School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, October 29, 2018
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: Mary Traphagen, SusanMary Redinger, John Ruark, Shannon Molloy, Jon Green, and Linda Dwight. Absent: Maureen Babcock.

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

John Ruark read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – Jennifer Finch -League of Woman Voters – Question 3 support.

Student Report – None

TBS School Improvement Plan Vote
Principal, Scott Hoffman, Associate Principal, Robin Benoit and Dean of Student, Julie Horton presented the School Improvement plan for The Bromfield School for the 2018/2019 school year.

DRAFT - NOT APPROVED

John Ruark made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve The Bromfield School Improvement Plan subject to review by the TBS School Council of suggestion that were made by the School Committee tonight.
VOTE 4/0/1

Superintendent Report
Dr. Dwight introduced Aziz Aghavev, the School Business Manager to the Committee. Mr. Aghavev was able to update the Committee on the work he has been doing over the past month including the year-end report, the MSBA pro-pay training and work flow improvements.
Dr. Dwight attended the National Superintendent Round Table in Washington, DC.
A Crisis Committee meeting was recently held.
Mary Traphagen and Dr. Dwight attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting where a discussion was held regarding the School Business/Town Finance Director combination position and whether it made sense to discontinue the same model. Interviews to replace the School Business/Town Finance Director start tomorrow.
SWAT team received an award in Worcester
Bus driver breakfast was held. Bus drivers received a keychain and 3rd grade student sang while they enjoyed breakfast prepared by our cafeteria staff.

Dr. Dwight served as the moderator for the Arm and Arm presentation held last week. There were also three religious' leaders in the panel. Attendance was great among students and adults. Dr. Dwight will send out a letter to the community regarding weekend synagogue shooting.

Nominate a Delegate to MASC Annual Meeting

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to nominate John Ruark to be the Harvard delegate to the MASC Annual Meeting.
VOTE 5/0

Review Enrollment Numbers and Discuss School Choice Budget

Dr. Dwight discussed enrollment number with regard to School Choice and total enrollment and how much could be budgeted in the FY20 as School Choice Offset. The enrollment numbers were not accurate so the topic will be discussed at a future meeting. The Budget Subcommittee will review and recommend how much to budget as an offset from School Choice.

Policy Review – Tabled

DRAFT - NOT APPROVED

Align on Superintendent Evaluation Measures

Dr. Dwight presented a rubric highlighting the indicators for each standard.

Mary Traphagen made the motion and Jon Green seconded to accept the letter that SusanMary Redinger wrote in response to the PTO Boards request.
VOTE 5/0

Discuss Ballot Question 3 and Vote on School Committee Position

The Committee discussed drafting a resolution on Question 3. The Committee reviewed the resolution draft. If the resolution is approved the Committee, it will be sent to the MASC mailing list site and sent to the Harvard Press.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to move to approve the statement as amended. The resolution will be sent to the MASC mailing list and a copy to the press. (See attached)
VOTE 5/0

Review the 5 Year Capital
The Committee reviewed the 5-year Capital Plan. The plumbing lift station was removed from the approved Capital Plan. The project will be funded through the Maintenance budget for a lesser than expected amount.

Policy Review
John Ruark reviewed Policy DAA as a policy to eliminate due to the information being located through other D policies. The only exception is one line that removes the monthly requirement of the Superintendent to report on finances. The Committee agreed to eliminate the policy.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to remove policy DAA.
VOTE 5/0

Grant Approval
None

Agenda Item
Policy Review
Field Trip Approval
Enrollment Numbers and Discuss School Choice
Review Budget Timeline
PD Plan
SAC agenda items

DRAFT - NOT APPROVED

Approval of Meeting Minutes
SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes of the September 24th meeting as presented.
VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports
Maureen Babcock – presented to the MA Development Board of Directors reminding them of the strong Devens/Harvard school relationship. Discussed items on the handout that she presented. Two seats are coming up for re-election to DEAC. Will be encouraging other people to participate and help. Survey data has not been fully digested. Will bring it forward in the future.
SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC will be meeting next Monday. The $1.8 million worth of requests will not all go through. The schools have four items and will be invited to defend their request to CPIC in December. The status of the School Building project was presented at the Special town meeting. Dr. Dwight turned over the School Building Committee Chair

responsibilities to SusanMary Redinger. The School Building Committee will be reviewing designs at their meeting on November 1st.

Mary Traphagen along with SusanMary Redinger met with the Student Advisory Council. There was good discussion about the changes in parking. They are all seniors and think it's great. They discussed the SAMR model and how students feel about it. Students feel that teachers talk a lot more about that than the kids. Students think that it is important to not do Math on computers, paper and pencil is better. The Bromfield School Council meets next week.

Jon Green – No report

Shannon Molloy – No report

John Ruark – No report

Open to Interested Citizens and School Committee Commentary –

Mary Traphagen – Glad to meet Aziz and look forward to working with him

Maureen Babcock – Monday night is boy scouts and sports which is why she has not been attending every meeting.

Jon Green– thanked Shannon for her work on the resolution.

DRAFT - NOT APPROVED

Adjournment

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Rurak seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga

Resolution 1: Affirming Protection From Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity

Town of Harvard School Committee

October 29, 2018

WHEREAS, *An Act Relative to Gender Identity* (Chapter 199 of the Acts of 2011), which became effective on July 1, 2012, amended several Massachusetts statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of specified categories, to include discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Among the statutes amended is G.L. c. 76, § 5, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity against students who enroll in or attend the public schools;

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2016, *An Act Relative to Transgender Anti-Discrimination* became effective in Massachusetts, extending protections of the Chapter 199 law against discrimination for gender identity to any place of public accommodation;

WHEREAS, 2018 Ballot Question 3 in Massachusetts seeks to repeal or affirm this milestone 2016 legislation affording transgender individuals the right to access public spaces according to their gender identity;

WHEREAS, a Yes vote is a vote to maintain legal protections against discrimination for transgender and gender non-binary people;

WHEREAS, a 2018 study in MA by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law found that "there were fewer incidents of privacy and safety violations in places with gender-identity inclusive public accommodations laws than in comparable areas without the laws";

WHEREAS, the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey (USTS), with almost 28,000 respondents nationwide, reports that "73% of those in Massachusetts who were out or perceived as transgender at some point between Kindergarten and Grade 12 (K–12) experienced some form of mistreatment";

WHEREAS, the Harvard Public Schools vision statement reads in part that we "guide all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being," where well-being includes freedom from discrimination;

WHEREAS, our current District Improvement Plan states, under the core value of School Climate, our intent "to increase students' sense of safety and connectedness by impacting the culture of inclusion across the district";

WHEREAS, we believe that all students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff and others in our community should be welcomed and respected as equal members who have equal rights;

WHEREAS, we recognize the importance of a message that the Harvard School Committee, in its role of educational leadership, stands with our transgender and gender non-binary students and school community members and will defend their rights;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Harvard School Committee endorses a Yes position on 2018 Ballot Question 3 as a reaffirmation of our district's commitment to inclusivity and to ensuring a welcoming and safe environment for all our students;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that no matter the outcome of 2018 Ballot Question 3 in Massachusetts, the Harvard Public Schools District's anti-discrimination policies will stand in full force and effect.

Sources:

Williams Institute Study:
https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/ma-public-accommodations/
DIP:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FtkAWzjAKLzapk_XnhVovjC8hT4h6hqA3L4S6onTD7A/edit?ts=5b92c382
Yes on 3 Education Associations for Freedom:
https://www.freedommassachusetts.org/education-associations/
Harvard Public Schools Policies:
http://www.psharvard.org/school_committee/policies
2015 US Transgender Survey:
http://www.ustranssurvey.org/about/
USTS MA report:
http://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTSMAStateReport%281017%29.pdf

MA DESE:
http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/lgbtq/GenderIdentity.html
2016 law:
https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2016/Chapter134