 1 – “Calendar Review” is 60% complete, Goal 2 – “Bromfield House Decision” is 40% complete, Goal 3 – “Science Labs” is 30% complete, Goal 4 – “Ensuring a variety of student activities is 50% complete, and Goal 5 “User Fees’ is 30% complete.

Approval of changes to Capital Expenses

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the capital submissions for funding fiscal years 2016-2020 as follows:

Removed - HES window replacement (lost seals) – (\$40,000) to be paid from Facilities budget

Removed - 4 Wheel drive all-terrain vehicle – (\$20,000)

Removed - Replace ramp to middle school wing – (\$75,000)

Moved - HES power generator – \$130,000 to FY18

Moved - HES resurface back and front parking lot to FY20

Increased price - Replace all flat rubber membrane roofs - +\$70,000

Increased price - Repair or replace ramp to MS - +\$50,000

Bob Sullebarger made the motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the revised Capital submission for FY16-FY20.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger will send the revised plan to the Capital Plan and Investment Committee for approval.

Snow Days Cost Update

Dr. Dwight reviewed the cost of snow removal as well as custodial overtime with the Committee. To date the cost to clear roofs of snow is approximately \$80,000. The custodial overtime account has been exceeded by \$8,200. Dr. Dwight explained there may be some state relief to help pay the expenses.

Associate Principal Update

Dr. Dwight reported that four very highly qualified candidates have been selected as finalist for the Associate Principal position at HES. Candidates will be visiting the district in the next two weeks and then a decision will be made. A meet and greet will be planned for parents in the spring.

User Fees (athletic and bus) and Full Day Kindergarten Information from Other Districts

Dr. Dwight reviewed with the Committee a list of area districts and their user fee practices. The Committee discussed user fee practices in the district what types of changes make sense for the future. The Committee decided that this will be a project that will be worked on over the summer.

Liaison/Subcommittee reports

Kirsten Wright distributed a letter for Committee members to sign that would be awarded to a Middle School and High School student as a Science Fair award. The winners will also receive a cash prize. The Committee plans to seek advice from Lorraine Leonard on how money could be set aside in the omnibus budget to fund the award. Kirsten Wright reported that DEAC will meeting tomorrow evening at 7 p.m.

Jennifer Bedford reported that the HES School Council will meet tomorrow.

SusanMary Redinger reported that Thatcher Kezer has been hired by MassDevelopment to replace George Rameriz as Senior Vice President. Maureen Babcock will be meeting Thatcher to update him on the education of Devens students. The Bromfield School Council meets on March 11th, SusanMary plans to attend. All Boards meeting will be held on Wednesday night. SusanMary assigned members to specific warrant articles to be presented at the annual town meeting.

Bathrooms to Jennifer Bedford, Science Labs to Kirsten Wright or Patty Wenger, voice of IP Phone System – SusanMary Redinger.

Future Agenda Items

Status of TBS Sidewalk Project

TBS – Club Approval

Budgetbook

Ecuador trip

Superintendent Performance Review

SC Self Evaluation

Superintendent Entry Plan

Data Management Systems

Meeting scheduled for Devens

Calendar Subcommittee

Closing Commentary

Kirsten Wright spoke of a Valentine's Day social event held at Fruitland's Museum where student actors read love letters that couples from the community had written. It is a wonderful partnership that has developed between Fruitland's and Mr. Kendall. It is a real community connection. The drama festival will be held on Saturday, and the public is invited to an open rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday night.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary