

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Tuesday, October 14, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Patty Wenger, Bob Sullebarger, Jennifer Bedford, Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight, Lorraine Leonard Absent: Kirsten Wright

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Review of Minutes

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to approve the minutes of the September 22nd meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Green Team Presentation; The Bromfield School Building Energy Consumption

Sofia Catalina from the Bromfield Green Team shared the results of a survey that was done to help determine and explain the reason for an increase in energy usage at the schools. The survey results will be shared to help determine the best steps to take to ensure comfortable room temperature throughout The Bromfield and Hildreth schools.

BHRA Overnight Field Trip Approval

Holly Hatton, the advisor for The Bromfield Acton-Boxborough Rowing Team asked permission for the rowing team to attend an overnight trip to Saratoga Springs, New York to attend the Head of the Fish Regatta. The students will leave on October 25th and return October 26th.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger to approve the Bare Hill Rowing Association overnight field trip as presented.

VOTE 4/0

1:World Pilot Program Survey Results – Sue Frederick

Sue Frederick presented the 5th Grade 1:World Pilot Fall 2014 Survey results. The base line survey was given to parents, students and staff. The survey showed very favorable results across the board and participation in the survey was excellent. Surveys will continue on a quarterly timeframe.

Music Dept. Tutor Request Revisited

The Committee revisited a request from the Music Department to pilot a program to bring in a music tutor for a .5 FTE position (22 to 25 hours per week). The funding would come from the FY15 personnel surplus.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we allocate up to 20K for the purpose of hiring a half time music tutor in accordance with the job description to be filled as soon as we can conduct interviews.

VOTE 4/0

HES Club Approval

Dr. Dwight reviewed an application for a HES Yearbook Club. The fifth graders would work with Ms. Cregan during lunch and free periods throughout the day to create the yearbook. The yearbook has been created in the past through volunteers and spectrum classes.

Jennifer Bedford made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve the creation of the HES Yearbook Club with a stipend of \$937 to be paid out of the personnel unspent funds for this year.

VOTE 4/0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight reported that the fifth grade spent the past week at Nature's Classroom in Ivoryton, CT. The students will share their stories with us at a future meeting. Dr. Dwight reported that holes were bored in the concrete project area to correctly identify the depth of the existing concrete. We have also employed an engineer to further delineate the project specification and offer alternative surfaces. Options might include using asphalt sidewalks with granite curbing and a stamped concrete entrance design with landscaping accents. Dr. Dwight reported that a full day of technology offerings will fill the upcoming Professional Development Day. Teachers are offering courses to each other and attending sessions of interest that would benefit students in their classrooms. Dr. Dwight reminded the Committee that last year the School Committee chose to self-fund an engineering study for the HES parking lot. As this money has not yet been spent, we might consider the switch to an engineering study of the TBS parking lot instead as the safety concerns continue to emerge due to uneven surfaces and poor lighting. Dr. Dwight reported that approximately 60 teacher/staff have requested to use December 24th as a Personal Day for observance of a religious holiday. Dr. Dwight and the building principals are still reviewing details and making alternative plans for the day as a standard school half day. Dr. Dwight shared the Student Advisory meeting dates with the Committee. SusanMary Redinger will email members to check their availability on these days.

Liaison Report

Bob Sullebarger reported the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee will be attending our next meeting to explain the requested FY16 Capital Projects that relate to the schools. Maureen Babcock shared through PowerPoint her annual update to the MassDevelopment Board of Directors. Maureen reported that construction of 16 new homes on Grant Road should begin in the spring 2015. Election will be held in November to fill three open positions on DEAC. SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee will meet on Saturday, November 15th from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Center on the Common to discuss the pros, cons and contingencies associated with Harvard with or without Devens. SusanMary will attend the Bromfield School Council meeting on November 5th. SusanMary reported that she and Linda attended the Conservation Committee meeting to discuss the HES parking lot but sequed into discussion about Bromfield Parking lot which has developed into a more urgent project. There are plans that are over ten years old that will need to be updated. It will be a big project that will involve a lot of folks, but we will talk to the folks necessary to move this project forward.

Finance Report

Lorraine Leonard reported a \$43,000 surplus in the FY15 budget to date. Lorraine also reported the FY14 Outside Funds close out balances and the current FY15 balance as of September 30, 2014.

Track Resurfacing Request Re-voted

It was decided to stand by the original vote from September 22, 2014 to fund the track resurfacing out of the athletic revolving account.

VOTE 4/0

Capital Requests

Dr. Dwight reported on each of the following draft capital items to be: Bromfield Science Lab Air Exchange System, K-Wing Project, Phone System Upgrade, and Hildreth Elementary School Bathroom Renovations. A full write up which provide details on each project as well as long term project descriptions for the move of the district offices, K-Wing project and Bromfield parking lot project. The following changes were made:

- *The phone system price was reduced to \$100,000
- *District Office relocation and renovation costs to include \$700,000 to \$1.5 million
- *K-Wing renovation or new building \$3.7 million to \$4.7 million
- *Change wording of trailers to modular classrooms

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve the Capital Plan as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to move that we approve the transfer of funding of up to \$20K from the HES parking lot engineering study to fund the TBS parking lot engineering study

Protocol Development

Tabled to a future meeting.

October 1st Enrollment Numbers

Current enrollment as of October 1, 2014 is 1147 students down 25 students from October 1, 2013. SusanMary Redinger asked that we do the enrollment projection report including Grant Road for be reviewed at a future meeting.

Future Agenda Items

HEAC – October 27th
Meeting at Devens – November 10th
Trip Approval – Washington, D.C.
Review Trips for the Year (calendar of anticipated trips)
Capital Requests
Blackstone Block – K-wing Report

Closing Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – Good to see Tom Reynolds – he is a local institution
Patty Wenger – Very productive meeting
Maureen Babcock – Lot of new news
SusanMary Redinger – Excited about the technology information – Kudos to Chris, Beth and the Tech Team, very positive reinforcement, everything is being done thoughtfully.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.
VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary

