School Committee Minutes

Upstairs of the Town Hall

Monday, May 22, 2017

6:15 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Mary Traphagen, Jon Green, Nancy Lancellotti, John Ruark, Maureen Babcock (6:35), Linda Dwight and Peter Rowe

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

John Ruark read the Core Value Statement.

**Open to Interested Citizens’ Commentary**

None

**Student Report**

Chloe Cushing reported that the Prom and Celebration were held this past weekend. Prom was great and everyone loved the Celebration theme and had a great time at the event. Sophomores had their last MCAS test on Monday and Tuesday of last week. Spring sports are finishing up. Finals schedules have been released. The Senior Class is excited to graduate. Today the senior prank was bringing your dog or chicken to school. After a lap around they school all dogs and chickens were sent home.

**International Trip Approval, Out of State Trip Approval for 6th Grade**

Ms. Anastasia Townsend presented a request for students to visit Paris, Provence and Barcelona. The trip would be held April 13th to April 21st of 2018. The cost of the trip is $4,102 per student. The minimum number of students required for the trip to run would be 25. For every six students that take the trip, one chaperone will be required. Ms. Townsend suggested that chaperones will be faculty members. Fund raising will cover expenses for chaperones, students in financial need and faculty stipends.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the International trip to Spain and France as presented for next year.

VOTE 5/0

A request was made to approve an out of state trip for the 6th grade students to go to Canobie Lake Park in New Hampshire on Wednesday, June 14th with a rain date of Friday, June 16th. Students will depart from The Bromfield School at 8:15 a.m. and return in time for dismissal at 2:20 p.m.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approval the trip to Canobie Lake Park as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Technology Presentation**

Josh Myler and teachers Cindy Steeves, Amy Bassage, Janis Dyer and Marisa Khurana shared what they have been doing with Technology in the classroom. Cindy Steeves’s second grade class attended two virtual field trips to Yellowstone National Park. Amy Bassage’s third grade class and Janis Dyer’s seventh grade class worked together and did a mystery skype with a classroom from Brazil. Marisa Khurana shared her paperless planner and individualized assignments using google classroom. Josh Myler shared various programs that are used to differentiate instruction, classroom management, communication and podcasting. School Committee members were impressed and thanked teachers for their passion and leadership and pointed out how it ties very closely into the vision statement. The possibilities are endless.

**Technology Position Request**

Chris Boyle, Technology Director presented a request for a new Technology position in his department for the coming school year. With the amount of devices in the district that need support it is very difficult to manage with the current staffing. Mr. Boyle proposes hiring a person full time for approximately $44,000 per year. Dr. Dwight asked the Committee to consider using personnel savings or Devens funds to fund this position. The Committee will be ready to take a vote on adding this Technology position at their next meeting. Chris Boyle will provide data showing the volume of devices, help tickets etc. that will justify the need for an additional position in the Technology Department.

**HCTV Proposal**

Bill Johnson from Harvard Cable TV presented a proposal for the schools to fund additional hours to expand Anya Zulawnik’s position. The position would be a pilot program and would increase Anya’s time an average of 5 hours per week during the 36 weeks of the school year. HCTV is equally committed to expanding student exposure and involvement in creative arts to complement the rigorous academic training already working so well within the Harvard Public Schools. We are excited to work to evolve this proposal as needed to make it happen for the upcoming school year.Dr. Dwight suggested using funds from a revolving account to fund this project. The Committee will review where the money will come from and vote at their next meeting.

**Superintendent Report**

**Arm in Arm Event**

About 75 community members and students met at the top of Town Hall to hear Chief Denmark talk about the community response to the rock incident. His talk was interactive with audience participation and information sharing. He shared expert research on the psychology of bias, racial profiling, and exclusion. The group then discussed way to react and prevent further incidents.

**Global Competency Program Update**

The response to the pilot program has been very positive. Students in upcoming grades 10 and 11 were invited to complete an application if they were interested. Thirty-six students applied. We reviewed the completed applications that included two essay questions. Students provided thoughtful and reflective responses to the two questions; why do you want to be part of the Global Competency Program? Prior to completing this application, what travel, research, or service experiences have you had that you would consider being of a global nature? Bryce Mattie led the review session and then later sent an email asking for faculty advisors to help mentor students in the program.

**Team Building Programs at HES**

Sue Frederick and Christine Reale are leading fifth grade girls in a running program in preparation for the Jessie 5K run. This is the second year for this program. This is the first year of a boys’ version of the team building that involves running obstacle courses. The boys cheered each other on to improve their group time. They also raced against Josh Myler in the culminating event.

**MASS Spring Meeting**

Superintendents from across the state joined together at the annual spring conference in Marlborough on May 18th. Guest speakers included Governor Baker, Dr. Eddie Fergus, and MASS leaders. Dr. Fergus spoke about his work with over 70 districts across the country on dealing with disproportionality and overcoming bias based beliefs. Governor Baker talked about the state’s budget; level 3 school reforms, and collaborating with educators on improvements.

**Bromfield Drama**

Students involved in the drama program worked hard to learn the lines to a lengthy comedy play; The Man Who Came to Dinner. Through expert timing of the actions, facial expressions, and lines, the students made the audience laugh and enjoy the experience. Thanks to Martha, the supportive parents, and the students for a wonderful play.

**Celebration**

As a result of transforming the school for the Celebration event there was damage done to the floor tile from an adhesive remover that was used. It will be determined if Mark Force will be able to fix the tiles or if we will need a contractor. In addition on Monday morning there was a hydraulic leak caused by the waste disposal truck that had come to empty the dumpster. The clean-up was handled quickly and efficiently.

**Update on the Building Project**

Dr. Dwight reported on the following building project updates:

* We held a community forum on 5/9. There were 14 community members in attendance.
* We presented the building project information to the teacher leadership team and HAA board.
* The working sub-committee met to discuss the condition reports, costs for improvements to the envelope of the 1988 building, overall cost estimates, and next steps.
* Held a School Building Committee meeting. Reviewed costs. Made decisions about surveying the community to gain more input.
* Created and disseminated the survey.
* Initial response to the survey: 129 as of May 19th.

Dr. Dwight explained that the four alternatives are narrowing down to two with one being building renovation and the other being new construction. The Building Committee is hopeful that a decision can be made by June 8th. The survey has been getting good feedback and there will be a postcard going out to all families asking them for their feedback on the project. Dr. Dwight shared information on the tax impact of the building project costs for each of the four alternatives. Dr. Dwight shared more information on the towns overall debt and when items will be coming off the list which will affect the town’s bond rating.

**Curriculum Review Schedule Proposal**

Tabled

**Kindergarten Enrollment Numbers**

Tabled

**Choice Lottery Update**

Tabled

**Summer School Committee Meeting Schedule**

Tabled

**Review the Superintendent rubric**

Tabled

**Budget Consideration**

Tabled

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Jon Green seconded to move to table Agenda items XI, XII, XII, XV, XVI.

VOTE 5/0

**Review meeting minutes**

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes of May 8th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Mary Traphagen –** HES School Council is working on the school improvement plan. Sue Frederick wants to make it a progressive document. The Council discussed differentiation of homework and how to make it meaningful. DEAC did not meet. The School Committee Chair and Vice Chair met with the HTA Co-chairs and were given some feedback about the contract negotiations. They felt in the end it was ok but the tone was contentious at times. HTA Co-Chairs have also gotten feedback from teachers there is concern that by adding five approved days for students to attend college visits the practice has morphed into more students taking time off for vacations etc. Teachers are wondering if every application gets approved and wondering if the additional five days are necessary.

**SusanMary Redinger –** reported that she has signed the warrants and there is a warrant recap of all invoices paid if anyone is interested in reviewing them. SusanMary Redinger entered into record a list of invoices on a warrant signed by her and dated 5/18/17.

**John Ruark** attended the HEAC meeting. HEAC gave an update on the school energy projects that include the Bromfield lighting project and the SunDial project that is an energy reallocation program.

**Jon Green** – SEPAC met on May 18th for their annual presentation mandated by the state. There were no parents in attendance. SEPAC is brainstorming ways to reach out to parents and get more parents involved.

**Nancy Lancellotti** – School Council is scheduled to meet this week.

**Suggested Future Agenda Items**

Summer PD

Dean Position

District Improvement Plan

Superintendent Evaluation

**Citizens Commentary** - None

**School Committee Commentary**

**SusanMary Redinger** –It is an honor and a great experience to attend graduation as a School Committee member and I highly recommend members to attend.

**Mary Traphagen –** The School Committee is scheduled to meet with the Student Advisory Committee at 7:00 a.m. on Friday.

**Dr. Dwight** - thanked the Building Committee for all of their hard work and encouraged everyone to get as informed as possible and to take the survey

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga