School Committee Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2018

6:15 p.m.

Upper Town Hall

Attendance: Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, Jon Green, John Ruark, SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock, Peter Rowe and Linda Dwight.

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

The Chair asked that Agenda Item II (Budget Public Hearing) be moved until after Agenda Item V (Trip Consideration) in order to accommodate presenters.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to move the Public Budget Hearing Agenda Item II until after Agenda Item V.

VOTE 5/0

**Public Commentary** – Nate Finch – Codman Hill Road – urging more School Committee members to attend School Building Committee Forums.

Shawn Graham – 15B Elm Road – urging the School Committee to make the results of the parent climate survey public.

**Student Update**

Chloe Cushing – Reported that the ACT tests are this Saturday. Students and Chaperones attending the International trip to Spain and France will leave on Friday. The Student Advisory Council is scheduled to meet with the School Committee this Friday at 7 am.

**Trip Consideration**

Ms. Trish Nilan and students who attended the service trip to New Orleans attended the meeting and shared their trip experience. Students were provided an opportunity to learn new skills, work together, experience other cultures and observe social justice issues. Ms. Nilan is proposing a similar trip for next year. The proposed trip would be with the United Saints Recovery Project and would leave on Wednesday, February 13th and return on Saturday, February 23, 2019. The cost of the trip is $425 per student and fundraising will be available to students.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the service learning trip to New Orleans as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Michael Poe, the Debate Team Advisor attended the meeting seeking permission for two eleventh grade members of the Debate team along with a parent chaperone and himself to attend the National Tournament in Florida. The students would leave on Sunday, June 17th and return Thursday, June 21st. Students will be responsible for paying their own airfare and some of their lodging. Mr. Poe and one parent will share the chaperoning responsibilities.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Debate team’s trip for two eleventh graders for June 17th to the 23rd as described by Michael Poe.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Dwight presented a request seeking approval for an Out of State/Overnight Field Trip to Nature’s Classroom. The students will attend Nature’s Classroom in Ivoryton, CT from October 1st to October 5th.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to move that we approve the Nature’s Classroom trip as presented in the packet.

VOTE 5/0

**Grant Acceptance**

The Harvard Schools Trust approved the following grants:

Sharing Spaces – Sharon Correnty and Beth Cregan - $1,626.99

Speaker: Building Bridges – Kathleen Doherty and Bryce Mattie-Brown - $500.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to move to approve the Harvard Schools Trust grants for the Sharing Spaces and the Speaker: Building Bridges as presented in the packet.

VOTE 5/0

**Budget Public Hearing**

Peter Rowe reviewed the details of the proposed FY19 Omnibus budget. The total budget is $13,410,529. The total budget increase for FY19 is $404,724 (3.1%) which is made up of salary increase of $326,022 and non-salary snow removal of $45,000 and regular transportation increase of $27,000. Mr. Rowe reviewed budget offsets, capital articles, and capital recommendations.

**Superintendent Update**

Hildreth Elementary building project update

\*Met with tri-boards in town to discuss project funding options.

\*Met with the Working Group and the School Building (SBC) to discuss final costs of the project and public presentations. Shared third OML complaint with SBC. They voted to have our attorney respond.

\*Met with the Planning Board at their regularly scheduled meeting. Emily Grandstaff-Rice shared the project details.

\*Held a well-attended HES tour of Q&A session on Saturday, April 7th.

\*Josh Myler visited the COA and Village Nursery School to provide information on the project.

Inclusion Committee

\*The Inclusion Committee met on 4/27. Previewed the Teja video and made suggestions for editing and presenting the film. Also reviewed recent demographic information of the district and discussed implications for education. Discussed upcoming PD being held at both schools related to Inclusion. Bromfield held a session on gender identity and HES is bringing in a speaker about using literature to increase inclusion in the curriculum.

Cross District Collaboration Continues

\*Leaders from Ayer-Shirley, Littleton, and Harvard met on 4/28 to plan shared professional development opportunities. We agreed on a keynote speaker; Alan November, and developed a survey to ensure meaningful sessions to advance technology use in all three districts.

Science Lab Update

\*The gas and water lines are working in both recently renovated science labs. Also, Longo came on site to measure and plan for the next phase; one more lab and two prep rooms to be completed this coming summer.

Music at Bromfield

\*Students, their families, staff, and community members joined together for two nights of inspirational, musical performances. The music department thanked the School Committee for their financial support for the risers that allowed students to comfortably perform on a tiered stage. The concerts were again organized as a separate night for middle school and high school with band and chorus students at those grades performing on the same night. This seems to be a very successful change for all.

Exciting News

\*Two Bromfield teachers received news that they have been granted a 2-week fellowship to study archaeological course, and field work, and Roman Art in Italy over the summer.

Policy Review

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve Policy KA – School/Community Relations Goals as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve Policy KBA -School/Parent Relations Goals as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Nancy Lancellotti made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve Policy

KBBA – Rights of Non-Custodial Parents as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve policy

KBBA-E – Sample Notice to the Custodial Parent as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to eliminate policy KBBA-R – Sample Affidavit for Non-Custodial Parent.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve Policy

KCB – Community Involvement in Decision Making as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Voting the Last Day of School

The Committee reviewed the 17/18 School Calendar for the purpose of voting the last day of school. Five days of school were cancelled during the school year (January 4, 5, 17 and March 8 and 13) resulting in June 20th being the 180th day of school.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the last day of school as June 20th as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Day of Low Attendance Consideration**

Dr. Dwight asked the Committee to consider adding Good Friday as a day of low attendance and ensure that the date is scheduled as a day off from school in future years. The current contract allows teachers to take two religious holidays plus their personal days. Many have used Good Friday as one of these given days off resulting in 36 professional staff absences on March 30, 2018. This number is increased by 17 more when you include professional staff that took off a .5 day. This totals 53 professional staff members who were absent from school either a full day or a half day.

Large numbers of students were also absent from Bromfield on March 30th. There were 270 students or 40.79% of students absent from Bromfield. Much fewer students were absent from Hildreth Elementary School; 31 or 7%. Holding school in the district with such differences in attendance across the grades impedes on the educational experience for all.

Due to having no impact on next years’ calendar because Good Friday comes during April break and a desire to take time to consider the impact of this decision the Committee decided to table a decision until a later date.

**Executive Summary**

The School Committee reviewed the “Draft” budget booklet that will be mailed to residents prior to Town Meeting. An additional page “Spotlighting” the building project will be added to the booklet.

**Agenda**

Bromfield Curriculum presentation

Club consideration

Policy review

Student Achievement

School Committee Self Evaluation

Superintendent Evaluation

Parent Climate Survey

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes of the March 26th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Liaison/Sub-committee Reports**

Mary Traphagen reported that the MSBA will be voting on the HES Project tomorrow in Boston. She will attend with Dr. Dwight.

Nancy Lancellotti reported that the Bromfield School Council will meet tomorrow. The Student Achievement Sub-Committee will report at the next meeting.

Jon Green – No update

John Ruark – HEAC Report - The RFP for classroom lighting at TBS has gone out to bid. A walk through is scheduled during the April break. The exterior lighting has yet to be provisioned.

Athletic Advisory are planning on doing a turf analysis and survey existing fields in town.

SusanMary Redinger – No update

**Open to Interested Citizen’ and School Committee Commentary**

Mary Traphagen encouraged the public to attend upcoming School Building Committee forums. The dates are listed on the website.

John Ruark thanked Peter Rowe for shepherding the Science Lab project to completion. Encouraged folks to attend the PTO Gala on May 11th at Shakers Hills. Enjoyed the arts filled weekend attending concerts and the middle school play.

**Adjournment**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to adjourn the meeting at

8:35 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga