School Committee Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2017

6:15 p.m.

Upper Town Hall

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

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Nancy Lancellotti read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary** – None

**Club Approval**

Aaryan Bhatt – a 9th grader from Bromfield presented for approval a request to start a Technology Club. The Club would give students the opportunity to learn and discuss Technology. Miss Cregan would serve as the faculty advisor and the Club would meet bi-weekly.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Technology Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Scott Hoffman presented a request for approval to start a Fishing Club. The Club is intended to bring out students’ love for outdoor activities and create bonding relationships. Students will learn about fishing and will be given an opportunity to have clean fun with classmates. Drew Skrocki would serve as the advisor.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Fishing Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Scott Hoffman presented a request for approval to start the Bromfield Geography and History Bowl. The Club would compete at competitions focused on geography and history, with an emphasis on the National History Bowl and Bee, the US Geography Olympiad, and the International Geography Bee held in DC annually.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Geograph and History Bowl Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Scott Hoffman presented a request for approval to start the Modern Music Club. The Club would create a community which people understand others by music. The Club would like to create and develop music. Mrs. Fontaine would serve as the faculty advisor.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Modern Music Club as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Grant Approval**

Dr. Dwight presented a gift from the PTO for approval for the Alphabet Art project that is used to reinforce letter learning and provides visual and tactile reinforcement of letter learning. The total amount for the year for all four Kindergarten classrooms is $312.

John Ruark made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the PTO gift for $312 to purchase supplies for the Alphabet Art project in the amount of $312 as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Funding Request for Band/Chorus Risers**

Band Director Craig Robbins attended the meeting to request partial funding for the purchase of a comprehensive riser system to accommodate all performing ensembles in the building, grade 6-12. The Harvard Schools Trust has agreed to fund $6,000, the Harvard PTO has offered $2,500 and the remaining funds being sought from the School Committee is $4,190. Dr. Dwight suggested using funds from the Shaw Trust to fund the risers.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to move that we approve the request for funding of up to $4,200 from Shaw Trust for the purchase of risers for the music department as presented.

VOTE 5/0

**Math Elementary Curriculum Presentation**

Principal Josh Myler and Math Vertical Team Leader Cynthia Ambrosino presented to the Committee the math curriculum being used at HES which included examples of math differentiated instruction, Professional Learning Communities (PLC), Math Workshop Model (Daily 3). Ms. Ambrosino also shared the Go Math/New Digital Resources which included the Personal Trainer (PMT) that helps struggling students breakdown math equations, and Prodigy, which is a web and app game that covers math skills. Mr. Myler shared with the Committee preliminary MCAS test scores and explained that the scores are being presented differently this year. The state reset the standard setting which makes it hard to compare scores from prior years.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Hildreth Elementary building project update

* Josh, Scott and Dr. Dwight met with Arrowstreet to further discuss the interior layout of the building.
* The School Building Committee met on October 19th. The meeting has been advertised on Next Door Harvard and on the flyer distributed to parents. Several more audience members were in attendance.
* Teacher Leadership Team Meeting

All leaders in the district met for the first monthly meeting of the year. Discussions included the District Improvement Plan, the budget process, walk-through observations, and gathering feedback about professional development sessions. Developed a survey to help document the success and needs regarding our technology roll-out.

* ER Focused PD

Teachers at HES focused on differentiation strategies. The professional staff offered facilitated discussions around best practices to each other. Learning from colleagues has been an effective way to spread information and benefit from internal expertise.

Teachers at Bromfield worked in collaborative groups to unpack the 21st Century Learning Skills. Previously developed rubrics were condensed to provide better feedback to students.

* Bus Driver Appreciation Breakfast

We hosted the 6th annual bus driver appreciation breakfast. This has become a yearly tradition that allows us to share time with the drivers and develop a relationship with them.

* Screenagers Movie Screening

We have scheduled the screening for Sunday, November 5th at 4:15. We have advertised this to families and community members.

* Science Lab Updates

A critical meeting of the contractors is set for Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. We will know more about the project timeline after that meeting.

**Policy Review: LBC, DA, DAA, DID, BAA, BB, BBA**

The Policy Subcommittee proposed the following changes to policies as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | REVIEWED | AMENDED | ELIMINATE |
| BAA- Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures |  | X |  |
| BB – School Committee Legal Status |  | X |  |
| BBA – School Committee Powers and Duties |  | X |  |
| BBAA – School Committee Member Authority |  | X |  |
| DA – Fiscal Management Goals |  | X |  |
| DAA – Fiscal Management Priority Objectives |  |  | X |
| DID – Inventories |  |  | X |
| LBC – Relations With Non-Public Schools |  | X |  |

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approved policy BAA as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve policy BB as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve policy BBA as amended.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve policy BBAA as amended.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded approve policy DA as amended.

VOTE 5/0

The Policy Subcommittee will review Policy DAA to be sure the language that reads “the Superintendent is charged by the School Committee to develop an annual operating budget …” is in another policy prior to elimination of Policy DAA.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the elimination of Policy DID.

VOTE 5/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve Policy LBC as amended.

VOTE 5/0

**Meeting Minutes Approval**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the minutes of the October 10th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0 Jon Green abstained due to absence

SusanMary Redinger presented three warrants for School Committee review.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and John Ruark seconded to appoint Nancy Lancellotti as the official delegate to the MASC conference.

**Agenda Items**

Anti-Bias update

Budget presentations

Bromfield Parent Survey

**John Ruark** - reported that the Athletic Advisory Committee met and discussed some accomplishments the Committee wanted to recognize such as “Night Under the Lights”, where fall sports teams played night games under the lights, 4 rowing teams competed at the Head of the Charles race in Boston, and a successful HAA golf tournament was held. The Advisory Committee started establishing goals for the year including the discussion of adding 6th graders to the athletic program.

HEAC – no specific update – progress being made on all fronts.

**Nancy Lancellotti** reported that the Student Achievement Subcommittee met and started talking about how the school is currently looking at student achievement. The Subcommittee will bring back information and data collected to the Committee at a later date.

School Council met and the group is looking to form 4 subcommittees this year. In prior years there have been 2 subcommittees, climate and handbook, and this year 2 additional subcommittees are being proposed. The Career Inspirations Subcommittee which will provide resources to help students know about various careers and invite folks from different career paths to come into the school and talk to the students and give them information. The Balance Subcommittee relates back to the vision statement and also relates to current news regarding student stress and anxiety. The subcommittee would look at what is causing the stress and trying to make changes to alleviate some stress.

**Jon Green** – nothing to report from SEPAC.

**Maureen Babcock** reported that the Mass Development Board of Directors met on October 12th, and Maureen updated the Board on education including contract/continuity, the 1:1 to world technology initiative, the MSBA partnership to build a new school, partnership with Harvard, and the survey. Maureen Babcock shared the Devens Educational Advisory Committee newsletter.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that CPIC met last Monday and withdrew the conservation project request. They approved the DPW lift and voted to approve the old library access as a debt funded project. Both will be put in front of the voters on November 6th. All capital request submitted by the School Committee went through as well as other department projects, but not all requests will be approved. Capital projects will be reviewed with School Committee and CPIC in early December. Finance Committee will meet next week.

**Mary Traphagen** reported that the Student Advisory met with School Committee and discussed dress code, the technology roll, the new cell phone policy and the start of school. Students are fine with the dress code changes and were only concerned that dress code violations should be kept private. Students main concern with the technology roll out was that in the spring they were told they could choose to use their home or school device, but that changed and they are required to use a school device only. Students said there is a wide variety in the amount of technology teachers are using. Books and binders have not been decreased yet. Students are not familiar with the SAMR model. Students feel that they should be able to use their phones for texting during the day. Students feel like that right should not be taken away. They are not able to text out schedule changes to their parents. Students felt that the start of school went smoothly. The technology roll-out could have gone smoother. HES School Council and Josh went over the budget process. There was a lot of discussion about how the MCAS results were affected by the state resetting the standards.

**Open to Citizens Commentary – School Committee Commentary**

SusanMary Redinger wanted to acknowledge and say the field trip to Monty Tech is a great thing to do – it is positive for Harvard students to hear that technical school is a valued resource in education.

Jon Green – tomorrow at 7 pm. Volunteers Hall - Arm and Arm will sponsor an opportunity for discussion on diversity.

Mary Traphagen – Screenager – November 6th.

Linda Dwight will be attending the Edspaces Conference in Kansas City with Scott Mulcahey from October 24th to October 28th.

**Adjourn**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE 5/0

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga