School Committee Minutes

Hapgood Room, Old Library

Monday, January 25, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Mary Traphagen, Jennifer Bedford, Nancy Lancellotti, Kirsten Wright (6:36), Linda Dwight. Absent: Maureen Babcock and Lorraine Leonard

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Kenneth Lin read the Vision Statement.

**Open to Interested Citizens’ Commentary**

Paul Richards, Westcott Road – Policy ECAF – Security Camera System Policy

Carlene Phillips, Oak Hill Road – Future of Bromfield House

**Student Report**

Kenneth Lin reported that 34 students from Bromfield will be attending the Model United Nations conference being held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston this coming Thursday through Sunday. Twelve students from Bromfield were chosen to attend the New England Music Festival which will occur in March.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dwight reported on the following:

* Teachers participated in a full day of professional development. They completed curriculum work, collaborated with grade level colleagues, and attended learning sessions offered by their peers. Some of the learning sessions included “Teaching Traumatized Children”, “Student Literacy Engagement”, “The Science of Character”, and “Bringing Your Curriculum to Life: Working with Atlas Rubicon”. They completed evaluations of the day to be shared with the committee once results are compiled.
* MSBA called and asked if we would send representatives to the January 27th Board meeting in Boston, so Dr. Dwight plans to represent the Harvard Public Schools at the meeting as they move our project forward for approval. On February 4th Dr. Dwight, Sue Frederick and Tim Bragen plan to attend an MSBA event held in Lexington, MA that offers insight into the building process.
* School Committee’s budget presentation with the Finance Committee is scheduled for January 21st. Dr. Dwight has updated the worksheets and created graphs to be presented at the meeting.
* The leadership team is reading the book Most Likely to Succeed by Tom Wagner. The movie based on the book will be shown at the Parker School on February 3rd at 7 pm. Several members of the leadership team plan to attend.
* Third grade students honed their presentation skills with oral reports to their classmates.
* Students and families enjoyed international music, food and activities at the Ludo Festival. This year’s event was dedicated to Rachid Hankour, and members of his family received acknowledgement for his involvement with the Festival throughout the years. Thanks to Belinda Friedrich for organizing this diversity event for our community.

**Review and approve the security camera policy**

The Committee walked through the revisions made to Policy ECAF – Security Camera System Policy. SusanMary Redinger reported that many of the ACLU’s objections have been met by revisions to the draft policy reviewed on January 11th. Because the cameras are already in position and in operation, Ms. Redinger urged the committee to approve the policy in its present form.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to adopt the Security Camera System Policy as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Read Policies section H and F**

The Committee reviewed Policies HB with no change. The Committee reviewed and amended Policies FA, FB and HF and read through Policy FF-“ Naming New Facilities, Schools or Exterior Space” for a first read.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion with no objection to approve as amended Policies FA, FB and HF. The Committee will bring back Policy FF for a second read/approval.

VOTE 5/0

**Discuss the Future of the Bromfield House**

The Committee agreed that they need more information on the cost of making Bromfield House accessible before continuing in the direction of finding space elsewhere for school administration offices. SusanMary Redinger directed Dr. Dwight to ask an architectural firm to estimate the cost of putting a single story addition at the rear of the existing building and renovating only the first floor, alleviating the need to make the second floor accessible. SusanMary Redinger was able to get support from CPIC to move in that direction.

**Update on the Parking Lot Project**

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Committee is waiting for approval from the Historical Commission, Conservation Commission and Board of Selectman in order to move forward on the Bromfield parking lot project. The plans have been modified to address the concerns that were brought up with regard to the “minister walk”, the sidewalk, adding vegetation in the basin and the 75’ buffer zone. All three boards are scheduled to meet the first week of February.

**Review and approval of the 2016-2017 calendar**

The Committee reviewed and approved the school calendar for the school year 2016/2017.

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the 2016/2017 school calendar as presented and amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Review the cable memorandum of understanding**

The cable memorandum of understanding proposal was back for School Committee review after having been revised by the School Committee liaison Kirsten Wright, HCTV liaison Koralia Franklin, Board of Selectman liaison Stu Sklar and town council. The Committee discussed whether there is a nominal utility fee that HVCT would be willing to pay. It was recognized that HCTV is providing educational value to the schools. Kirsten Wright will bring the revised MOU back to HCTV to follow up.

