

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, May 12, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Kirsten Wright, Bob Sullebarger, Patty Wenger, Jennifer Bedford, Maureen Babcock, Joseph Connelly, Lorraine Leonard

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed Jennifer Bedford as the newest member to School Committee. SusanMary also welcomed in-coming HES principal Sue Frederick who was in the audience.

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made the motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes of the April 14th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0 (Jennifer Bedford abstained due absence)

Reports

Student Report

Katia Schwiegershausen reported on several events that have occurred at The Bromfield School which include the senior project presentation and open house, spring coffee house and the Model UN lip sync contest. The AP tests will finish up on Wednesday and Friday will be the Prom followed by Celebration.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that the HSC/HTA contract is complete and ready for printing with just the ratification page that needs to be signed by the Committee. The new contract will be distributed to all teachers before summer break. Dr. Connelly reported that the Committee had in their packets a report/timeline from Mark Force indicating progress to date on all Capital Projects. Dr. Connelly reported to the Committee that he has been informed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that Harvard will receive the requested amount of \$220,998 in extraordinary relief under the Circuit Breaker program which is fantastic news.

Liaison & Subcommittee Reports

Kirsten Wright reported that the The Bromfield School Council will meet tomorrow.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC will meet on May 20th to review the Educational Survey.

Bob Sullebarger reported that HEAC will meet on Wednesday night and will be covering Sophia Catalina's survey.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee met and put finishing touches on the survey that will be going out within the next week. The survey will be up for about 2 weeks and can be accessed through www.HarvardMasterPlan.org. The survey will test what was heard back from the round tables and the information will be used to draft the Master Plan. SusanMary reported that CPIC met and went over forms to be used, the schedule and the first submission due date. A decision to modify the meeting time was tabled until the BOS member is assigned. SusanMary reported that the HES School Council met and discussed School Improvement Plans, the Technology Plan, and are planning an event to welcome Sue

Fredick on June 11th. SusanMary reported that per contract she and Patty are in the process of setting up the third and final meeting with the HTA. SusanMary reported the Committee will be meeting with Student Council on Friday morning at 7:00 a.m. Kirsten Wright suggested discussing the issue of accommodations for religious holidays and to reach out to students for input.

Subcommittee and Liaison Assignments 2014/2015

The following are the Liaison and Subcommittee Assignments for the 2014/2015 school year.

Liaison Assignments

Board of Selectmen	SusanMary Redinger
Fin Com	SusanMary Redinger
DEAC	Kirsten Wright
SEPAC	Kirsten Wright
TBS School Council	Kirsten Wright
HES School Council	Jennifer Bedford
CPIC	SusanMary Redinger
HEAC	Bob Sullebarger
Park and Rec Representative	Patty Wenger
State Representative	Bob Sullebarger
Town Master Plan Steering Committee	SusanMary Redinger

Subcommittees Assignments

Budget	SusanMary Redinger/Patty Wenger
Policy	Jennifer Bedford/Patty Wenger
Education Eval/Collective Bargaining	SusanMary Redinger/Patty Wenger
Wellness Committee	Kirsten Wright
Strategic Plan	Patty Wenger
Website Review	SusanMary Redinger

Acceptance of Gifts – Harvard Schools Trust

Dr. Connelly asked the Committee to approve three very generous gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust. Everyone is an Engineer Day - \$295
Cronin Stage Lighting Upgrades - \$18,750
Grade 3 Spring Field Trip Scholarship Assistance - \$141

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we accept three gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust in the amounts of \$295, \$13,750 and \$141 as described in the letter from the Harvard Schools Trust dated April 11th.

VOTE 5/0

2014/2015 School Calendar Review

Dr. Connelly recommended that the half day scheduled on December 24, 2014 be reconsidered due to the potential for high absenteeism on that day resulting in the day being less productive than it should be. Dr. Connelly also recommended that the School Committee reconsider not conducting classes on August 29, 2014 the Friday before Labor Day weekend to allow the switch of a half day (December 24th) for a full day (August 29th) that will result in a gain of 3 additional hours of instruction.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to move that we reinstate August 29th as a school day and have December 24th as a non-school day.

VOTE 2/3 (Redinger Aye, Bedford Aye, Wenger Nay, Wright Nay, Sullebarger Nay)
The Committee will bring back as a future agenda item the possibility of forming a Calendar Subcommittee.

2014/2015 School Choice Assignments

Dr. Connelly reported that the School Choice Lottery was held of May 8th with 12 School Choice students selected for openings in Grades 1, Grade 4, Grade 7 and Grade 9. SusanMary thanked the administration and the guidance department for making the School Choice family's transition to Harvard smooth.

School Committee Policy Section J – Review and Amendments

The Committee reviewed Policy Section J.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve as amended Policies JB, JH, JHD, JIB, JIC JICA, JICFA, JJE, JJF, JK, JL, and II with policies JJA and JICE coming back for review.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve as reviewed Policies JA, JB-R, JBA, JFAB, JFABD, JFBB, JI, JICC, JICFB, JICFB-R, JICG, JICH, JICI, JIE, JJH, JKA, JKAA, JLB, JL, JLC, JLCC, JLCD, JQ, JRA, JRA-R, JRD.

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger read policy JLCA – Physical Examination of Students” as a first read and will follow with a second read on May 27th in order to adopt the policy as recommended by MASC and the school nurse.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we delete policies JICC-R, JLDBA, JLF as recommended by MASC.

VOTE 5/0

2014-2017 HPS Strategic Plan/District Goals - Draft

Dr. Linda Dwight presented the draft of the Harvard Public School Strategic Planning, Mission, Vision, and District Goals. The School Committee was asked to make comments, discuss and consider any changes to the district goals before they vote to approve the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. It is hoped a final document will be completed by June 2014. Linda Dwight thanked members of the Strategic Plan Committee for their hard work.

2014-2017 Technology Plan

Dr. Dwight presented the updated and revised Harvard Technology Plan which includes in part the leasing of iPads for a World Device Pilot for grade 5 and iPad air cart for TBS along with the purchase of SmartBoards, Smart responders, 30 graphing calculators and four large screen televisions. The cost for the two year plan totaled \$214,028.24. Funding for the purchase

would be from the Devens surplus. SusanMary thanked the Committee for the enormous amount of research and intense work of pulling everything together with supporting information.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that the School Committee approve Phase 1 of the 2014-2017 Technology Plan and encumber \$295,000 toward the purchased outlined in the plan with the funding source being named as the Devens account.

VOTE 5/0

Hildreth New Personnel Reassignment Request

Due to the elimination of one of our kindergarten positions we also have a .5 kindergarten aide position in the FY15 budget that will not be needed. Dr. Dwight has requested the funding for this kindergarten aide position be used to hire two (2) three hour a day lunchroom and recess aides. The Committee asked Dr. Connelly to create a job description for this position and come back to the Committee for approval.

Finance Report

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the FY14 budget to date. There has been a substantial change to the maintenance account due in large part to the fuel line item being over spent by \$30,000. The current budget surplus after updating the report with the \$220,885 in circuit breaker relief funds is \$52,809. Dr. Connelly will bring recommendations back to the Committee on how to best spend the surplus.

Superintendent Year-End Summative Evaluation Goal/Outcome Report

Dr. Connelly reviewed the evaluation instrument that reflects the new educator evaluation program being adopted in Massachusetts for all educators. Dr. Connelly highlighted his achievements over the past school year and presented the Committee with a binder of artifacts to support his accomplishments. The Committee members will complete the evaluation and submit to SusanMary by next Monday.

Future Agenda Items

French Trip Summary
Year End Balance Report
School Handbook Review
HES Parking Lot Design Update
Personnel Report
Implementation of the Finger Printing Law
MCAS vs PARC
Climate Survey
Surplus Expenditure Possibilities
Policy Review

Commentary

Kirsten Wright – Sometimes education happens outside the school walls. Admittedly, inside the school walls December 24th may not be the most educational day, but outside the school walls it may be very educational. We are all part of a full community, and it is important that we help our students realize they are part of the bigger community. It is about the kids and it is the respectful thing to do. It shows we keep our promises even when it is inconvenient. The Drama Festival was fabulous.

Patty Wenger – Thank you Kirsten for saying all of that! The Technology Plan presentation was amazing, very impressive. Nice way of moving forward.

Bob Sullebarger – Joe’s inventory of accomplishments was stunning. Congratulations to Joe on his leadership and service to the town of Harvard. Is looking forward to the French Trip presentation. It was transformative for my daughter.

Jennifer Bedford – Agreed with what Bob said about Joe, has had such a positive experience working with Joe on the Principal Search.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary