

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, February 25, 2013  
6:00 p.m.

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

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 February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Special Presentation – HES Artists in Residents Program**

Alison Thornton, Sara Haskell and Cindy Harris attended the meeting and presented the Mandala Art program underway at Hildreth Elementary School. The project focuses on celebrating differences and building community. Students in grades 2, 3, and 4 are each creating their own class mandala to share to the Festival of Cultures. It is a wonderful coming together of the school community. The program is being funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the PTO.

**Reports**

Student Report – Katie Chambers reported that the Science Fair is being held on Tuesday, lot of kids are participating in the event. SADD is hosting a dance for high school students this Friday. New National Honor Society members will be inducted next Wednesday.

Superintendent Report – Dr. Connelly reported that the technology fiber project is not complete. The buzz-in system at TBS is nearly complete and will be fully implemented beginning February 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Connelly alerted the committee to a second field trip request for the sixth grade to stay overnight at the Boston Science Museum.

**Liaison & Subcommittee**

Bob Sullebarger attended the Energy Advisory Committee meeting and learned that 2 valves are failing on the building control system at HES which causes rooms to overheat. The HEAC will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to spotlight the completion of the solar panel project. Bob Sullebarger discussed that the Declining Enrollment Subcommittee is in the process of identifying and outlining the outcomes they want to include in their final report.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council will meet Thursday and the Budget Subcommittee will meet Friday.

Kirsten Wright reported that DEAC met on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Phil Crosby is the new community member on the council. It was reported at the DEAC meeting that there is the possibility of a new development being built on Grant Road. Work is being done to fine tune the Devens survey and publish their second letter. The next DEAC meeting is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kirsten Wright reported that TBS School Council will meet on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Keith Cheveralls reported that HCTV is posting public recordings of various board meetings to YouTube. Keith reported that the MOU for HCTV is being worked on and will be completed and brought to the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for School Committee approval.

### **TBS Field Trip to France Approval**

Robin Hermans and Anastasia Townsend presented a proposal for TBS French students to visit France from April 17-27 2014. The trip will be overseen by Carousel Tours and will be offered to French students in levels 3, 4, and 5. The committee would like to develop guidelines on the number of international trips proposed and approved each year.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the trip to France as outlined in the packet, contingent upon appropriate fund raising.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Joseph Connelly presented a request from Glen Tarullo and Miranda Miller for grade 6 students to attend an overnight field trip to the Boston Science Museum from March 14 to March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve the overnight trip to the Boston Science Museum.

VOTE 5/0

### **Approval of Gifts – Harvard Schools Trust**

Dr. Connelly presented for approval \$3,312 in gifts from the Harvard School's Trust for Wellness Mannequins - \$1,000, Plein Air Painting Workshop \$550, Learning Center Smartboard \$1,622.82, Star Party \$140.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented with customary acknowledgement, thanks and gratitude to the Harvard Schools Trust.

VOTE 5/0

### **2013/2014 School Calendar Approval**

Dr. Connelly presented the 2013/2014 school calendar for approval. The calendar has the support of the HTA and Administrative Council and meets all time on learning requirements. The Superintendent was asked to review moving the April 30<sup>th</sup> ER day to April 16<sup>th</sup> due to Passover being on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Keith Cheveralls made the motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the calendar for 2013/2014 with recommendation to look into April ER days.

VOTE 5/0

### **FY14 Budget – Final Draft Review**

Dr. Connelly presented the FY14 Final Draft budget and related action memos for the 2013/2014 budget books. The final budget includes \$78,271 in above level service request for a total budget of \$11,816,217.

### **FY14 CPIC Approved School Committee Capital Projects Review**

SusanMary Redinger presented the Committee with a change in the schematic with regard to the Pond Road paving project. The change involves no increase in funding for the project.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we approve the proposed move of the sidewalk as part of the Pond Road Parking Lot article.

VOTE 5/0

Keith Cheveralls provided a description for each warrant article and members were assigned to speak to each article. SusanMary Redinger – Article 15 Pond Road Parking Lot, Article 19 HES Safety Gates, Article 18 HES Storage Sheds, Bob Sullebarger – Article 16 TBS Science Lab Renovation Design and Article 17 TBS Chemical Storage Ventilation, Keith Cheveralls – Article 14 Harvard Cable TV & Bromfield Disability Access, Article 20 The Bromfield House Repairs, Patty Wenger Article 9 – The Bromfield School Curriculum Materials.

### **School Committee March Newsletter Update**

Patty Wenger had committee members take a look at the newsletter that will be going out soon. The cost to have the newsletter printed and mailed is approximately \$870. SusanMary thanked Patty for her vision and hard work.

### **Superintendent Search Next Steps**

The Committee discussed next steps in pursuit of a permanent superintendent. It was decided that SusanMary Redinger would seek a critical shortage waiver from the DESE in order to rehire Joe Connelly as Interim Superintendent for next school year.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to continue with Dr. Connelly as the Interim Superintendent to authorize the Chair to apply to the DESE for a critical shortage waiver for Dr. Connelly for immediate effect.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Connelly said he would be honored to come back for another year.

Bob Sullebarger agreed to debrief with members of the Superintendent Search Committee to gain feedback on process-related issues.

After discussion the committee agreed to hire a professional search firm to start a fresh search to fill the position of Superintendent on a long term basis. Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright agreed to do the necessary work to interview and hire a search firm.

**Future Agenda Items**

Superintendent Evaluation  
School Committee Evaluation  
HCTV MOU  
Month Tech Venue  
International Policy  
Prepare for Public Hearing  
Draft Budget Book Submissions

At 8:10 p.m. Kirsten Wright 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 non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.

Cheveralls (Abstained), 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