

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, November 10, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

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

Review of Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to approve the minutes of the October 27th meeting as amended.

VOTE 3/0

Kirsten Wright and Jennifer Bedford abstained due to absence.

Student Report

Alyson Codner reported that the Bromfield School drama presentation of "Our Town" was very successful and well attended. The Boys Varsity Soccer team will be playing in the District finals this Saturday at Nashoba, and the Cross Country team also made it to the District finals. The Model UN Club went to a conference at Brown University this past weekend that was very successful. First Quarter report cards were distributed today.

Students share 1:World experiences

Principal, Sue Frederick shared a video on the use of iPads in the fifth grade, she then introduced students from the fifth grade who were matched up with School Committee adults to demonstrate the apps they use at home and at school. SusanMary Redinger praised the students' enthusiasm and Bob Sullebarger stated that it is evident our investment in technology was worth it after tonight.

Principals report on student achievement

Principals Jim O'Shea and Sue Frederick reviewed the results of MCAS scores from the tests that were taken last spring and compared results with past years. In addition they shared with the Committee a list of student achievements and activities that students at both HES and TBS are involved in. Potential use of data by School Committee and Administration for a future dashboard was discussed.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Dwight reported that the MASC/MASS conference was very beneficial. She was able to attend a session on the School Building Authority process and timeline which was very helpful. Another session focused on using different technology tools to share news with the community and the last session focused on school law which provided clarity on the open meeting law. Dr. Dwight reported that 4 people have announced their retirements at the end of this school year and 7 people have declared their intent to retire at the end of the 2015/2106 school year. Dr. Dwight has reviewed the FY 16 budgets with Cost Center Managers and is ready for a full review by the School Committee prior to submission to the Finance Committee. Chris Boyle wants to move our district to virtual servers. Dr. Dwight explained that the cost of switching is over \$50,000 and currently appears in the level service technology budget but may need to be moved to another funding source. Dr. Dwight

discussed the possibility of adding a Technology Integration Specialist K-12 to the FY16 budget. A job description is being developed and will be shared as a future agenda item.

Liaison Report

Jennifer Bedford attended the School Council meeting and the K-Wing, the lockdown drill, and enrollment were discussed.

Bob Sullebarger reported that the next HEAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Bob agreed to attend a get-together with State Representative Jen Benson in Shirley on November 17th.

Kirsten Wright shared her excitement about the Global Stem workshop she attended at the MASS/MASC conference. It is very exciting to see the possibilities of schools across the world connecting and working collaboratively to solve world problems.

Maureen Babcock reported the DEAC elections are coming up and there are three openings and only one nomination. Maureen is hoping for two write in candidates. The election is November 19th.

SusanMary Redinger attended the TBS School Council meeting and reported that subcommittee work is being done in the following areas: rubric reflection, climate, handbook, graduation requirements, communication and evaluating the Advisory Pilot Program. Discussion also about senior projects, a civic scholarship program, drama fest, reassessing the "Get Real" program, SusanMary reported that this Thursday there is a Regional Forum on Chapter 70 reform being held at Wachusett Regional High School. Stu Sklar from BOS is planning to attend. The Master Plan Steering Committee has rescheduled the November 15th forum at Devens. A new date has not been set.

Finance Report

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the FY15 budget which currently has a \$41,735 surplus. Lorraine reviewed all of the lines that had a significant change.

Harvard Schools Trust gift acceptance was pushed to the next meeting because it was not listed on the agenda for tonight.

Future Meetings w/Student Council vs SAC (Student Advisory Committee)

SusanMary Redinger and Bob Sullebarger attended the Student Advisory Committee meeting. Students shared their concern about having school on December 24th. Discussion around having a communication plan put into place to get the same message across to all students and families regarding the whys and what's of having school on December 24th. The Committee decided to continue meeting with the larger Student Council group twice a year along with meeting with the Student Advisory Committee 5 times per year (November 14th, January 23rd, March 13th, and May 1st).

Budget Status and Cost Center Review Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to meet on December 15th from 6-9 p.m. to review the proposed FY16 Cost Center budgets. The Committee discussed funding the virtual servers with a warrant article or using a revolving account. Dr. Dwight will come back to the Committee with a list of potential savings by switching to virtual servers. The current server could be repurposed to other town departments. Lorraine Leonard suggested to be consistent the virtual servers should be paid out of the Devens account where the technology items are currently funded. SusanMary Redinger will send an email to the Finance Committee to inform them that our budgets will be ready for submission after the December 15th meeting.

Capital Projects Update

The Committee reviewed the Capital Submissions which include:

Replacing 3 phone systems with VOIP -\$100,000

HES Bathroom renovations - \$30,000

TBS – Renovate air exchange in Science Labs - \$315,000

The Committee discussed adding the K-Wing feasibility and schematic design to the capital plan for next year. Patty Wenger will ask to be put on the CPIC's next agenda. The Committee formally voted on the Statement of Interest.

Bob Sullebarger made the motion and Patty Wenger seconded that we agree to the following resolution:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on November 10, 2014, the School Committee of Harvard, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated January 2015 for the Hildreth Elementary School located at 27 Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard, Massachusetts which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future **the renovation or rebuild of the Kindergarten Wing at Hildreth Elementary School due to the following priorities- Priority 1 – Mold, Priority 5- Air Exchange failing plumbing, electrical and ventilation systems, Priority 7 – ADA compliance issues;** and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

VOTE 5/0

The Committee agreed to have a public forum on Thursday, December 4th at 7 p.m. at the HES library to give folks an opportunity to ask questions about the K-Wing project. The Committee discussed having a process for questions to be submitted for folks who couldn't attend and how best to advertise the event.

Future Agenda Items

Harvard Schools Trust

403b vs 457 Memorandum

School Choice Offset

School Improvement Plans - January

Superintendent Entry Plan

Student Council Meetings

Capital Updates

Club Information

Budget Presentations

Strategic Plan – signage update
Meeting at Devens

Closing Commentary

Bob Sullebarger – thrilled with the iPad presentation.

Patty Wenger – thanked Kirsten for sharing the Global Stem project information.

Kirsten Wright – it is good to be back.

Maureen Babcock – George Rameriz will be leaving MassDevelopment at the end of December.

Lorraine Leonard – has a warrant that needs to be signed.

SusanMary Redinger – Honk, Jr. is being performed at HES on November 21, 22, and 23rd. The iPad presentation was great.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.
VOTE 5/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary