School Committee Meeting

Monday, November 27, 2017

6:15 p.m.

Upper Town Hall

Attendance: Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, SusanMary Redinger, Jon Green, John Ruark, Linda Dwight, Peter Rowe. Absent: Maureen Babcock

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

**Read the Vision Statement** – Mary Traphagen

**Public Commentary –** None

**Grant Approval**

The following gifts were presented for approval from the Harvard Schools Trust:

Sensory Play Material – Melissa Niland - $1,200

Advanced Nutrition Research Project – Katelyn Russell - $280

Games for Foreign Language Proficiency – Lisa Terrio - $1,250

The Rechargeables – Erin Sintros - $236.33

Headphones for Daily 5 – Dawn-Marie Ayles - $120

Weaving Looms – Lauren Crittendon - $285

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to accept the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented in the School Committee packet.

VOTE 5/0

**Student Report**

Chloe Cushing reported that the PSAT test was administered and the testing went really well. Students are in favor of having the test administered on a school day versus a Saturday. Sports teams did very well this fall, especially the boy’s soccer team, which won the state championship and was very happy with the support from the Harvard community. The new football co-op established this year went really well. Everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and is getting back into it.

**Curriculum Presentation**

Ms. Jennifer Fraser, World Language Department Leader presented the following information relative to the World Language Department at The Bromfield School:

* World Language Department Members
* Recent and up-coming professional development
* AP and National Exam scores
* Course Offerings
* Examples of reading, writing, listening and speaking materials
* Spain and France International trip in Spring 2018

Ms. Fraser presented a proposal to pilot the Seal of Biliteracy award here in Harvard, as many other towns in the state have already done. The seal is part of the larger LOOK Bill (Language Opportunity for Our Kids) that was just recently passed by MA Legislature and is awaiting the governor’s signature. Ms. Fraser explained that the Seal of Biliteracy is a nationally recognized award valued by both universities and potential employees that is granted to students who demonstrate proficiency in English and one or more additional language by high school graduation. In the spirt of the HPS vision statement, the Seal of Bileteracy acknowledges “Students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national, and global communities.”

Ms. Fraser explained that Juniors​ ​and​ ​Seniors​ ​are​ ​eligible​ ​to​ ​apply​ during​ ​the​ ​2017-2018​ ​academic​ ​year. ​ Students must submit a completed application to Ms. Fraser in room 291 by January​ ​17, ​2018​ No late applications will be accepted. All students will receive the results of their assessments. Students who meet the criteria for the Seal of Biliteracy will be awarded a certificate in the spring of 2018 during the Academic Awards Ceremony and will be publicly recognized for their achievement in the press and in the graduation program. The Seal is awarded at three levels of proficiency: Intermediate Mid (Silver Seal), Intermediate High (Gold Seal) and Advanced Low (Platinum Seal). Students must demonstrate the minimum proficiency level in all​ areas of communication assessed to be awarded a certain level of the Seal (e.g. students must attain Intermediate High in all communication areas in order to be awarded a Gold Seal). Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these descriptors before applying.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Seal of Biliteracy pilot program as presented.

VOTE 5/0

The Committee looks forward to hearing an update on the roll-out of the program in the future.

**Building Committee Update**

Dr. Dwight presented to the Committee the MSBA Facilities Assessment presentation. Subcommittees are working on building orientation, longevity and technical performance. The presentation shows the schematic design of the exterior and interior of the building. The deadline to submit the design is December 15th. At that point, it will go to the estimators.

**Superintendent Update**

**Hildreth Elementary Building Project Update**

\*Scott Mulcahy and Linda Dwight attended the EdSpaces Conference

\*CM at Risk candidates (4 companies) did a walk-through of the site and submitted questions, interviews tomorrow

\*SusanMary and Linda shared a short presentation at the Special Town Meeting

\*School Building Committee meeting on November 9th

\*Josh held a public meeting update during conferences on November 13th

\*Working group met on November 14th

\*Held a conference call with architects on November 22nd

\*MSBA update meeting on Wednesday this week

**Teacher Leadership Team Meeting**

**\***The leadership team met on November 16th to discuss the budget and shifts in the MCAS focus. We discussed reactions in the public and in education to the changes in the standardized testing, and discussed portfolio type options for the future.

**Arm in Arm Survey and Recent Meetings**

\*Arm in Arm hosted the movie, Not in our Town and asked Linda to share some of the ways we have focused on improvements since the “Rock Incident”. Some actions included professional development for teachers and staff, written changes to the District Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans, programs for students, Global Competency program, Gender Revolution and actions to protect transgender and gender fluid students and staff, policy review and updates, expanded authors and topics in the English Department, and new books purchased in the HES library to represent all families.

**Science Lab Updates**

\*Concrete removal was performed; electrical installation is scheduled for December 11th. If the work from Brown Electrical and Boston Mechanical are completed by the week of December 18th, Wells Restoration can return to back-fill and pour concrete. Peter Rowe will follow up with Capital Carpet to discuss a scheduling window. In addition, John Vincent, the on-site installation Manager from Longo expects 5 days for installation. Once Longo completes their work, plumbing and electric needs to return to perform final connections. The project completion date is set for January.

**Successful Partnership with Other Districts**

\*Teachers spent November 7th either at Ayer-Shirley High School focused on technology or with other teachers in the state at curriculum specific professional development. The day was successful by furthering our teaching strategies and knowledge, but also because of the collaboration opportunities as we shared the day with educators from Ayer-Shirley and Littleton. Plans are already underway to continue this type of collaboration again next year.

**Policy Update**

The Policy Subcommittee proposed the following changes to policies as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ADOPT/FIRST READ | REVIEWED | AMENDED  | ELIMINATE |
| BBB- School Committee Elections |  |  |  | X |
| BBBA/BBBB – School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath of Office |  |  | X |  |
| BBBC – School Committee Member Resignation |  |  | X |  |
| BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment |  | X |  |  |
| BCA – School Committee Member Ethics | X |  |  |  |
| BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting |  |  | X |  |
| BDB – School Committee Officers |  |  | X |  |
| BDC – Appointed Committee Officials |  |  | X |  |
| BDD – School Committee/Superintendent Relationship |  |  | X |  |
| BDE – Subcommittee of the School Committee |  |  | X |  |
| BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee | X |  |  |  |

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the elimination of policy BBB as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Policy BBBA/BBB was tabled.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve policy BBBC as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Policy BBBE – Reviewed

Policy BCA – First Read

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve policy BDA as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve policy BDB as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Policy BDC Tabled

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve Policy BDD as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Brainstorm Questions for Student Advisory Meeting**

The Committee developed the following topics for discussion for the next Student Advisory meeting:

\*Delayed Opening versus Early Release PD days

\*Discuss climate for transgender/gender fluid students -how are they supported and how the climate can be more accepting

\*Recommended questions for an inclusion survey

\*How do student feel about the changes in how the Language Lab works

**Calendar Discussion -**

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of switching professional development days from early release to delayed opening days. The preliminary discussion would generate feedback to bring back to the Calendar Committee. Maureen Babcock shared her thoughts via email to Mary Traphagen and said that she would be in favor of exploring the delayed opening prospect; in the morning students are most likely at home, where with the early dismissal students are likely unsupervised for part of the afternoon. It was recommended to send out a survey to get feedback from parents. The gesture for religious holidays to be made early release days is good. It could be a benefit for a lot of students.

**Agenda Items**

Policy

Building Committee Update

Budget Update

Communication Plan

Website Review

District Wellness presentation

Student Achievement

**Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

Mary Traphagen reported that the HES School Council meets tomorrow. The Communications Subcommittee is scheduled to meet next week.

Nancy Lancellotti reported that TBS School Council is concerned that the Youth Risk Survey has not been sent out to families. School Council Subcommittees have not met this year. It is important to get the subcommittee work started. School Council is meeting once per month this year.

Nancy Lancellotti distributed a draft report of the Student Achievement Subcommittee indicating their goals for the year, how they will be evaluated, references/materials and next steps. The Subcommittee looks forward to a formal presentation to the School Committee at a later date.

Jon Green – No updates.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Capital Planning and Investment Committee met and rated the projects. Of the 16 projects submitted, the committee voted to recommend 11. Three school projects were approved: science labs, replace water tank and renovate Bromfield bathrooms. The Committee would like the Cronin auditorium project broken down and funding phased in over several years rather than as one complete project. Funding for the Bromfield science lab project is the Devens fund. CIPIC meets again next Monday to finalize and vote on the 2019 Capital projects recommended for funding.

John Ruark – No updates.

**Open to Citizen Commentary**

Jennifer Finch, 165 Codman Hill Road, Harvard – Questions regarding the HES building project and policy.

**Adjournment**

John Ruark made the motion, and SusanMary Redinger seconded, to move to adjourn the meeting at 9:05.

VOTE 5/0