School Committee Minutes

Upper Town Hall

Monday, November 26, 2018

6:15 p.m.

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

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

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary –** None

**Student Report**

None

**Budget Preview**

Technology Director, Chris Boyle presented the cost to go from a MacBook purchase versus lease program. The changeover would occur over a period of time. As the lease terms are expiring those devices would be replaced with a purchased device. Mr. Boyle will distribute his presentation to School Committee members so they can have more time to look at the options before deciding at a future meeting.

Dr. Dwight and Aziz Aghavev presented the FY20 budget to School Committee members. The total budget increase is primarily due to the salary increase of 2.64%. The total Omnibus budget presented was $13,976,430 which represents an overall increase of 4.31%. At the December 10th meeting the School Committee will vote the draft budget and send the paper and electronic copies to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee for review.

**Challenge Day Feedback**

SusanMary Redinger explained the Challenge Day program that was held for eighth graders at The Bromfield School on November 14th.  It was an amazing day where kids got a better understanding of themselves, and being ok with themselves. The program is just wonderful and it would be great to be doing this with every single grade. The kids were changed and 70% of the room cried at some point. Its mental health, suicide prevention and money so well spent.

**Superintendent Update**

**\*Presentation to Parents/Students**

Dr. Kevin Hill presented to parents and students regarding the use of marijuana and other drugs. He shared his research and aspects of his work with patients with substance abuse issues. He shared some tips for parents in what to look for as warning signs and how to discuss the topic with their children. He also shared information about vaping as it is a common tool for ingesting the marijuana. Besides providing up-to-date information, the presentation also became a teaching tool for several students and families as attendance was part of a restorative plan following discipline offenses.

**\*Athletic Advisory Meeting Update**

The third meeting is schedule for tomorrow at 8:00 a.m.

**\*Budget Process Continued**

Meetings with cost center managers continued during the past two weeks. Dr. Marie Harrington shared and discussed the proposed Pupil Services budget, and Jon Snyer shared and discussed the proposed Facilities budget.

\***Weather Testing**

Coordination between the town and schools created a successful model for snow removal. In a post storm meeting proposed by Tim Kilhart of DPW, the team agreed that the first events were managed successfully. Jon organized his team by preplanning with them, doing a walk through with the principals, checking his vehicles and equipment, and stocking supplies such as sand. He arranged a rotating schedule to ensure coverage without excess overtime. Tim Bragan arranged for the lease of a front-end loader and secured a properly licensed driver. We appreciate the coordination efforts that helped us to open school with a delay.

**\*Parent Conferences**

Teachers and parents met together at both HES and Bromfield on Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. This opportunity to collaborate follows the first report card at Bromfield. Parents follow a rigorous schedule if they would like to meet with each of their child’s teachers as time slots are for 10 minutes and often follow back to back for teachers. The schedule is less rigorous for parents at HES as the number of teachers is fewer.

**Enrollment Projection Review**

SusanMary Redinger presented the Harvard Public Schools Enrollment Projection Report for October 1, 2018. The report shows an expected decrease in enrollment by approximately 42 students. SusanMary Redinger found a number that needed to be updated and will resend the report out to members with the corrected numbers.

**Policy Review and Vote**

The Committee reviewed Policy KF-R and KLF that were presented as a first read at the previous meeting.

Susan Mary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve Policy KF-R as presented.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve Policy KLF as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Agenda Items**

DEAC Survey

Update on Assessments

FY20 Budget

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the November 13, 2018 minutes as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

Mary Traphagen reported that the Budget Subcommittee met to discuss the budget presented today. The Bromfield School Council is scheduled to meet this Wednesday. The School Building Committee met to do some value engineering in order to meet the budget.

SusanMary Redinger – reported that the last round of drawings (60%) are finished. Two cost estimates were prepared. They came in pretty close. The conservative estimate showed an $800K overage. The School Building Committee reviewed a list of possible items that could be taken out without compromising the educational components of the building. A list of the identified cuts will be voted on by the SBC and drawings will be submitted to MASBA. By January we will have 90% drawings completed and will be able to send out bids for the elevator and steel work. SusanMary Redinger let members know that they can take a 3D tour of the building if they want to see the most current drawings.

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC will be reviewing the School Department Capital requests on Monday.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Wellness Committee has not met. There will be one more Hildreth School Council meeting, scheduled before the end of the year.

John Ruark reported that DEAC did not meet. He also reported that HEAC met and they are interested in paying for Jon Snyer to become a Certified Building Operator. HEAC reported that gas usage is up approximately 14% and they will be looking into that. HEAC is looking forward to establishing an energy strategy for the town. They will be looking for people to work on an Energy Strategy Committee in the future.

**Public and School Committee Commentary**

SusanMary Redinger commended Aziz Aghavev, Dr. Dwight and Mary Zadroga for preparing the first round of the FY20 budget presentation, and thanked them for the hours of time putting the budget together.

Mary Traphagen commented that the budget clearly shows that we continue to cut the non-salary and it comes with a cost.

Aziz Aghavev commented that the School Department is spending a lot of man hours on building the budget and also trying to figure out how to cut the budget.

**Adjournment**

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

8:35 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga

List of Documents:

FY20 Budget

Technology Lease Details

Enrollment Report

Policies

Thank you note