School Committee Minutes

Upstairs of the Town Hall

Monday, December 12, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, Jon Green, Patty Wenger, Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight and Peter Rowe.

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Mary Traphagen read the Core Value Statement.

Open to Interested Citizens Commentary - None

**Athletic Advisory presentation**

On behalf of the Athletic Advisory Committee, Susan Toll presented a request asking that the School Committee consider funding a portion of the Bromfield Athletic budget. Currently the Omnibus budget funds the salary of the Athletic Director and a portion (25K) toward coaching salaries. Given that the current user fee structure can’t support the program, the School Committee agreed at a previous meeting to fund $20K towards the deficit in that account. The Committee agreed to keep the Athletic Advisory request in the forefront as they move forward with the budget process and will determine the best way to fund the athletic budget.

**Technology Presentation**

Wyatt Holt , 7th Grade Science teacher and Andrew Wright, 8th Grade Social Studies teacher shared with the Committee how iPads (7th grade) and MacBooks (8th grade) are being used to enhance instruction in their perspective classrooms.

Dr. Dwight shared the results of the 1: World MacBook student survey which indicates that a large percentage of the students find the MacBooks very helpful and are feeling very excited to be paving a path toward a new way of learning.

Dr. Dwight presented a spreadsheet with a breakdown of the costs to lease 1: World Devices for grades 5-12 (iPads for grades 5-7 and MacBook Airs for grades 8-12). The total cost of $294,139.55 would be offset by the Devens fund. Dr. Dwight agreed to meet with Chris Boyle to clarify some information on the spreadsheet. A revised spreadsheet will be brought back to the Committee for review and approval.

**Diversity Work Update**

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee the continued work being done with the Diversity Committee. The following is a list of actions being planned:

* Setting up a website; look at the sites for Boxborough, MA and York, ME
* Look at demographic data of the schools/town to capture changes
* Vet speakers and seek grant funding
* Determine a welcome message for the town; How to invite families and staff of the world majority to Harvard
* A school focused group that will continue to focus on students and staff and a curriculum – survey for staff and students, update curriculum
* Plan a public event or forum
* Plan agenda for upcoming January 9th meeting

**Share Information about the preferred architect/design team**

Dr. Dwight reported that three firms were interviewed by MSBA and several members of the Hildreth School Building Committee. Arrowstreet was selected as the company who will design the renovation and expansion of the Hildreth Elementary School. The contract terms still need to be negotiated. Arrowstreet representatives will meet with members of the School Building Committee, school administrators and project management representatives on December 15th to outline the three design options that the firm will present to the town.

**Policy Review; DJE, DJF, DK, DKA, DM, DN, LA, LB, LDA–**

Tabled

**Budget Process Update**

The Committee reviewed the contents of material that will make up the 2017/2018 Harvard Public Schools Budget book. The Committee would like the budget books produced and available as binders and as a searchable pdf for School Committee and Finance Committee members based on their preference. Dr. Dwight will contact the Finance Committee to see if they would prefer binders or pdfs. The Committee will draft a letter to be included in the budget books that are distributed at town meeting. The Committee will discuss the Athletic Advisory request with the Finance Committee in advance of any decisions. Patty Wenger informed the Committee that the Capital Plan and Investment Committee would like to have a five year plan laid out for how the Devens’ money will be allocated.

**HEAC update on SunShot Initiative**

Eric Broadbent from the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee shared the benefits of the Harvard Public Schools participating in the US Department of Energy grant project. The goal of the project is to balance variation in solar PV energy generation with a combination of utility-scale batteries and customer load control. Mr. Broadbent asked the Committee to sign a Letter of Intent as a non-binding commitment to participate in the project. The project is slated to begin December 2017 and would be a year-long project.

Mary Traphagen made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to support the project as presented and authorized SusanMary Redinger to sign the letter of intent on behalf of the Harvard Public Schools.

VOTE 5/0

**Review meeting minutes**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Liaison/Sub-committee Reports**

Mary Traphagen reported that the HES School Council will meet on December 13, 2016. The Policy Subcommittee has met and is working on the Harassment/Bullying policies. The Athletic Advisory Committee is presenting tonight.

Patty Wenger reported that CPIC would like an invoice of the recently renovated science rooms in order to get an idea of the cost of the project moving forward. CPIC is also questioning if the air duct work has been completed in all rooms at Bromfield. CPIC will begin rating the projects on Monday.

Nancy Lancellotti reported that the Bromfield School Council has not met but subcommittees continue to work on Climate and the Handbook.

Jon Green reported that the Diversity Committee will be meeting on December 14th.

Maureen Babcock reported that housing development at Devens continues to move forward and a home was recently sold to a family with 2 school aged children.

SusanMary Redinger reported that Dr. Dwight, Mary Traphagen and herself attended the Board of Selectman meeting and participated in interviewing three finalists for the Finance Director position. In a unanimous vote, David Nalchajian was hired. It is the intent that Mr. Nalchjian will begin his work as the town finance director and work towards meeting the requirements to become a school business manager in the future. In the meantime the school will retain a part-time person in that role.

SusanMary Redinger agreed to write the School Committee’s Annual Report submission for the Committee review and approve prior to the January 23rd deadline.

**Suggest Future Agenda Items**

Student Presentation

Technology Offset

Policy

Student Achievement

District Improvement Plan

Review Goals

School Improvement Plans

TBS Parent Survey

**Interested Citizen Commentary**

Steve Colwell of Littleton Road asked the Committee to consider a Saturday date that they would be able to meet with the Finance Committee.

The School Committee will be meeting in executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Harvard Teacher’s Association because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the committee.  The committee will not reconvene into open session.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Harvard Teachers Association and Dr. Dwight.

Green (Aye), Lancellotti (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Traphagen (Aye), and Wenger (Aye).

Respectfully submitted: Mary Zadroga