

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
JANUARY 6, 2015
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Received by
Uxbridge
Town Clerk

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>

*Arrived at 7:15pm

1. Call to Order-

Michelle Taparausky, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Taparausky noted that the student update accidentally didn't get added to the agenda, so it would come under public comment.

Brooke Blackburn provided an update on Student Council's activity in the past month, and she also reported to the Committee on the winter sports teams.

Peter Demers asked about the teachers' contracts. Ms. Taparausky responded that the Committee was waiting on ratification of the contracts.

3. FY16 Curriculum & Instruction Budget Requests

Jennifer Gaudet, former Curriculum Director, provided commentary on each line item of the district-wide curriculum request.

Ms. Taparausky, in regards to the request for middle school science resources, asked if there was grant money available to help defray the costs. Ms. Gaudet stated that there were no state grants as of yet, but efforts are being made to look for additional funding. Ms. Taparausky also asked if there was any way private companies could donate materials. Ms. Gaudet responded that some teachers have connections to companies, so it may be possible.

4. FY16 Special Education Budget Requests

Carol Gahan, Special Education Director, discussed the major line items that were changed. Ms. Gahan discussed topics such as out of district costs, transportation and supplies.

Melanie King asked about the fuel surcharge that was noted in the request. Ms. Gahan responded that some companies charge an additional fee if, and only if, the price of gas goes over the indicated price.

Ms. Gahan discussed the district's involvement with children whom are classified as 'homeless', and how the fees are split between districts in these types of scenarios. Charlene Miller added that it was important to note that it is a requirement under state law to do so.

Ms. Miller asked how much time was left on the NECC program contract and noted that the price of the NECC program seemed a bit expensive. She added that it seems as though the district is paying for the name, and not just the service. She suggested hiring staff to fulfill the roles that NECC employees filled and build a similar program. Ms. Gahan noted that it is a contract that is signed from year to year, and that it was the district's hope to start a program like NECC at the Taft level and expand it from there.

Ms. Taparauskas asked if NECC is gone, then what resources would the district then refer back to. Ms. Gahan stated that the staff's knowledge is what they would use as a resource.

5. FY15 Budget & Facilities Update

Don Sawyer, School Business Manager, reported that the building and maintenance account was less than half full, with 6 months left to go in the fiscal year. He also reported that there were issues with the accounting software at the end of November, and that caused disparities in the budget report.

Ms. Taparauskas noted that she appreciated that questions regarding the budget were submitted prior to the meeting, so answers could be provided.

Superintendent Kevin Carney discussed the Capital Improvement Fees the district has been paying, and added that the Committee needed to appear before the Board of Selectmen if it was to be modified. Mr. Sawyer added that now would be the time to start those discussions.

6. FY16 Revenue & School Department Budget Update

Mr. Carney updated the Committee on his conversations with the Town Manager regarding revenue. He stated that he originally wanted to provide a presentation of the possibilities of cuts that would be made and what it would look like, but he had decided to hold off because the new Governor's budget may change the numbers. Mr. Carney

recommended holding off on a public hearing until more solid numbers came in from the state.

Ms. Taparausky was leery about waiting too long to hold the hearing. Mr. Sawyer stated that the budget proposal had to be in 75 days prior to Town Meeting, and the status quo has been to have the public hearing in February, but that doesn't necessarily have to be the case.

Ms. Taparausky stated that the public hearing would be sometime in April, to be determined at a later date.

7. Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative Annual Report 2013-2014

The Committee received and reviewed the report.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee accept the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative Annual Report for 2013-2014. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted on said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

8. Annual Town Report 2013-2014

Mr. Carney stated that members did not have to vote if they did not want to since they weren't there for that period of time.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee accept the 2013-2014 Annual Town Report. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 4-0-3. MOTION PASSED.

9. FY16 School Committee Budget Goals Review

Mr. Carney discussed the goals and hanged that have been made. He mentioned Spanish at the middle school. Ms. Miller responded that the School Council at McCloskey Middle School decided against it until the high school offered if full-year.

10. Old/New Business

Ms. Taparausky wanted to confirm that it was okay with the Committee to have two meetings a month. No objections were made.

Deb Stark asked about the Massachusetts School Building Authority with regards to roofs on the district's schools. Mr. Carney responded that the districts roofs are too young, and he explained the types of programs the MSBA offers.

Ms. Miller noted that the musical performances at the middle school were excellent.

Ms. King noted that the Independence Project's holiday party was a success.

11. School Committee Minutes – December 2, 2014

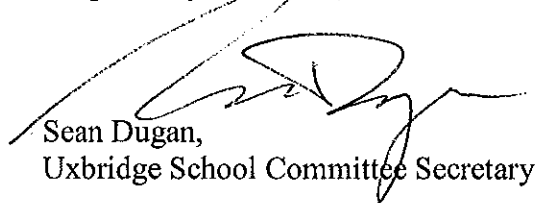
Sean Dugan moved that the Committee accept the minutes of the December 2, 2014 School Committee meeting. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-1 in favor of said motion. MOTION PASSED.

12. Executive Session - Open Contracts and Minutes for November 4, 2014

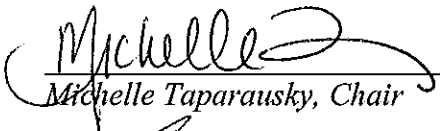
The Committee, by roll call vote, adjourned the open session meeting and entered into executive session at 9:15pm.

Michelle Taparauskys-YES, Sean Dugan-YES, Charlene Miller-YES, Deb Stark-YES, Melanie King-YES, Eileen Gorman-YES, Jane Keegan-YES.

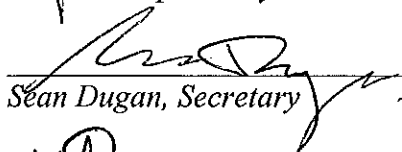
Respectfully submitted,


Sean Dugan,
Uxbridge School Committee Secretary

School Committee Members:


Michelle Taparauskys, Chair


Jane Keegan, Vice Chair


Sean Dugan, Secretary


Eileen Gorman, Member


Melanie King, Member


Debbie Stark, Member


Charlene Miller, Member