

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, December 10, 2018
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: Mary Traphagen, SusanMary Redinger, Shannon Molloy, Jon Green, Aziz Aghavev and Linda Dwight. Absent: John Ruark, Maureen Babcock and Chloe Cushing.

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

Mary Traphagen read the vision statement.

Public Commentary: None

Trip Approval: Kristin McManus attended the meeting to request approval for the Youth and Government Club to attend the Youth & Government conference in Boston, MA. The group would leave on Wednesday, March 20th and return on Friday, March 22nd. The conference is being held at the MA State House and the group will be staying at the Hyatt Regency in Boston. Approximately 5 or 6 students will attend.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the Youth and Government trip as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Kristin McManus presented a request for the Business Professionals of America Club to attend the overnight trip to the State Leadership Conference. The conference will be held at the Sheraton in Framingham and Assabet Vocational Technical School in Marlboro, MA. The students will depart on Saturday, March 2nd and return on Monday, March 4th. Approximately 28 students will attend and have the chance to go on to the National Conference if they win.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the Business Professionals of America state conference as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Student Report: None

Student Achievement Report:

The administrative team of Scott Hoffman, Josh Myler, Robin Benoit, Julie Horton and Scott Mulcahy presented the Student Achievement report. The report included academic and MCAS data and recognition as well as extracurricular, social emotional and leadership programs and participation levels at both schools.

Budget Approval; Vote:

Superintendent, Dr. Linda Dwight and School Business Manager, Aziz Aghayev presented the proposed FY20 School Budget. The budget total is \$13,937,940 which is a 3.93% increase over the FY19 budget. The majority of the increase is due to an increase in contractual salaries. The budget book will now be sent to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. The School Committee is scheduled to meet to present their budget to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen on January 26th. Aziz Aghayev presented the lease options for the coming year. A decision will need to be made by Spring as to which option will be considered optimal.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve the FY20 budget as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Superintendent Update:

*A small group of teachers and school leaders continue to meet with a goal to improve the process for approving clubs and to create equity in payments. A survey was sent out to current club leaders asking about the number of hours required, expectations, participation, etc. Committee member have gathered research of other districts' practices. We have edited drafts of our club formation form and the committee is looking at a tiered system of payments. All of the findings and recommendation will be brought to the School Committee at a future meeting.

*Leaders from Ayer-Shirley, Littleton, and Harvard met to review the feedback from the November PD day and to begin planning for another collaborative day in 2019. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from surveys given in each district. The survey results were shared and strengths and points of improvement clarified. We then agreed upon the date for next year and began to discuss our focus. The focus for 2019 will shift from technology specific to curriculum enhancement with technology. We are committed to the advancement of teaching and learning across the SAMR model.

*As part of our District Improvement Plan, we have given the technology survey out to the staff. The self assessment was delayed from the proposed 6/30/2018 date.

*At the monthly meeting of Worcester County superintendents MASS Director, Tom Scott, shared information on the state budget for school funding. There is a growing disparity between the per pupil expenditure for students across the state of MA, and the district leaders are interested in changes to the foundation budget especially for low-income communities. A film entitled, A Tale of Two Sisters, shared at the MASC conference, highlights issues.

*The choral music teacher Becky Armitage, and the instrumental music teacher, Craig Robbins, led the middle school student through a joyful performance on Thursday evening. Both teachers shared information with the audience about their teaching philosophy and demonstrated the growth in learning across the grade levels. They also demonstrated a strong relationship with their students that has contributed to the growth of both music programs.

Consider a Request to Expand Applewild Campus in Devens; Vote

The Headmaster of Applewild School, Christopher Williamson, contacted Dr. Dwight about the goal to expand their campus in Devens from a preschool/kindergarten school to a preschool through grade 5 school. DESE requires the educating oversight committee to approve the

expansion and write a letter of support and include the minutes from a vote by the Committee. Dr. Dwight visited the Applewild Fitchburg campus for a tour and Chris was able to share the well-developed philosophy and educational programming. Mass Development Chief Financial Director, Simon Gerlin, and their legal counsel, Ricks Frazier concluded that the Harvard School Committee would need to approve the expansion by vote. If this is successful, Dr. Dwight would draft a letter and Mass Development would also sign the letter.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Applewild expansion request.

VOTE 4/0

Discuss and Vote Additional Vans to Purchase

The Harvard Public Schools has the opportunity to buy two vans from the CASE Collaborative for \$1,000 each. Both vans are from 2011 and have over 180,000 miles of use. The transportation director has assessed the vans, and says they are in good working condition. Dr. Dwight would like to recommend that the school buy them for field trips, sports participation, club activities, homeless family involvement. Dr. Dwight also suggested the vans could be used to help provide rides for Council on Aging folks as needed.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Jon Green seconded to approve the expenditure of \$2,000 to come out of the Devens fund for the purchase of two vans as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Dr. Dwight presented a request to the Committee to fund an increase of \$3,000 in expenses incurred by the HES roof repair.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve an additional \$3,000 to repair the HES roof.

VOTE 4/0

School Building Committee Update

SusanMary Redinger presented an update on the School Building project. The presentation showed aerial views, a visual tour of the interior, as well as the traffic plan. The designs are really coming together and the next phase is will be exciting.

Donation Approval

Josh Myler requested that the School Committee accept a donation from Charlotte Pride, a parent who works for BOSE. The company is clearing discontinued stock and asked if we would be interested in headphones to use for school use. BOSE will provide 100 pairs of discontinued but new over the ear headphones.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Jon Green seconded to accept this donation from BOSE as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Agenda Items

Mid-cycle review

Annual report

Policy

Curriculum presentation

SAC/SC Agenda items

CPIC projects

Budget

Approval of Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the minutes for the November 26, 2018 meeting as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports

Shannon Molloy reported that HES Council met and worked on the student survey questions. Hoping to finalize the survey soon.

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC met this morning and approved the school projects which include kitchen work, gym bleacher replacement, Cronin updates, TBS roof repair and air conditioning in the science wing at TBS. A total of \$335K was approved to be funded from the capital fund and \$1.1 million recommended as debt borrowing. They will need to be approved at town meeting.

Mary Traphagen reported that the Bromfield School Council has not met. The Student Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on Friday at 7 a.m.

Public and School Committee Commentary

SusanMary Redinger wished everyone Happy Holidays and to be ready to come back rejuvenated after a break.

Shannon Molloy thanked everyone for their great work on the budget.

Jon Green- Happy Holiday and safe travels.

Mary Traphagen – Shout out to the Mirror that was passed out at the concert last week. Great interviews and chock full of stuff.

Shannon Molloy – Shout out to the HES newspaper as well. Amazingly impressive.

Adjournment

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE 4/0