

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, October 28, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the October 15th meeting were tabled.

Reports

Student Report

Katia Schwiegershausen reported that the Field Hockey, Football and Girls and Boys Soccer teams had advanced to the districts. The “Yellow Dress” presentation which is a one woman play addressing the topic of dating violence was attended by students in Grades 9-12 and was well received.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that the activation of live cable broadcasting from the TBS library/media center is put on hold until the town hall project timeline is clear and the cable equipment can be deactivated unless the School Committee wants to purchase it’s own equipment at a cost of approximately \$25,000.

Dr. Connelly reminded the Committee that the MASC Fall Conference is being held next week and the deadline for appointing delegates to attend to the business meeting is October 30th. The last chance to select a delegate would be tonight.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Kirsten Wright reported that the TBS School Council met and discussed the opportunities that abound with the opening of the Cable Television Studio at TBS. Potential course offerings, faculty training and after school programs were some the ideas discussed. The School Council will have an informational table at conference time to make aware to the public the services available through Project Interface.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council met and discussed the upcoming election of a parent representative and reviewed the bus policy changes.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee will be holding a kick off meeting with RKG this Saturday.

MASS 2013 Academic Excellence Award

Dr. Connelly awarded Bromfield Senior Martina Stadler a “Certificate of Academic Excellence” for “outstanding academic achievement and overall accomplishments.” Standards for the award are set by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and presented to one senior in each district based on achievements in ninth through eleventh grade.

TBS New Club Approvals

Brianna Harte and Jane Sullebarger presented a request for a new creative writing club. The students want to emphasize their goal of encouraging a wide range of writing from poetry to mysteries. The students are also planning mutual projects with the National Art Honor Society to connect writing and the visual arts.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the TBS creative writing club for the 2013/2014 school year with Janet Brown as the advisor.

VOTE 3/0

Harvard Schools Trust Grant Approvals

Dr. Connelly presented for approval the following gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust:

- Spark PE Curriculum Enrichment - \$798
- Yellow Dress Presentation - \$450
- Model UN - \$2295
- France Field Trip - \$2000
- Layered Earth - \$349

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we accept these amazing gifts from the Harvard School Trust to Barbi Kelley, Elaine Beckett, Bryce Mattie, Robin Hermans and Glenn Tarullo with a letter of appreciation to follow.

VOTE 3/0

2014/2015 (FY15) School Choice Subsidy

The Committee discussed the School Choice subsidy for the FY15 budget. Currently the School Choice off set is at 77 students for a total of \$385,000. This year twelve School Choice-In students will graduate and rather than replacing all twelve students with School Choice-In the Committee could consider increasing other subsidies. Dr. Connelly recommended replacing 6 of the 12 School Choice-In slots graduating this June. This would maintain class size sections. The \$30K lost revenue would be replaced by increasing the Devens subsidy by \$30K. The Committee will identify the six choice openings at a future meeting.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Choice subsidy for FY15 be set at \$355,000 and the Devens subsidy be set at \$892,076.

VOTE 3/0

Appointment of School Committee Subcommittees

Dr. Connelly presented the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for School Committee approval. The kick off meeting is scheduled for November 4th.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to officially appoint the Strategic Planning Committee as presented with one parent representative from Devens to be filled.

VOTE 3/0

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to appoint the Technology Committee as presented with the addition of a student representative to be announced and SusanMary Redigner serving as the School Committee Representative.

VOTE 3/0

Harvard School Committee Delegate to MASC Business Meeting, November 8, 2013

There will be no delegate elected to the MASC Fall Business meeting.

GLRA Science Lab and Bromfield House Renovation Needs – Continued Discussion

GRLA is still working on revising the scope of work for the Science Lab project. We should have the revised report by November 12th. Dr. Connelly will email the report to the Committee. We are still waiting for Town Council, Mark Lanza's legal interpretation on the disposition of the Bromfield House before moving forward.

Financial Report

Lorraine Leonard presented the FY14 budget update report as of October 31st excluding the October 25th payroll. Lorraine will update all subsidies at a later date. With the exception of the Special Education account deficit of \$91,000 all other accounts are on target.

Future Agenda Items

GRLA Report

Policy G

Finalize Declining Enrollment Report

MCAS/SAT Standardized Test Report

December Budget Presentations

Photography Club

Commentary

Kirsten Wright – Reminded everyone about the drama presentation of Little Shop of Horrors this weekend. It will be a great show.

SusanMary Redinger – Reminded everyone that Anne of Green Gables will be performed at HES on November 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th. A benefit auction and concert for the scholarship fund for BA Gould will be held this Friday at 7:00. Happy Halloween – Be Safe.

Executive Session

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move into executive session as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 21 (2) to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and Chapter 30A (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Redinger (Aye), Wenger (Aye), Wright (Aye)

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary