

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, March 26, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, SusanMary Redinger, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright, Piali De

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Keith opened the meeting by correcting the Lowell Sun newspaper and Massachusetts AFL-CIO President Steven Tolman for misstatements about possible effects on the schools of the proposed development at Vicksburg Square. Dr. Connelly concurred that the newspaper article and the AFL-CIO letter were totally wrong and misleading as well as hurtful.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the minutes of the March 2nd meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the minutes of the March 12th meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the minutes of the March 19th meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

Student Report

Nick George reported that the Model UN arrived safely in Russia. Members of the drama club went to "Drama Fest" state finals and did well as many Bromfield actors were recognized with awards. Spring sports have started and games should start next week. This coming Wednesday the student council will be hosting a luncheon for senior citizens. Nick extended an invitation to all senior citizens in town.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that the administrative council has now completed their review and assessment of progress to date on the Harvard's Five Year Strategic Plan.

Dr. Connelly is bringing forward to a second reading policy JJIF (Concussion Policy) and EFCA (School Meal Charge Policy), with a final reading planned for April 9th.

The 2012/2013 anticipated teacher vacancy posting went out to all teachers on Friday, March 16, 2012. The posting reflects all voluntary teacher transfers that have been approved by the principals and resulting vacancies. The principals will now attempt to fill the remaining vacancies by considering internal and external candidates.

The kindergarten enrollment number is now 49 students. Joe will wait another month to see if there is a need to go from 4 sections to 3.

School Committee Report

Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council will meet on April 10th.

Piali De reported that the Policy Subcommittee will bring forward nine policies for review and approval before the year is out.

FY12 Budget Update

Lorraine Leonard reported that there was very little change in the budget since the last update. Lorraine feels as though for the next budget review in April there will be a good handle on final numbers for utilities and salaries. Dr. Connelly indicated that the Technology Committee would present a request for the next round of purchases from the technology plan.

Nature's Classroom

Students from grade 5 acted as news reporters to report and illustrate through a slide show what a Nature's Classroom experience would look like. The committee thanked Terry Monette for coordinating this essential and vital learning experience for 5th graders. Dr. Connelly was happy to report that Terry, who is retiring at the end of the school year, will return next year to coordinate the Natures Classroom program.

Middle School Health Curriculum

Introduction to "Get Real"

Principal Jim O'Shea, joined by health and physical education teachers Sue Silver and David Boisvert, explained to the School Committee how the "Get Real" health curriculum would be piloted. The program will begin with 3 or 4 units in the 8th grade this year and will eventually extend to students in grade 7, 8 and 9. The program includes an opportunity in each unit for parent involvement. The School Committee need not vote on the program.

Superintendent's Contract

The Committee reviewed the Superintendent's contract which is broken down in two calendar years. The total compensation for the year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 is \$115,000. The part-time position is equivalent to a .77 FTE. A flexible schedule was devised with the bulk of the non-work days occurring during the summer and working 4 to 5 days per week during critical times.

2008-2013 Strategic Plan Progress Report

A review and assessment on Harvard's Five Year Strategic Plan was led by Principals Dr. Linda Dwight and Mr. James O'Shea and other members of the HES and Bromfield administration and faculty. The committee like the format for reporting and were happy with the accomplishments and great piece of work. Due to the fact that many of the goals are still being accomplished the committee decided that it would be a good idea to extend the length of the Strategic Plan for one more year.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we extend the Harvard Public Schools current Strategic Plan to 2014 and use the same format for reporting.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

Administrative Restructuring Study – School Union Model Q&A report

The Committee discussed how to organize for the April 2nd public hearing on the Harvard/Boxborough School Union. Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright discussed with the committee what documents were beneficial to include in a Question and Answer Impact Report on the Potential Harvard/Boxborough Elementary School Union. The report will be available in the next few days on the school website and at Town Hall, the library, and school offices.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we vote to accept this report by the School Union Subcommittee as amended as the document to be used at the public hearing.

VOTE (5/0) to accept

Kirsten Wright and Patty Wenger discussed the content for a power point to be presented at the public hearing. Patty and Kirsten will work to finalize the power point before Monday.

Concussion and Head Injury Policy 1st reading

School Meal Charge Policy EFCA 1st reading

The Committee reviewed the Concussion Policy and some changes and clarifications that they would like to see made. Item needing clarification included a list of activities that apply to the policy, how completion of the training is documented and how the records are kept.

The Committee reviewed the School Meal Charge Policy as a second reading with the intent to approve at the April 9th meeting.

Future Agenda

Rugby Club

Budget book

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary