

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, March 9, 2015

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

**Budget Public Hearing**

Dr. Dwight presented the proposed FY 2015/2016 Harvard Public Schools budget of \$12,274,605 which is a 2.12% increase over the FY 15 budget. Dr. Dwight explained the increases and decreases by cost center. Dr. Dwight reviewed the warrant articles being submitted by the School Committee to: renovate and repair bathrooms at Hildreth Elementary School, purchase a new VOIP phone system for the entire school department, and install air-exchange system in The Bromfield School Science Labs.

**Club Approval**

Chase Peters, a junior at The Bromfield Schools presented to the Committee a proposal to start a Bromfield Feminist Club which if formed would work to encourage discussion of women's issues and further education around those issues. The group would meet biweekly and Kate Keane and Elizabeth Hoorneman would serve as the faculty advisors.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to move that we accept The Bromfield School Feminist Club request as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dwight reported that the administration is in favor of changing the integrated preschool to a half day program for the 2015-2016 school-year. The reason for the change includes the fact that there were no special education students in the program this year and none scheduled for fall and the program offset did not match the expenses. The half day model will allow us to offer the placement for preschool students with individualized education plans (IEP), if any move in. Sue Frederick and Marie Harrington have met with parents to discuss alternative ideas to their need for a full day program.

Dr. Dwight reported that the National Honor Society held their induction ceremony on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Each inductee demonstrates how they have embodied the four pillars and commit to upholding the qualities in the future. Several senior NHS members made professional level speeches and then invited the new members in to the society. The PTO organized a reception for families and faculty to celebrate.

Dr. Dwight reported that the drama students, wrote, directed and performed the play, Lost and Soon Forgotten, which was performed at the Drama Festival. Unfortunately, they finished fourth and only three school advance to the semi-finals. The public will have the opportunity to see the play at the Harvard School Trust Gala on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Dwight informed the Committee about a possible change to the color of the graduation robes in an effort to make the robes non-gender specific. Jim O'Shea is working with the students to create a survey in order to hear the voice of all seniors on the new option.

Dr. Dwight reported that the athletic director, Pam Alexander selected and purchased a software product that will allow us to collect fees, post schedules, email parents and students and collect data.

Dr. Dwight reported that Bromfield will soon have large monitor displaying current information in the school lobby and the cafeteria. This will give students the opportunity to submit short videos and visual images to share with their peers through this new technology.

### **Calendar Approval**

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Calendar Subcommittee had met several times with the goal of reviewing the annual school calendar and making recommendations to the school committee that maximize student learning, time on learning and resources. The Committee studied several aspects of the calendar to see what changes could be made to optimize student learning. No significant changes were made to the calendar for the coming year. One idea that was tabled for this year is to hold parent conferences prior to November. Another was school vacations. The Subcommittee created a survey that went out to parents and teachers asking for input on various proposed changes to the February and April vacations. The plan for the 2016/2017 is to have a March vacation and two long weekends for February and April. The hope is that there will be a statewide change to the school vacation calendar.

Bob Sullebarger made the motion and Jennifer Bedford seconded to move that we approve the 2015/2016 school calendar as submitted.

VOTE 4/0

### **Attendance Policy Review**

The Policy Subcommittee, taking direction from the leadership team and the new state law developed a new/amended attendance policy under Policy File: JH. Parents will be required to complete a form to document absences. Parent (s)/guardian will be notified after two or more unexcused absences from the same-class. The principal will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) in writing and request a meeting to discuss the student's attendance and develop an action plan. The Principals' of each school will update the student handbooks to make them consistent with the new policy and in compliance with DESE.

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we approve Policy File JH "Student Attendance" as amended.

VOTE 4/0

### **Sidewalk Project Update**

Dr. Dwight shared drawings of the Bromfield School front entrance and sidewalk project. The drawings were color coded to identify the materials being used in each section. The sidewalks would be asphalt with granite curbing and the entrance would be designed concrete brown stone. Dr. Dwight has asked the architect to create real images so that we will be able to see what this combination of materials will look like. In addition the drawings included a look at landscaping to beautify the entry way as well as a brick pattern around the flag pole. Dr. Dwight hopes to get this project out to bid so the project can start in June.

### **Associate Principal Update**

Dr. Dwight announced that Joshua Myler has accepted the position of Associate Principal, Joshua signed the contract last Friday which is effective July 1, 2015. Public forums are planned prior to July in order for the public to meet and greet Mr. Myler. Dr. Dwight welcomed Joshua and thanked Ms. Frederick and the Search Committee for their hard work.

### **Review of Minutes**

Patty Wenger made a motion and Bob Sullebarger seconded to accept the minutes of the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

### **Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

Jennifer Bedford reported that the HES School Council met and discussed snow removal/melting issues at HES, tweaking the library book return policy, anti-bullying/empathy curriculum, and drinkable books fund raiser.

Patty Wenger reported that the Capital Planning and Investment Committee approved the changes that the School Committee voted on with regard to price and year of future projects. CPIC will meet on March 19<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the town meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that The Bromfield School Council meets on Wednesday and the agenda includes diversity and reflection, the state of stem, and student leadership.

Bob Sullebarger reported that the Energy Advisory Committee will meet next Wednesday at 8 p.m. He also reported that he presented Science Fair awards on behalf of the School Committee. The middle school award was given to the experiment on the most efficiently burning wood and the high school award was given to the experiment on the effectiveness of anti-fungal creams.

Maureen Babcock reported that there are three new members to DEAC, Bob Corrieri, Heather Knowles and Kristine Stoffregen. The next DEAC meeting is the Tuesday after Memorial Day.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Superintendent Entry Plan

Technology Visual

Ecuador Trip

SC Self-Assessment

Side Walk Project Update

Budget book Approval

School Choice

Policy I

Recognition for Patty and Bob

### **Closing Commentary**

Maureen Babcock – attended the Science Fair and was impressed by the amount of participation, community attendance and prizes, it was really great!

Bob Sullebarger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn at 8:06

VOTE 4/0

Respectfully Submitted: Mary Zadroga, Recording Secretary