**Mid-year update on School Improvement Plans**

Mr. James O’Shea and Ms. Sue Frederick presented their mid-year School Improvement Plans for the 2015/2016 school year. They shared school goals as they related to the district goals for the following Core Values: Student Achievement, Personal Growth, Partnership, and School Climate. Each principal identified strategy, progress and percent completed for each goal.

**Mid-year update on District Improvement Plan and School Committee/Superintendent Goals**

This agenda item was tabled to the next meeting.

**Review meeting minutes**

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Report out from Liaisons**

Jennifer Bedford - reported that HES council met last Tuesday, January 18th. The teachers had just completed their professional development day and were eager to talk about what they had done during the day. There was a great sense of energy going around. The parent survey went out. 239 people have responded to date. We are getting good feedback and information. Josh Myler is going to the DESE webinar on MCAS. The Behavior Committee sent out a survey to staff relative to 2nd thru 5th graders. School Council discussed the district’s anti bully task force and who constituted that task force. The Council is skipping the February meeting and meeting again on March 15th.

Mary Traphagen - reported that the Athletic advisory meets tomorrow morning.

Nancy Lancellotti – reported that the Bromfield School Council met and discussed how Bromfield is responding to the results of the risk survey. There are a number of things the school is doing. For example they have “round table” where groups of students meet with a faculty person to nurture developing relationships between teachers and students. A new adjustment/behavioral counselor position was added to the Bromfield guidance department. Changes in the language for how students are recommended to upper level classes helps balance the student’s big picture. Guidance and administration meet often regarding students they have concerns about. Students are made aware of an anonymous message system that can be sent to Bromfield administration to make them aware of a student reaching out for help. School Council discussed that it may be a good idea to create a list of things being done and how we as a school/community support each other and where parents can go for help. PTO and Susan Chlapowski may be good resources moving forward in getting the word out. Next meeting topic: Should the school be providing transportation to the prom.

SusanMary Redinger – reported that CPIC met this morning and is moving forward with getting warrant articles ready. There needs to be an amount for the K-wing feasibility study. Up to $500K is being used for place holder. The only other school item is the new tractor. The “All Town Meeting” is April 5 and 6th. The Caucus is March 5th. The All Boards meeting will be held either February 3rd or February 6th. It was noted that School Committee will have representation for either date that is chosen.

SusanMary Redinger explained that a parent voiced concern over a painting in a Biology classroom at The Bromfield School. Dr. Dwight met with the parent and investigated the history and placement of the painting. The painting is not moveable as the painting is applied to the cinderblock wall. The decision was made to keep the painting as is. The parent wrote to SusanMary Redinger to override Dr. Dwight’s decision. Glen Koocher from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees advised SusanMary Redinger that selection and adoption of curriculum purchases are made by the principals. The day to day management of the school lies with the principals. SusanMary Redinger asked the committee if they agreed that it is an administrative matter or if they wanted to consider it a policy matter and if so, if the painting conflicted with any school policies. After a lengthy discussion the Committee decided that in order to uphold the policy and show support for the Superintendent’s decision they would like to take a vote.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded that the Committee support the thorough process in which Dr. Dwight and the administration underwent to come to a decision in regards to art work in the Bromfield Science room.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion seconded by Kirsten Wright to direct the chair to respond to

the parent to the result of this meeting.

VOTE 5/0

**Future Agenda Items**

Science Lab

District Improvement Plan

Parking Lot Update

Bromfield House

HCTV MOU

Goals

Budget – Public Hearing

Budget book

Newslettter

Student Presentation

**Open to Interested Citizens’ and School Committee Commentary**

Paul Richards, Westcott Road – Policy ECAF – Security Camera System Policy

**Closing Commentary**

Mary Traphagen – We did some good hard work tonight.

Jennifer Bedford - Long but good meeting. Really enjoyed the school improvement plan presentation. Love seeing it all.

Kirsten Wright – Unbelievable how much SusanMary does behind the scenes. Thank you very much - it’s truly unbelievable what you do. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

SusanMary Redinger – thanked folks who attended the budget meeting, great to have you there and your support of that. This committee is really showing a great level of engagement, really gelling and working great as a committee. Thank you for your participation.

**Adjournment:**

SusanMary Redinger made a motion to adjourn with no objections at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary