

School Committee Minutes
Hapgood Room, Old Library
April 27, 2015

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Jennifer Bedford, Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, Linda Dwight. Absent: Kirsten Wright, Maureen Babcock and Lorraine Leonard.

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

Student Presentation

Students from the Middle School Drama Club performed a portion of “Curst Be He That Moves My Bones” for the School Committee. The group will be performing the entire play this Saturday for the Middle School Drama Fest which will be hosted at The Bromfield School. The Drama Fest is an all-day affair where the students will be judged professionally. This type of event allows the performers to share their craft with other schools.

Student Report

Alyson Codner reported that students returned from spring break today. This Wednesday, the Senior Class will be presenting their Community Service Projects, Friday is the Model UN Lip Sync, and Saturday the Middle School Drama Club will be hosting the Drama Fest. Next week AP exams start. Alyson reported that there has been no student feedback on the Youth Risk Survey.

SusanMary Redinger asked Alyson to query the Student Advisory group to get an understanding of how they would like to focus and prioritize this type of information at the joint meeting on May 1st. Graduation gowns, this year will be blue and white by random assignment.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight presented an overnight field trip request from Bromfield Cares Advisor, Patricia Nilan for a service learning trip to Philadelphia from May 21st through May 24th.

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the overnight field trip to Philadelphia from May 21st through May 24th as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Dr. Dwight requested that the Committee consider taking the combined savings from two positions that will change from 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE to hire the Education Technology Coordinator requested in the budget. The total impact to the budget is an increase of approximately \$5,201.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to approve the hire of an Educational Technology Coordinator and the expenses that may incur.

VOTE 3/0/1 Nancy Lancellotti abstained.

Dr. Dwight reported that the low bid for the Bromfield Sidewalk Project was submitted by Sunshine Paving for \$153,000. The funding for this project would come from the funds in reserve for large capital projects and the Devens unused funds from last year.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to accept the bid from Sunshine Paving at \$153,000 with monies to be used from current warrant articles and the Devens fund.

VOTE 4/0

SusanMary Redinger described the changes needed to upgrade the internet for both the district and town offices. The school and the town hall are having connectivity issues and Chris Boyle is recommending switching over from cable to fiber. The cost of switching is approximately \$16,000 for next year and \$3,200 for this year. After Lorraine, SusanMary and Linda met it was agreed that the best thing to do was to move forward immediately and order the new fiber service knowing that without School Committee approval the order could be rescinded. It is recommended that the Devens funds be used to cover this expense which is consistent with our use of those funds to enhance/upgrade technology in the schools.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the signing of the contract for fiber optic services with an expected budget increase of up to \$15,000 coming out of the Devens account.

VOTE 4/0

Dr. Dwight presented two gifts from the Harvard Schools for approval:

2015-13 Creating New Worlds: An Anthology Project in Creativity, Imagination, and Service – Mr. Luke Reynolds - \$250.

2015-14 Portable Scoreboard for Girls Lacrosse and Field Hockey, Mr. Bob Armstrong - \$883.86

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to accept the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Vote to Approve the Final Day of School

After meeting the 180 day requirement and time on learning requirements the Committee agreed to vote to approve the final day of school as June 19th.

Jennifer Bedford made the motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve June 19th as the last day of school in this school year

Update on Warrant Articles

Dr. Dwight reviewed the status of the warrant articles that were funded for FY16. The bathrooms at HES have not been started yet, but Mark Force will be working to prepare bid documents for the project to be completed over the summer. The new phone system was budgeted at \$100,000 and may come in a bit lower. The new phone system will allow all three buildings to be connected and will allow for an updated system for both efficiency and safety. The Science Lab project started as a huge project when first studied. It has been down sized to HVAC issues at this point. The project is funded at \$315,000. We will need a company to prepare bid specifications for the project. Dr. Dwight has reached out to GRLA; the company who studied the bigger project, for pricing, and the current estimate to prepare the bid documents and then oversee the project is \$83,000. Since the project has been downsized by a number of rooms it is hopeful that price will come down. Dr. Dwight is expected to get prices from George O'Neil on Friday and will update at the next meeting.

Update on New District Website

The new district website should be in place in mid-May. The new website will change in look and feel as well as allow individuals to make changes. We are excited to learn more about it and to have it on line. SusanMary Redinger would like to review the School Committee pages before they go

live to the new website. SusanMary Redinger will work with Mary Zadroga to review, update and make changes as needed.

Update on Staffing

Administrators at both schools are conducting interviews for vacant positions. We should have some names and information soon.

Calendar

The School Committee agreed to the following summer meeting dates.

Regular scheduled meeting for June 8th, a tentatively scheduled meeting for June 22nd, a budget close out meeting the week of July 6th, a regular scheduled meeting on July 27th and a regular scheduled meeting for August 24th.

Review of Minutes

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the minutes of the April 27th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Liaison Subcommittee Reports

HES School Council – Jennifer Bedford reported that HES School Council met new Associate Principal Josh Myler and he will be going to the Fun Fair. Discussed 5th grade boys puberty video. It seemed the second video was better than the first. The teacher survey will be going out soon. The School Improvement Plan was discussed. The topic of how many times per year information on student progress would be reported back to families came up. Next meeting scheduled for May 19th. Nancy Lancellotti reported that The Bromfield School Council discussed the high rate of absenteeism with the senior class missing the most school days. Conversation ensued on what types of things are in place to emphasize to students the importance of their attendance and then how attendance infractions are being enforced. There are two openings on School Council and elections will be done using Survey Monkey. Next meeting scheduled for May 6th.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday with Planning Board to focus on a new plan after severing the contract with RKG. SusanMary met with the Capital Planning and Investment Committee to discuss a fire engine issue.

Future Agenda Items

Meeting Norms

Superintendent Evaluation Forms

School Improvement Plans

Handbook approval

Professional Development Funds

Professional Development Summer Plans

Closing Commentary

Jennifer Bedford – great performance by the middle school group.

SusanMary Redinger – Jungle Book Production at HES this weekend. Will be a great show.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary

