

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 OCTOBER 7, 2014
 UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Michelle Taparausky, Chair	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Jane Keegan, Vice Chair	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Sean Dugan, Secretary	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Eileen Gorman, Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Melanie King, Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Charlene Miller, Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Debbie Stark, Member	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

Received by
 Uxbridge
 Town Clerk

1. Call to Order-

Michelle Taparausky, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

2. UHS Student Updates

Brooke Blackburn provided the Committee with updates on the activity of the UHS Student Council, which included a recap of the events they volunteered at.

Dan Lanoue provided the Committee with an update on UHS sports, including a 4-0 record for the football team.

3. Public Comment

Pam Yukna spoke on behalf of the teachers' union stating that it was unfair and disrespectful that a contract negotiation hadn't been reached yet and that the teachers had to work without contracts.

Peter Demers asked about budget transfers and wanted to know who authorizes the transfers and if those transfers could be brought to the full committee so everyone had a chance to look at them.

Superintendent Kevin Carney recognized Tim McCrohan and Beau Nestor as the co-chairs of an event for the PanMass Challenge. He also recognized Mr. and Mrs. Keegan for reading to classrooms within the district.

+ Beverly Palmer.

4. Water & Sewer discussion with Town Manager and DPW Director

Michelle Taparauskay, Chair, asked Ben Sherman, Department of Public Works Director, and Town Manager David Genereux for an explanation of how the water and sewer bills are calculated in Uxbridge.

Mr. Genereux explained how the rate was established and noted that water and sewer debt was part of the rate process. He stated that Capital Improvement Fee (s)(CIF) were decided upon by the former Water and Sewer Superintendent, and it was decided that municipal buildings were to be added to help pay for the improvements.

Ms. Taparauskay noted that schools aren't at full capacity all year long and asked if that rate could be adjust. Mr. Sherman stated that it couldn't be adjusted because the rate is calculated based on the same formula as residential properties and multiplied to reflect the potential flow rate of the building.

Melanie King asked what other towns do. Mr. Sherman explained that it varies from having CIFs to not having any at all, and it all depends on the makeup of the specific town.

Ms. Taparauskay asked if they noticed a big difference in the water bills from the previous year. Mr. Genereux stated that there wasn't a big change in bills.

Ms. Taparauskay asked who she would go see about adjusting the fee. Mr. Genereux stated that she would have to appeal to the Board of Selectmen, preferably before February when the rates are set.

Mr. Carney added that it was difficult to compare municipal data between towns.

5. SY14-15 District and School Improvement Plans

Mr. Carney provided a visual presentation of the district improvement plan, which included three goals: educator development, improving student learning, and improving community interest, investment, and ownership.

Eileen Gorman asked if the district had any plans to go paperless. Mr. Carney responded that that may be a possibility in the future, but at this point it wasn't feasible, as it is difficult to include all families with some families in the district not having internet or even phone access.

6. SY14-15 Superintendent's Goals

Mr. Carney noted that the District and School Improvement Plans would blend in with his goals, as they should. He provided another visual presentation of the goals, which included: focusing on school visits and classroom observations, MCAS achievement and growth, and establishing task forces for college and career readiness and global competency.

Charlene Miller asked if the walk throughs were contractual or not. Mr. Carney responded that they were contractual, but the focus was on the assessment observation strategy.

Ms. Miller noted that by emphasizing the proposed associate's degree program partnership with Quinsigamond Community College as a priority would be a distraction and de-emphasize the high school experience and take away from the sense of community if it wasn't done well.

Ms. Taparauskys stated that she would like to see a midyear update on the progress of these goals. Mr. Carney stated that he would be providing monthly updates.

Ms. Miller asked if there was any follow up on the professional development days to see if what was presented was useful to the teachers and staff. Mr. Carney stated that educators' opinions are evaluated after every professional development day.

Jane Keegan noted that stakeholders need to standup and advocate for the things that will shape the district the way they want to see it.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee approve the District Improvement Plan, which includes all four buildings in the district, with a copy of the plan to be added to the minutes of the meeting. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee approve the Superintendent's Goals for the 2014-2015 School Year as they relate to the District Improvement Plan. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

7. FY15 School Budget Update

Don Sawyer, School Business Manager, stated that it was tough to update the Committee so early into the school year, but everything was moving as planned thus far.

Mr. Sawyer explained that budget transfers are rare for the school department. He noted that there are many reports that he needs to submit to the federal and state government that make the school's activities transparent.

Sean Dugan noted that the town accountant reviewed and approved transfers also, so there was a check and balance system in place. Mr. Sawyer elaborated that the town accountant did indeed need to approve transfers and that they were so infrequent that he needs to notify the accountant when there is one because they are so few and between.

8. School Committee Direction for FY16 Budget Development

Mr. Carney presented the Committee with preliminary needs-based budget requests from each building in the district. He showed that the FY15 actual budget (aka Level Funded for FY16) would be \$18,385,974—FY16 Level Service would be \$18,902,414 w/o COLA—FY 16 Needs Based would be \$19,902,414 w/o COLA or Health Insurance. Mr. Carney also noted that the anticipated Town Manager's budget would be \$18.5 million.

Deb Stark explained that she chose the level funded and level service budget options because the taxpayers need to see the difference between the two.

Ms. Miller echoed Ms. Stark's comments and noted that to go above the level funded number would be foolish.

Mr. Dugan stated that the recommendation of the budget subcommittee was to choose the two options that made sense, which were the level funded and level service options.

Ms. Keegan noted that an override wasn't an option and that the 50/50 revenue share agreement with the town has never worked.

Ms. King supported the level service and level funded options.

Ms. Gorman stated that she chose the level service option for sure and would support the needs based if it was modified from how it currently stood.

Mr. Carney read the priorities of the Committee as they currently were written and asked if anyone had anything else to add. No comments were added.

Michelle Taparausky directed the Superintendent to move forward with creating level service and level funded budgets for FY16.

9. International Education Revolving Account Authorization

Mr. Carney explained that there were checks from international student tuition in the approximate amount of \$54,000, and that he needed the Committee to at least create the account so he could deposit the funds. He stated that the stipulations of how that money could be used could be determined later.

Committee members discussed the costs of the international students and where the money would go. Mr. Carney provided clarification on how the money came to the district and how it would be used.

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee authorize the creation of the International Education Revolving Account with no withdrawals to be made until the stipulations of what the Committee will use the funds for are determined at a later date. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

10. Old/New Business

Ms. Taparauskys reminded everyone that the Dan Stefanilo road race was coming up. Ms. Stark noted that it was Sunday November 23rd.

Ms. Taparauskys discussed having two meetings a month with the Committee, as the meetings of late have been too long and too much information is being consumed at once. The Committee agreed and decided that the next meeting would be October 15th at 7:00pm in the UHS Library.

11. School Committee Meeting Minutes

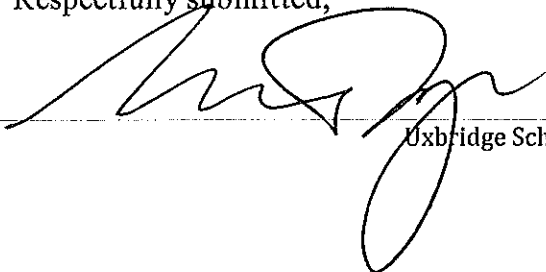
Jane Keegan moved that the Committee approve the School Committee meeting minutes of September 9, 2014. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

12. Adjournment-

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee adjourn. Deb Stark seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,




Sean Dugan,
Uxbridge School Committee Secretary

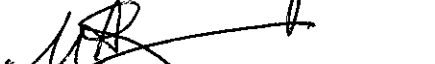
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