School Committee Minutes

Upper Town Hall

Monday, January 14, 2019

6:15 p.m.

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

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

Dr. Dwight read the vision statement.

***Public Commentary:*** None

***Student Report:*** None

***Adventures in Digital Learning at HPS***

Beth Graham introduced students from HES and Bromfield and paired them up with School Committee members to share their work using their technology learning tools. Ms. Graham shared the SAMR model standards that are used at Harvard Public Schools. Teachers at the elementary level love the See Saw app. It is a great way for teachers to communicate with parents. Ms. Graham reviewed the results of the technology survey.

***Budget Review and Vote; Athletics, School Lunch, and Community Ed./Bridges***

School Business Manager, Aziz Aghavev reviewed with the Committee the School Lunch, Athletic and Community Education and Bridges budgets. A revised FY20 budget was distributed with new inclusions.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to move to approve the FY20 amended budget as presented in the budget book.

VOTE 4/0

***Budget Q&A Review***

The meeting to discuss the budget with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen is scheduled for January 26th. All members are encouraged to attend.

***Superintendent‘s Report***

\*Dr. Dwight and Josh Myler joined the architect on December 19th as groups of teachers and staff cycled through the conference room. The teachers and staff viewed three dimensional renderings of the building space in the new building. The architects used the responsive technology to manipulate views to simulate lighting patterns throughout the day, identify storage spaces, and demonstrate travel distances between relative spaces. The activity was especially helpful for the Facilities Director and building custodian as they viewed the roof space for the air handlers and discussed improved access. The day was full of meaningful feedback and explorations.

\*The Harvard Teachers’ Association (HTA) held their annual holiday party. All teachers and staff were invited to participate. This year there was no fee collected to attend, and the planning committee collected raffle items from local vendors to give away.

\*Dr. Dwight provided lunch for the custodians over the holiday break as a way to show them our appreciation for their continued hard work. During the break week they did an outstanding job of refreshing the schools by sanitizing the nurse rooms, cleaning up the roof leaking marks at HES, and deep cleaning the kitchens. The school building process required several meetings over the winter break. Issues with code compliance required meetings to discuss next steps. The budget questions were due after winter break, so during the week SusanMary and

Dr. Dwight met to work on the responses.

\*Dr. Dwight and Josh Myler collaborated with Chris Ryan, the new Director of Community and Economic Development, and Tim Kilhart, the Director of Public Works, to write a grant for sidewalks to extend in a radius out from the new elementary school. The sidewalks would provide a safe route to school from the General Store, Town Center, Town Beach, and nearby houses. SusanMary Redinger provided information from the Master Plan work completed in 2016 and helped with the responses. Shawmut and TEC provided estimated costs of approximately $650,000. We will soon find out whether our project receives positive consideration.

\*Kate Selig accompanied Mr. Hoffman and Dr. Dwight to the Worcester County Superintendent’s Scholars Luncheon held at the Holy Cross campus.

\*Craig Robbins hosted the Tri-M Honors Induction Ceremony on January 10th. The event was run by the student president and vice president. They explained the responsibilities expected by the honor society, their appreciation for the new inductees, and congratulations for the recognition. The music room was full of proud family members.

***Discuss and Assign Writing Town Report***

Mary Traphagen agreed to write the School Committee’s contribution to the Town’s Annual report.

***Brainstorm Topics for Student Advisory Meeting***

\*Security

\*Student perspective on how budget/funding should be allocated at TBS

\*Student perspective of heating, lighting and maintenance of building

***Policy Review***

The Committee reviewed changes to Policy JICE – Student Publication. It was recommended by our school lawyer to use the MASC policy template.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve Policy JICE as amended.

VOTE 4/0

***Grant Approval***

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

Boston Tea Party – Michelle Keene- 4th grade team - $1,200

Bromfield History & Geography Bee – Andy Wright - $625

“Taylor’s Message” – Susan Chlapowski - $837.50

Julia Cook – Courtney Cutler - $1,500

Bromfield School Newspaper - $1,000

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the gifts from Harvard Schools Trust as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Dr. Dwight will bring for approval the PTO matching gift for the “Focus Your Locus” to the next meeting.

***Agenda Items***

School Improvement Plan Update

“Radar” presentation

Annual Report

Policy

DEAC report

Invite the legislatures to a meeting about the proposed bills

***Approval of Minutes***

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2018 meeting as presented.

VOTE 4/0

***Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports***

***Shannon Molloy*** reported on HES School Council, which met on December 18th and will meet again tomorrow. The seals in the roof are doing well. The school improvement plan is being reviewed. The 3D printing and innovation lab have received positive feedback. Social Studies alignment to the new standards have begun. There is talk about using primary sources at the elementary level. Work is being done to update the student survey.

Mary Traphagen reported on TBS School Council – A lot of work is in progress regarding the continuation of AP courses and the homework policy. Nothing has been decided. Talk of offering an Earth Science course at Bromfield.

Student Advisory Council met with three members attending

* Therapy dog - Talk of obtaining a therapy dog at Bromfield is very positive. There are some concerns about how to accommodate people who fear dogs. Also, discussed if one dog is enough with so many kids.
* Mock Election - Students felt that the mock election was valuable. Some student did not know they had to pre-register in order to vote. Students feel there needs to be communication regarding the mock election process.
* Current Events - Students felt as though some teachers bring up current events in class but nothing is formalized. Woman and safety topics come up in the Health and Wellness course and sometimes in Social Studies classes. Students brought up questions regarding security drills when the K-9 units come in and search back packs and lockers - specifically, what happens if something is found in the search.

***SusanMary Redinger***

\*CPIC met with BOS and reviewed all of the articles submitted. CPIC will meet one more time with ConCon to review the possibility of adding the purchase of a piece of land on Willard Lane. SusanMary Redinger will summarize the school’s capital articles for the CPIC financial report to the town.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee is reaching out to all boards and committees seeking input as to what questions need to be answered to help move the to develop a plan to resume jurisdiction of Devens land. Committee members can submit their lists of questions to SusanMary and she will provide feedback to the Committee.

SusanMary Redinger submitted the following signed vendor warrants for review

Warrant 18-28 June 28, 2018 $270,656.74  
Warrant 19-03 July 12, 2018 $251,890.46  
Warrant 19-04 July 26, 2018 $782,625.97  
Warrant 19-05 August 9, 2018 $227,764.17  
Warrant 19-06 August 23, 2018 $121,651.00  
Warrant 19-07 September 6, 2018 $295,821.69  
Warrant 19-08 September 20, 2018 $102,586.51  
Warrant 19-10 October 18, 2018 $208,596.89  
Warrant 19-12 November 15, 2018 $415,210.63  
Warrant 19-13 November 19, 2018 $142,236.81  
Warrant 19-14 December 13, 2018 $362,921.57  
Warrant 19-15 December 26, 2018 $109,583.01

The School Building Committee is working to resolve a code issue regarding the beams proposed for the project. The code does not allow for flammable products to be used as support structures. The laminate design withstands heat better but the code doesn’t recognize the composite material. There is currently a request to the state for a variance. If the variance is not approved the solution will most likely be going with the steel beam options. The project is currently at the 60% design phase, next stage is 90%. Bids have gone out for the elevator work, with other work going out to bid in March. The School Building Committee will hold a groundbreaking ceremony in early April and hope to invite State Senator Jamie Elridge and State Representative Jennifer Benson. There will be public sessions held in early March to let folks know what to expect once construction begins and to share rendering, landscape plans, etc.

***Public and School Committee Commentary***

Shannon Molloy – Thanked all of the students for coming and sharing with the Committee.

SusanMary Redinger - loved the student led technology presentation – it brings the school experience to life.

Mary Traphagen– So impressed by the 8th grade students and their robot demonstration. They are so into it. Big shout out to everyone who came and shared with us tonight.

***Adjournment***

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

8:26 p.m.

VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga

Attachments:

Superintendent Report

Grant Information

Meeting Minutes

Budget documents

Adventures in Learning presentation

Technology Survey

Policy JICE