School Committee Meeting

Monday, March 26, 2018

6:15 p.m.

Upper Town Hall

Attendance: Mary Traphagen, Jon Green, John Ruark, SusanMary Redinger, Peter Rowe and Linda Dwight. Absent: Nancy Lancellotti (arrived at 8:36 p.m.), Maureen Babcock.

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

John Ruark read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary** – None

**Student Update**

Chloe Cushing – Reported that Spring Sports have started. Things are going well, students are adjusting to juggling academics with sports. Students took SATs on Saturday. The Staff/Senior Basketball game was held last Friday. The staff won both games. The Sophomore Class is preparing to take MCAS soon and teachers are being very flexible with assignments.

A request to change the order of the agenda - SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Jon Green seconded to move Agenda Item VII to Agenda Item IV.

VOTE 4/0

**Trip Consideration**

Kristin McManus, Business Professionals of America Advisor, attended the meeting seeking approval to attend the National Leadership Conference in Texas, May 9th through the 13th, with 4 students who qualified at the State Conference March 3-5. The cost of the trip is between $800 and $1,000, and fundraising will begin soon. Students will compete nationally against students from across the country. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized Leadership Academy which offers intensive leadership training and also requires students to intern for at least 4 hours during the conference.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the trip for the Business Professionals of America as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**Social Studies Curriculum Presentation (elementary)**

Sangita Marya, the Social Studies Vertical Team Leader at Hildreth Elementary School presented the Grade K-5 Social Studies curriculum. Her presentation showed how Social Studies curriculum is presented and integrated at each grade level throughout Hildreth Elementary School. Ms. Marya explained how revisions to the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks will change some content in Grades 3 through 5.

**Guidance Department Presentation**

Bromfield Guidance Department members Drew Skrocki, Sara Lamere, Christine Reale and Susan Chlapowski presented an overview of the new Guidance Department model and how services are offered to students in Grades 6 through 12. Students in Grades 6-8 were introduced to FLEX which is 4 Units of Study covering topics of school success, building a community, achieving balance and planning for the future. Students in the 8th Grade visited Monty Tech and students in the 9th Grade participated in a “Welcome to High School” class. At the 9-12 grade level students attended seminars that focus on guiding students through the post-secondary planning process and provide structured time to work on setting goals, college applications, and planning for life post-Bromfield. In addition, the Guidance Department offers signs of Suicide: Second Act, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and a Parent Presentation, Refresh/Wellness Day and an introduction to Naviance as a parent workshop.

**Grant Acceptance - Tabled**

**Superintendent Update**

*Building Project Update*

\*MSBA project scope and budget meeting will be held tomorrow.

\*Tour of HES on March 20th and a Public Forum at Devens on March 22nd.

\*SBC meeting on March 14th and another planned in two weeks.

\*Met with Preservation Commission and discussed parts of their projects that might intersect with the school project. Arrowstreet will separate out the cost of the fields to bring back to the Preservation Commission. Discussed moving the playground equipment to another area of town and whether they would fund the move.

\*Met with 5 Senior Citizens that initiated starting a Mentoring program at our schools. The State Department has a mentoring resource person who also attended the meeting. Great resources were shared and ideas of ways to build relationships of significance for students and seniors. Will keep you updated.

\*Women’s Leadership conference – seven women from Harvard were able to attend the conference and have expressed how inspiring the conference is.

\*CASE will meet on Friday – CASE is looking to reduce their budget. Enrollment is down due to district running their own programs.

\*Building Committee OML – working on records request – meeting agendas and minutes. Will submit that information to the town clerk, and will have it on the website as well.

\* The science labs are waiting on final inspection of the building inspector. Longo Company has already started to discuss the project for next year.

**Walkout Support Letter**

The Committee reviewed a letter crafted by John Ruark. The letter will be sent to the Harvard parents and families from The Harvard School Committee to express its support of those students who participated in the National School Walkout for 17 minutes on March 14, 2018. The mission statement will be added as part of the letter “to provide an outstanding education experience for all students and to help them develop curiosity, perseverance, and social responsibility.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to move that we authorize the chair to sign the letter and pass it on to the administration for distribution.

VOTE 4/0

**Discussion and Vote the Capital Off-Set to HES Building Project**

The Committee discussed the possibility of off-setting the HES building project by encumbering a portion of the Devens fund to off-set the project cost. CPIC has agreed to contribute $1,000,000 and the School Committee $1,000,000. With these two funds available there will be a decreased impact of the building project for Harvard tax payers.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to move that the School Committee commit to using up to $1,000,000 from the Devens fund to pay off the debt of the new building if approved by town voters.

VOTE 4/0

**Calendar Change for Election Date**

The calendar approved for 2017/2018 has April 3rd as an early release date to accommodate the town elections. The election date was moved to May 8th. Dr. Dwight is suggesting that we add May 8th as an early release date so that the community entering Bromfield has less contact and disruption to the student population.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to move that we make May 8th an early release day.

VOTE 4/0

**Policy Review**

Policy BEDH-E – Guidelines for Public Comment

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adopt Policy BEDH-E as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Policy BGD – School Committee Review of Procedures

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adopt policy BGD as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**School Choice Consideration**

The Committee discussed the enrollment numbers and the location of 7 school choice slots for the 2018/2019 school year. Dr. Dwight in consultation with the principals recommended taking choice students in Grade 2 (2 students,) Grade 7(3 students) and Grade 9 (2 students).

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to open up 2 slots in Grade 2, 3 slots in Grade 7 and 2 slots in Grade 9 as recommended.

VOTE 4/0

**Town Article Assignment**

The Committee reviewed the school related warrant articles. Mary Traphagen will speak at Town Meeting to the following Warrant Articles:

Bromfield Hot Water tank replacement

Upgrade Bromfield School bathroom

Upgrade Cronin Stage and Lights

 Dr. Dwight with help from SusanMary Redinger and Mary Traphagen will speak to the Hildreth Elementary School building project.

**Agenda Items**

SAC – April 13th 7 a.m.

Budget presentation

HEAC

Good Friday – low attendance

Substitute assignment system

Policy

Vote last day of school

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the minutes of the March 12th meeting as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports**

**Mary Traphagen** reported that School Council is working on the staff survey. Working to have the survey guide a school improvement plan. The idea would be to not take things off the school improvement plan but have initiatives that can cross reference two planes. Josh made apple butter bread for the meeting which was delicious.

**SusanMary Redinger**– Presented the School Committee warrants for Warrant 18-15. The Quad Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night. SusanMary Redinger has most of the website review completed and will review with the Committee after town meeting.

**John Ruark** reported that HEAC is preparing an RFP for the lighting project, which should be going out in the next public registry.

John Ruark reported that DEAC met after the public School Building Forum and worked on survey questions. The survey should be going out after April break.

John Ruark reported that the Athletic Advisory and Student Achievement are meeting Thursday. School Committee is invited to a multi-board meeting to discuss the idea of having a turf field in Harvard.

**Nancy Lancellotti** – reported that the Balance Subcommittee made 5 recommendations to the School Council last week. 1. Develop a Middle School Wellness and Balance curriculum to be taught through MS health classes. 2. Add balance reading and other educational materials to the high school wellness curriculum. 3. Develop parameters, such as a maximum number of AP courses per year and grade-level eligibility for the AP program.

4. Collect homework policies from other districts to inform a potential homework policy decision. 5. Evaluate compatibility of Valedictorian and Solitarian with Harvard’s Vision Statement and class ranking practices.

**School Committee Commentary**

SusanMary Redinger thanked and acknowledged the hard work and commitment Dr. Dwight is making with regard to the building project.

**Adjournment**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to adjourn the meeting at

8:46 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga