

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, February 11, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Keith Cheveralls, Patty Wenger, Bob Sullebarger, Maureen Babcock, Joseph Connelly, Lorraine Leonard.

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the January 18th meeting as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve the minutes of the January 28th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0 Patty Wenger abstained due to absence.

HES – Grade 5 Peer Leaders Program – Christine Reale

Members of the grade 5 peer leader program at Hildreth Elementary School, along with Mrs. Reale and Dr. Dwight highlighted the many positive things that the peer leadership program is doing and fun events being planned for the spring.

Reports

Student Report – Nick George reported that the boys' basketball team held senior night last Thursday and the girl's basketball team will have their senior night tomorrow. Of note for the girls' basketball team is Montana Burke scored her 1,000 point. Reports card were issued last Thursday and last Friday was a snow day.

Superintendent Report - Dr. Connelly praised the hard work and team effort of the custodial staff during the recent blizzard. Due to the upcoming special senate primary election on April 30, the town has decided to shift the town election from April 9 to April 30th. Dr. Connelly asked the committee to consider leaving the early release day schedule for April 9th as is and to shift the April 24th early release day to April 30th to accommodate the election. Dr. Connelly also asked the committee to consider shifting the April 22nd School Committee meeting to April 29th due to the April vacation schedule.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to change the early release day from April 24th to April 30th.

VOTE 5/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to change the April 22nd School Committee meeting to April 29th.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Connelly recommended conducting the 2013/2014 School Budget Public Hearing as part of the March 25th School Committee meeting. A public notice of the hearing will be advertised in the local papers on March 15th as required under Mass General Law.

Due to an increase in requests for international field trips, Dr. Connelly recommended the Policy Subcommittee meet to review and consider revising the current policy.

Liaison & Subcommittee

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Monty Tech crew is working wonders at TBS in the HCTV building site. A documentary of their work is being made and will be broadcasted when the HCTV is up and running.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Capital Committee is done with their work. All school items received 100% support with the exception of the HES storage shed. The Capital Committee suggest that they would fund \$10,000 of the \$18,000 through a capital article, which would mean the school would need to fund the remaining \$8,000 from FY14 sources.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move that we accept \$10,000 from the Capital Committee for the purpose of purchasing the HES shed.

VOTE 5/0

Keith Cheveralls recommended that in order to move forward with any major renovations to the Bromfield House a complete air quality inspection as well as a wire inspection be done to be able to understand the detail of the work needed.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move to appropriate up to \$1,500 for air quality testing at the Bromfield House.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee will meet tomorrow at 7:30 a.m. in the TBS conference room and continue discussion on how declining enrollment could help in expanding offerings/new courses of instruction.

Kirsten Wright reported that the TBS School Council has had some exciting conversation and conversation is bubbling up about collaborating with Monty Tech. School Council is interested to learn about next steps regarding the Superintendent Search process and timeline.

Bob Sullebarger reported to the committee that of the 33 students in Harvard who choice out- 22 attend charter schools and 11 attend local public schools through choice. The parents polled (6 of 11) indicated that the breadth of curriculum is one of the reasons they opted out of the Harvard Public Schools.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC meet tomorrow evening. DEAC has added "Devens History" as a new agenda item at their meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Parks and Rec Department had recommended a no cost change to the capital article for the repaving of the Bromfield parking lot. It was recommended that a change in layout be reviewed at the next School Committee meeting.

SusanMary Redinger requested that a meeting of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee be posted for Friday, February 15th at 2:00 to review next steps.

School Committee Newsletter Project Update

The committee reviewed the list of ideas for submission to the School Committee newsletter. The target date for publication is the end of February. The newsletter will be posted on the school website as well. The hope is to have the newsletter sent out 3 times per year.

Proposed Educator Evaluation Program Update – Identify HSC/HTA Collective Bargaining Date

Dr. Connelly passed out the Educator Evaluator draft notebooks (Keith Cheveralls declined to accept the Educator Evaluator book in observance of the conflict of interest law). If the School Committee and HTA membership support the evaluation process as developed, it is proposed a HSC/HTA formal Collective Bargaining Session be scheduled for March 11th.

Review School Committee Self Evaluation Process/Timeline

The committee reviewed the self-evaluation process and timeline. Each member will complete the electronic version of the evaluation form and return it via email to SusanMary before the February 25th meeting.

Review Superintendent Annual Evaluation Process and Timeline

The committee reviewed the timeline and process and will use the same format as last year. In addition they will complete the “End of Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent” form.

FY14 2013/2014 Budget School Budget Draft #2 Deliberation and Action

Dr. Connelly reviewed the FY14, Draft #2 budget to be considered by the committee. The draft reduced the TBS student activity account by (6,961), the bus contract by (7,200), the superintendent salary line by (10,000) and increased the above level service items approved by the Finance Committee of nurse hours +5,600, K-12 Adjustment Counselor +55,671, HES secretary hours +7,000 and Department leaders for Fine Arts and Music +10,000. The final FY14 budget presented for School Committee approval is \$11,894,488.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we accept as our final FY14 omnibus budget \$11,894,488 as presented tonight.

Appoint School Committee Representative to Director of Pupil Services Search Committee

Dr. Connelly reported that we have started receiving resumes for the Director of Pupil Services. He expects at the April 8th meeting to announce 1 to 2 finalists. The Committee agreed to appoint Kirsten Wright as the School Committee representative to the search committee.

Future Agenda Items

Educator Evaluator
Newsletter
Student Council meeting
Presentations

At 8:10 p.m. Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee enter into executive session as allowed under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel

Cheveralls (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Sullebarger (Aye), Wenger (Aye), Wright (Aye)

The executive session will adjourn back to regular session to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary