School Committee Minutes

Upper Town Hall

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, Jon Green, Patty Wenger, Peter Rowe and Linda Dwight. Absent: Maureen Babcock

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

Mary Traphagen read the vision statement.

**Public Commentary –** None

**Student Presentation** – Rob Cullinane, Nature’s Classroom Coordinator along with several fifth grade students reported on their Nature’s Classroom experience and shared their daily journals with members of the School Committee.

**Trip Approval**

Washington DC trip – Julie Horton requested approval for the annual 9th grade trip to Washington DC. The trip will be help from March 15th through March 18th. The tour will be through EF Explore America. The cost of the trip will be approximately $709. There will be a 10:1 chaperone ratio.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the Washington, DC trip from March 15th through March 18th as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Club Approval**

Kate Connor and Stephen Scarano requested approval for a Film Club at The Bromfield School. Students watch and discuss films; participants can share film interests, opinions and have open dialogue about different film genres and styles.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the film club and make them legal.

VOTE 5/0

Eric Xing and Isaac Abouaf requested approval for the Bromfield Robotics Club that incorporates a fun, educational program for students interested in STEM. The club would represent Bromfield and our STEM capabilities to compete in Massachusetts and possibly beyond. Students are given 10 weeks to design and build a robot. The club is looking into grants and fundraising activities to fund the club.

Mary Traphagen made the motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Robotics club as presented by Issac and Eric.

VOTE 5/0

Scott Hoffman requested approval for the Origami Club, Fitness Club and Crafts Club that will bring balance to students as an outlet to expand creativity and relieve stress.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Origami, Fitness and Craft Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Student Presentation**

Chloe Cushing presented the student report as follows:

Soccer teams are doing well, the field hockey team made districts; students wore pink on Friday in honor of Breast Cancer awareness.

**Bromfield School Improvement Plan**

Scott Hoffman presented the Bromfield School Improvement Plan for the 2016/2017 school year. The School Improvement Plan represented goals, strategies, time-lines, resources and measurements for the following Core Values: Student Achievement, Personal Growth and School Climate. The Committee thanked the team of Hoffman, Benoit and Horton for their work as a team and look forward to hearing updates throughout the year.

**Bromfield Class Enrollment Data**

Mr. Hoffman explained how the schedule impacts the class enrollment for individual classes using 24 as the maximum number and building the challenging schedule from there. As a result of smaller class sizes coming in from the elementary school there may be some reallocation of teachers to higher enrolled classes by discipline.

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dwight reported on the following:

* November 8th - Teacher Professional Day- The morning will be a curriculum meeting across grade levels K-12 with unifying activities. The Department Leaders and Vertical Team Leaders will take lead by departments. The afternoon will focus on student records and investigations led by our Special Education attorney.
* The Crisis Team’s response to the latest suicide in Acton Boxborough led to the decision to hold a public forum on Friday,
* Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee the draft of a public statement to be released to families and the press in light of some racially divisive incidents that have been experienced by our school district.

Patty Wenger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to move to formally support the public statement as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Share Projected Enrollment**

SusanMary Redinger shared the Harvard Public School Enrollment Projections for 2016-2024.

The enrollment report is a snap shot at what is currently projected. This report shows at the moment that we have 25 fewer students than we had last year. The Devens Grant Road project is expecting to build-out 58 housing units to be completed by the spring of 2018. This would increase our Devens student population by up to approximately 32 new students which will help mitigate the loss in Harvard births. The report shows that if the birth rates hold up we will continue to drop for the next 9 or so years and then rebound a bit.

**Review of Minutes**

SusanMary Redinger with no objection approved the minutes of the October 25, 2016 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Liaison/Sub-committee Reports**

Mary Traphagen reported that the HES School Council is examining homework practices and making it more meaningful. Jamie Eldridge visited both schools. Jen Benson has been invited. The Council will be working on a student survey this year.

Mary Traphagen reported that the Visioning Committee met and made a list of Haves and Needs for each category of “Specials”, “Technology” and “Meeting Spaces”. They will meet again in December.

Patty Wenger reported that CPIC met on Monday morning and they continue to review Capital requests from departments. School Committee is scheduled to share their requests with CPIC the evening of November 17th.

Jon Green reported that there has been no progress on SEPAC but he is scheduled to meet with Dr. Harrington and Dr. Dwight to see how to move things forward.

Jon Green reported that HCTV will meet tomorrow in the studio. The students in Martha Brooks TV production class have been very active in the studio. HCTV is $1500 short for the monitors and $2500 short for editing equipment and plan to submit grant requests to the Cultural Council, PTO and Harvard Schools Trust to cover the cost of that equipment to finish up the studio. Jon offers his support in those efforts.

SusanMary Redinger reported that all articles passed at the Special Town Meeting. HEAC needs to reconvene to move the Sunshot project forward in order to use TBS for testing ground for energy usage and storage. The Harvard School Committee will not vote a delegate to the MASC conference.

**Future Agenda Items**

Financial Report

TBS Survey

Superintendent contract renewal

DEAC Survey

HEAC

Student Achievement

Technology Plan

Executive Session

**Open to Interested Citizens Commentary**

None

The School Committee will be meeting in executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Harvard Teacher’s Association because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the committee.  The committee will reconvene into open session for the purpose of adjournment.

**School Committee Commentary**

Patty Wenger – The Nature’s Classroom presentation was great! She is excited to have teachers from HES and TBS meeting to discuss curriculum.

Jon Green- Great to talk to the kids. Welcome to Chloe as the School Committee student liaison.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Jon Green seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Harvard Teachers Association.

Green (Aye), Lancellotti (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Traphagen (Aye), and Wenger (Aye).

Patty Wenger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully submitted: Mary Zadroga