

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

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

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 October 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted.

VOTE 4/0 (Kirsten Wright abstained due to absence)

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the October 28<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.

VOTE 3/0 (Keith Cheveralls and Bob Sullebarger abstained due to absence)

### **Reports**

#### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Connelly congratulated long time Bromfield coach Tom Hill who will be inducted into the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Tom is the only coach in Massachusetts history to have at least 500 wins coaching basketball and 500 wins coaching soccer.

Dr. Connelly reported that the design for the Pond Road parking lot project should be completed by the first week of January and the School Committee will be able to review the plan by January 15<sup>th</sup> before it is passed on the Conservation Commission. The project work will be done between June 15 and August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark Force is the official contact.

#### **Liaison & Subcommittee Reports**

Maureen Babcock reported that Dr. Dwight sent out a letter to Devens' parents listing actions taken in order to resolve the problems on Bus 7. Maureen is hopeful that these actions will result in a more positive bus atmosphere.

Bob Sullebarger reported that final edits have been made on the Declining Enrollment report and it will be on the agenda for discussion on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Keith Cheveralls acknowledged Dr. Connelly and his team for their hard work and diligence with regard to their CPIC submissions and written responses to questions. Keith Cheveralls and Patty Wenger will have a conversation with Parks & Recreation to make sure there is a plan in place for boat trailer parking during the summer if the construction of the Pond Road parking lot and the boat trailer parking lot are underway at the same time.

Patty Wenger reported that the Strategic Planning Committee is a great group of 15 people working on Core Values and a survey to send out to the town. The Committee is on schedule and on task and George Ladd is doing a great job.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Planning Steering Committee toured Devens and reviewed data to validate the acceptance criteria for taking Devens back. Diane Bishop was elected to the HES School Council. The HES School Council has been working on implementing a Wellness program at HES. SusanMary attended the iPad Summit with faculty and staff from HES and TBS. The Summit concentrated on how to implement iPads into the classroom and the professional development needed for technology integration in the classroom. SusanMary reported that the MASC conference topics included Collaborative Negotiations, Technology, STEM, and the Superintendent Mentorship program. The conference was a great resource of information and well worth the investment of time and money.

### **Photography Club**

Bridget Lewis, Holly Yates, Sam Jackson along with Ms. Elizabeth Hoorneman presented their organizational goals, objectives and rationale for starting a Photography Club at The Bromfield School. Keith Cheveralls suggested that the club reach out to the many accomplished photographers in the community to tap into those valuable resources.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the Photography Club as presented.

VOTE: 5/0

### **GRLA Capital Report – Further School Committee Discussion**

- **TBS Science Lab Revised Scope of Work**
- **TBH Renovation**

George O’Neil of GRLA presented a reduced scope Science Lab report and cost estimate. The total cost of the reduced scope of the project is \$1,783,404 and the total cost minus anything that is a non-safety renovation is \$1,603,171.

### **Analysis of 2013 MCAS/SAT/AP Results**

Principals Dwight and O’Shea presented their analysis of the Grade 3 to Grade 10 MCAS assessments. Jim O’Shea also reported on the Bromfield student performance on the 2013 Advance Placement Exams and SAT exams. The presentation included detailed data, areas of strength and need and future work.

### **2013/2014 Professional Development Update**

Gretchen Henry presented an overview of the district professional development initiatives for this school year. The Professional Development Committee will be coming up with an evaluation assessment survey in order to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the professional development programs. Gretchen agreed to come back to the Committee with feedback from the teachers on how effective the professional development programs were.

### **2014/2015 Draft 1 Budget Presentation**

Dr. Connelly reviewed the content of the FY15 budget book and provided an overview and brief explanation of the Draft #1 budget.

Due to the expected enrollment decline in Kindergarten the Committee discussed reducing the Kindergarten sections from 4 to 3. In addition there was a reduction in the Special Education transportation line and increases to the Special Education Collaborative Tuition line that will be reflected in the FY15 Draft #2 budget.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move that we revise the FY15 Draft #1 budget to increase CASE Collaborative tuitions by \$28,949, to increase CASE Summer Services by \$935, to decrease CASE transportation by \$63,284 and to eliminate a Kindergarten position yielding a net savings of \$91,167.

VOTE: 5/0

### **Future Agenda Items**

The Bromfield House  
TBS Science Labs  
Principals Search  
Budget meetings  
Policy G

Bob Sullebarger was appointed as the School Committee representative to the HES Principal Search.

Cost Center Budget presentations are scheduled for Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. for SPED, HES and TBS. Technology, Central Office and Maintenance will present at the December 9<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

### **Commentary**

Bob Sullebarger suggested we send our own letter of congratulations to Tom Hill.  
Keith Cheveralls thanked his colleagues on the committee for all the work they do together. During this week of Thanksgiving he asked us to reflect on the important things in life.  
Patty Wenger – visited HES and reported that a lot of great stuff is going on there. Patty also attended “Ann of Green Gables” and “Little Shop of Horrors” and totally impressed with both performances and the great work done there.  
Dr. Connelly – commended David Gilfix for the entertaining and impressive sing along at HES.  
SusanMary Redinger- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and although being Chair is not always easy it is worthwhile because of all of her fellow committee members. Gives thanks for what we have and what we do together.

### **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), Sullebarger (Aye)  
Keith Cheveralls in observance of conflict of interest law, abstained from attending the Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga  
Recording Secretary