

School Committee Minutes
Hapgood Room, Old Library
August 24, 2015
6:00 p.m.

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

Jennifer Bedford called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

Open to Interested Citizens' Commentary

None

Share School Readiness Update

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee the agenda for the School Readiness meeting that was held on Monday, August 24th. It was a great meeting and a good way to ensure good communication, mutual respect and collaboration around school readiness and student safety.

Share Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight shared the following:

- There are 4 Choice slots that will go unfunded this year. All four students moved into the district. This will create a \$20,000 shortfall on our budgeted off-set amount. This should be covered by the carry forward balance in the School Choice revolving account.
- The new teacher/staff orientation will be held on Thursday, August 27th. Lisa Hopkins, our new teacher coordinator planned a full day of orientation including a meeting with the Town's HR department, school tours, principal sessions, and responsibilities/expectations. The district will welcome 25 new employees.
- Dr. Dwight and Nancy Lancellotti attended a meeting with GRLA engineers who will help define our HVAC options for the air handling upgrade to the TBS Science labs. They expect to have the first phase of their design work done on September 10th at which point the group will reconvene. GRLA expects the bid documents to be ready to send out before Thanksgiving.
- The Title I Federal Grant has allowed our district to propose additional supports for our families from Transitions; a shelter for women and children located in Devens. The supports included summer visits to the school for tours, placement testing and to meet staff. The students were also welcomed to attend our Summer Enrichment Camps. The district is planning to use additional Title I funds to create a learning lab in the high school similar to the program available to middle school students.
- The District will be using a new communication tool called Alert Solutions. This will become our tool for email and phone communications with parent. It has already been used to send out the students' schedules at Bromfield.

Review Personnel Report

Dr. Dwight reviewed the personnel spread sheet for the 2015/2016 school year which shows all of the personnel changes that have occurred since our budget was approved. There is currently a \$15,555.58 surplus.

Review the Summer Maintenance Projects

Mark Force attended the meeting to review the long list of summer projects that were completed by his department over the summer. The Committee thanked Mark and his staff for their hard work and impressive accomplishments.

Review the Summer Technology Upgrades

Dr. Dwight shared the following Summer Technology Upgrades which have been completed by Chris Boyle and his staff over the summer.

- PowerSchool Implementation/Training
- New Phone System
- Computer Replacement Cycle
- Pilot program – 1:World - iPad
- Set up for new iPad
- Fiber switch to increase band width
- Town connection work

Share the 1: World Pilot Program Evaluation

Principal, Sue Frederick shared information gathered from teachers, parents and students through a survey to evaluate the 1: World Pilot Program that was completed three time over the course of the year. The overall results of the survey were positive. Next steps include exploring the flipped classroom, linking schools and classrooms nationally and internationally, carrying the pilot to the 6th grade, and continued training for all staff. The Committee suggested sharing out projects with parents to allow students to show their work. Everyone agreed that the iPad is an exciting tool that offers an opportunity to change learning. The Committee will be asked to make some big decisions in the fall about moving forward. Dr. Dwight thanked Sue for her great leadership with the 1: World Pilot program. Tonight's presentation will be put up on the HES webpage.

Discuss Privacy Policy/Diversity Curriculum

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee information she researched with regard to our privacy policy. The school district's policy centers on record keeping and disbursement of records. We don't have anything about releasing information about student disabilities in our policy. That information is covered by special education law. Although a parent can sign a release to have student information made public, it may be in conflict with what the student wants and can also backfire. The ways in which we can help students understand each other's differences and create a community of inclusiveness is through teaching. Exploring the "Understanding Our Differences" curriculum that is specific to understanding disabilities is a good place to start. The Committee agreed that our staff should attend training to learn more about the "Understanding Our Differences" curriculum. Dr. Dwight shared that the "Steps to Respect" curriculum that we currently use, which helps students recognize differences, but does not help explain specific disabilities.

Develop SC/Superintendent 2015-2016 Goals

The School Committee worked on identifying 4 or 5 loosely identified goals for the next academic year with the idea that this list would be drafted into measureable School Committee/Superintendent goals at a later date. Items discussed were Bromfield Science Labs, User Fees, AP Data – (gender disparity/balance), Dashboard – Student Activities , Teacher Survey, Tell Mass Survey, Youth Risk Survey, Technology Infrastructure/Curriculum. SusanMary Redinger, Jennifer Bedford and Dr. Dwight will go over the list and bring back a draft.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to move to approve the minutes of the July 27th and July 10th (previously amended) meetings as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Report Out from Liaisons

None

Future Agenda Items

AP Data/Gender Disparity

School Improvement Plan

Teacher Climate Survey

School Committee/Superintendent Goals

Science Labs

Staffing

Class section sizes at TBS

Open to Interested Citizens' Commentary

None

Adjournment

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary