School Committee Minutes

Hapgood Room, Old Library

Monday, March 14, 2016

6:00

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, Kirsten Wright (arrived at 6:15), Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight. Absent: Jennifer Bedford and Lorraine Leonard

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Kenneth Lin read the vision statement.

**Public Commentary -** None

**Approval of Club**

Kyle Into and Teague Neschke attended the meeting to seek approval to start a Computer Club at The Bromfield School. The club would meet at 7:15 a.m. on Friday mornings with the objective of helping students learn how to build computers and also learn about the hardware and software behind computers. The club will provide students interested in computers the opportunity and the venue to get together and discuss their interests. Mr. Lavigne will be the faculty advisor to the club.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to move that we approve the computer club as presented by Kyle Into and Teague Neschke with faculty advisor Keith Lavigne.

VOTE 3/0

**Budget Public Hearing**

Dr. Dwight presented the FY17 level service budget by cost center explaining percentage increases and decreases as compared to the FY16 budget. The FY17 budget is a 2.71% increase over the FY16 budget and includes an additional $24,000 to fund a portion of the Athletic salaries as approved by the Finance Committee.

Mary Traphagen made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move to approve the FY17 budget of $12,606,640 as presented this evening.

VOTE 4/0

**Student Report**

Kenneth Lin reported that this past weekend two students represented the Bromfield School at the All- State Music Festival held at Symphony Hall in Boston. The YMCA Youth and Government conference held at the state house was successful with several students earning recognition. The NE Music Festival will be held in Guildford, New Hampshire March 17-19. The Boston College Model UN will be held this coming weekend March 18th through 20th. The National Honor Society induction will be held this coming Wednesday.

**Presentation about the senior project - tabled**

**Approval of Field Trips**

**France Trip**

Anastasia Townsend presented a proposal for an International Field Trip for Spring break 2017 (April 13th through April 22, 2017) to France. The trip will be coordinated by EF Tours. Students of intermediate and advanced French (II, IV and FRHS/AP) will be immersed in French culture in two parts of France (Paris and Nice). The cost of the trip is $4,265. A minimum of 12 students would be needed for the trip to move forward. The Committee encouraged Ms. Townsend to try to reduce the cost in any possible way.

Nancy Lancellotti made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the international trip request to destination of France as presented tonight with the estimated date of travel April 13th through April 22nd, 2017 with the stipulation being that this trip will require a minimum of 12 students to participate.

VOTE 4/0

**Overnight Field Trip - Business Professionals of America Club – National Conference**

Kristen McManus and Stephen Scarano attended the meeting to seek approval for an overnight field trip in order to attend the Business Professionals of America Club’s national leadership conference from May 5 through May 8th, 2016 in Boston. At the state conference two weeks ago the students won 17 awards, some of which qualify for them to compete nationally against students from across the country. In addition, students have the opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized Leadership Academy which offers intensive leadership training and also requires the students to intern for at least four hours during the conference. The cost of the trip is approximately $590.

Kirsten Wright made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the trip for the Business Professional of America Club to attend the Boston conference from May 5 through May 8th 2016 as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**Overnight Field Trip – Museum of Science**

Dr. Dwight asked the Committee for approval for the sixth grade students to attend an overnight field trip at the Boston Museum of Science from April 7th to April 8th as requested by sixth grade teachers Glenn Tarullo and Miranda Miller.

Mary Traphagen made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Museum of Science overnight field trip for sixth graders from April 7th to April 8th with advisors Glenn Tarullo and Miranda Miller as presented by Dr. Dwight.

VOTE 4/0

**Superintendent Report**

Dr. Dwight shared the following information:

**Hildreth Elementary Building project update:**

* met with perspective members on the School Building Committee (SBC) and the Hildreth Visioning Committee to determine interest in serving.
* BOS voted to approve the compiled list of members of the SBC. Form sent to MSBA for approval.
* Dr. Dwight visited the lunch group of seniors at the Hildreth House and shared the project information and answered questions.
* Visited the Village Nursery School and shared the project information and answered questions.
* Planned a visit with the PTO parents for March 22nd.
* Held the first Hildreth Visioning Committee meeting.
* Held the first School Building Committee meeting.

**Interviews**

Teachers and administrators began the interview process for open teaching positions for the next school year. Early advertisement helped us to draw a wide variety of candidates. Hiring top quality teachers is critical to the strength of our district, and we take the responsibility very seriously.

**Formative Assessments**

Principals have been busy writing and sharing formative evaluations with new teachers. These mid-year evaluations, defined by DESE, ensure that principals are providing written feedback to educators on their progress towards their professional and student learning goals, and the four standards.

**Partnership**

Senior community members enjoyed lunch served by student council members and prepared by Chef Paul and his staff. The special yearly event encourages dialogues across the generations.

**Student Travel**

Students in the ninth grade will be traveling to Washington DC this week. This trip becomes a favorite memory for students and continues a long tradition.

Dr. Dwight presented the following gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust for School Committee approval

Grade 7 Anthology Project - $477

Speaker fee to support - Nothing to Hide Mental Illness in the Family - photo exhibit - $1,000

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to accept the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust for the anthology project and speaker fees for $477 and $1,000 as well as the netting for the baseball batting cages given by Mr. Wentworth from Abington, MA.

VOTE 4/0

**Review of School Committee self-evaluation** – Tabled

**Review the School Building Committee member (ICC)**

The Committee reviewed the School Building Committee list of members. The list in the packet was incomplete and Mary Zadroga was asked to add the missing members to make the list complete. The following is the completed list:

* Dr. Dwight reviewed the membership of the School Building Committee for the Hildreth Elementary School. The Committee was formed in accordance with the provision of all applicable statues, local charters, by-laws and agreements of the Town of Harvard. Committee Members include the following:
* SBC member who is MCPPO certified – Lorraine Leonard, Business Manager
* Local Chief Executive Officer – Ron Ricci, Chair of the Board of Selectman
* Administrator or Manager – Tim Bragan, Town Administrator
* School Committee Member SusanMary Redinger, School Committee Chair
* Superintendent of Schools – Linda Dwight, Superintendent
* Local Official responsible for Building Maintenance – Mark Force, Maintenance Director
* Representative of Office authorized by law to construct school buildings – Ron Ricci, Chair of the Board of Selectman
* School Principal – Sue Frederick, Principal
* Member knowledgeable in education mission and function of facility – Josh Myler, Associate Principal
* Local budget official or member of local Finance Committee – Alice Von Loesecke, Chair of the Finance Committee
* Member of community with architecture, engineering and/or construction experience – Ron Ostberg, Community member who is an architect by profession

Other: Jennifer Bedford, School Committee member, Jim O’Shea, Bromfield Principal, Rick Maiori, Community member with construction background, David Fay, Energy Advisory member, John Lackner, Community member with project manager background

**Newsletter Update**

Nancy Lancellotti shared a draft of the Harvard School Committee’s newsletter. The newsletter draft is a one page document that lists school committee actions, updated school policies, new clubs approved, and field trips approved; youth risk survey feedback, upcoming meetings, public input opportunity, website, and School Committee members. Committee members thanked Nancy Lancellotti for her work on the newsletter and look forward to its publication.

**Support for Chapter 70 funding resolution**

The Committee was asked to consider supporting a resolution calling for full funding of the foundation budget. Stu Sklar joined the meeting to explain how Chapter 70 Aid, the Foundation Budget, Required Net School Spending and Actual Net School Spending and how it has trended from FY93 through FY15. The Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs. This underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded that the Harvard School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

VOTE 4/0

**Update on the science lab project**

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee that the science lab subcommittee is waiting for an estimate from the furniture vendor Virco who visited Bromfield today. Once their estimate has been received the subcommittee will make the decision on which vendor to use. The furniture order is expected to be made in April. The subcommittee is waiting for updated estimates from BLW on the HVAC work.

**Executive Summary**

SusanMary Redinger asked the Committee for a motion to approve the Executive Summary report to be submitted in the FY17 School Committee budget book.

Mary Traphagen made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti to approve the Executive Summary as presented.

VOTE 4/0

**Review of minutes**

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Mary Traphagen seconded to approve the minutes of the February 22nd meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

**Liaison Report**

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC continues to move forward on their newsletter and survey. SusanMary Redinger thanked Maureen for organizing the 5th grade ski club this year.

Nancy Lancellotti reported that the Youth Risk survey is being conducted this week at Bromfield. The Council is asking for folks to share their ideas and professional expertise to put together a STEM night this fall at The Bromfield School.

Mary Traphagen reported that the Athletic advisory group is grateful to the Finance Committee for their approval of an additional $24,000 in athletic funding. There is lots of talk about how do we bring forward to the town how important it is to support an athletic program. There is talk of getting sponsors to advertise on signs in the gym, but in order for that to happen the School Committee would need to revise their policy. There are good discussions about how to centralize fund raising. There is talk of having the “Harvard Press” write an article to educate the public about sports programs in Harvard. Mary Traphagen reported that the Policy meeting was rescheduled.

Kirsten Wright reported that HCTV met with Stu Sklar, Ron Ricci, Bill Johnson, Dr. Dwight and herself to look over the changes that the counsel had suggested and to get feedback from them. Specific feedback has gone back to counsel and they have questions. The document will be brought back to School Committee for review. Students are meeting with the new station manager and are excited about the possibilities. Kirsten Wright and Dr. Dwight will meet the station manager, Anya Zulawnik on Friday.

SusanMary Redinger met with the Student Advisory committee and went over topics that the School Committee had aligned on. Below is sampling of the Student Advisory Committee’s responses:

National Honor Society – gender disparity – students don’t see a value to the club; meets three times per year with community service requirement, no male officers. Dr. Dwight will provide that feedback to NHS advisor.

Youth Risk Survey – results are not necessarily valid. Drug and alcohol usage depends on particular groups of students.

School Spirit days – not worth promoting, needs to be generated by students.

Attendance – students don’t see a problem with attendance. It is common practice for students to take a mental health day now and then.

Prom transportation – students have no definitive answer about students taking a bus to the prom. Jim O’Shea will do a student survey and present results at the April 11th meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the budget subcommittee continues to grapples with the busing and science labs short fall. Jon Greene was nominated for the open seat on School Committee at the caucus. John is the parent of a third grader and a sixth grader. SusanMary invited School Committee members to participate in the 2016 Day on the Hill program that will include information and background on critical legislative issues, insights from legislators on FY17 projections, a chance to meet with legislators and discuss your concerns, plus a fantastic lunch prepared by students from many of the state’s vocational-technical schools. SusanMary received a letter from the ACLU that related to our policy on security cameras. She has forwarded the letter to the Policy Subcommittee. The Science Fair was great with over 113 projects. The School Committee awards were received by Middle School student Josie Silk and High School student Isaac Abouaf. Two of Harvard’s Destination Imagination teams will be moving to compete in state finals in Worcester on March 26th. The Harvard School’s Trust Gala held this past weekend was well attended. The event included a delicious dinner, great donation items and a perfect opportunity to see our students perform “How the Other Half Loves”. The after prom committee “Celebration” is looking for donations. School Committee members are invited to serve as judges for the upcoming senior projects.

**Suggested Future Agenda Items**

SC Self Evaluation

HCTV MOU  
Topics for Advisory

Policy

Interview for business manager.

HES results of parent survey

Recommendations for school choice slots

Science labs

Updated devens #

Master plan March 24th

**Interested Citizen** – None

**Commentary**

Kirsten Wright thanked everyone for all of their hard work in preparing the FY17 budget.

**Adjournment**

SusanMary Redinger with no objections adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

VOTE 4/0