

APR 13 '15 PM 2:43

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARCH 17, 2015
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> </u>	<u> X </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>

1. Call to Order-

Michelle Taparausky called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and stated that in the absence of Sean Dugan, Charlene Miller would be the acting secretary for the evening.

2. Public Comment

Eileen Gorman congratulated the music department for a most successful production of High School Musical. She further congratulated the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team and other athletic teams.

3. District/School Goal #2 Update: Establish and Assessment and Data Analysis System

Kevin Camey explained that the District is incorporating the STARR assessment as a tool to use in conjunction with MCAS data. The STARR assessment will provide formative assessments throughout the year (fall/mid-year/spring). The intent is to 'establish a culture where data is used as a tool for improvement'. He described how the district is extracting the 'Power Standards' to develop common assessments.

Ms. Kara Ekstrom, the math specialist at McCloskey Middle School spoke to district School Improvement Plan Goal 6- MCAS achievement and growth via her power point presentation *Using Data to Drive Instruction at McCloskey Middle School*. Ms. Ekstrom described the six-day course and that the Middle School is utilizing data to answer their generated focus questions and develop possible solutions and recommendations.

Ms. Eileen Gorman reviewed the percentage of students ranked a 'proficient' and asked Ms. Ekstrom what would be her ultimate goal for proficiency. Ms. Ekstrom is looking for realistic, continuous growth over time.

flexibility to allocate resources or restructure staffing to address newly identified needs under the level service budget

- There are 2 new HS positions to consider-.5 Spanish, 1.0 math teacher
- He clarified two points- SC has confidence in teachers' ability to provide instruction, the committee is advocating for teachers' needs. The teachers are receptive and appreciative to add positions, but not at the expense of existing programs.
- The addition of Spanish teacher to provide a full year Spanish II course would necessitate moving the semester health course to junior year.
- The proposed grade10 requirements of Honors Geometry and Spanish becoming full-year courses would mean the removal of electives, including 50 students in music ensemble.
- The only way to maintain all programs with the proposed increase would mean to change the master schedule.
- UHS has a two-course math requirement for grade 10 students.
- Any instructional changes in minutes or the work day would necessitate impact bargaining with the teachers' union.
- The SC has four options to consider:
 - 1) Increase the course length for Spanish 2 and H Geometry and remove electives for grade10
 - 2) Keep Spanish 2 and health as semester courses in grade 10
 - 3) Make Honors Geometry a full year and remove a semester of electives- including ensemble
 - 4) Keep music ensemble and other electives in grade 10 and Honors Geometry as semester

Ms. Stark asked for clarification around the statement that H Geometry would remove electives for all when geometry was already full year. Spanish would take the place of elective in junior year (health).

Mr. Carney stated that he needed data around who was in ensemble and other electives. He said the scheduling committee and teachers made the math course decision to change that one would have to do collective bargaining.

Charlene Miller asked if all students took two math courses or just Honors.

Ms. Stark explained that the current schedule would already not allow for any students except those in Honors Geometry to take ensemble and that more feedback is needed before it's positioned that the full year of Honors Geometry would eliminate ensemble.

Ms. Taparausky asked if it mattered that health was offered in junior year and why ensemble needed to be a class during school and not after.

Ms. Miller gave assurances that no one was looking to take away music, and that the requirement to mandate two math classes in a year was unique to Uxbridge.

Mrs. Miller stated that the committee does not have to make Spanish a graduation requirement, but does have to acknowledge that it is a college entrance requirement.

Mr. Carney indicated that the 2 year math may be a systemic issue and that the new administrative team and guidance department would review the issue.

Ms. Gorman wanted to know if Ms. Stark's proposal would necessitate impact bargaining and was told it would not.

Ms. Keegan has been impressed with the depth of questions in trying to make Uxbridge the best it can be within budget, yet still be competitive. We have to be cognizant of meeting the needs of students who want to enter college and applauds debate, but cautions that immediate changes are not necessary because kids have gotten into competitive colleges without these changes.

Ms. Taparausky stated that the questions that have been asked and that we need the information for us to continue to move forward in order to stay as progressive as we can.

Ms. Miller pointed out that all classes before the current sophomore class have the cushion of trimester and long block schedules to fall back on to explain disproportionate courses. The sophomores have only semester courses and any lack on their transcripts cannot be explained by multitude of changes in schedule.

Mr. Sawyer repeated the FY16 agenda item filed posted the Public Hearing on April 7, 2015 and reminded all that the budget will be made available to the public at that time. Mr. Carney reminded the committee of the difference of a financial decision vs a programmatic decision.

6. FY 16- FY18 Bus Contract

Don Sawyer stated that eleven companies picked up a bidding package. Of seven companies, our current provider, Vendetti was the only bid.

Ms. King asked if the proposal explained the pricing percentage over a year, and the dollar amount and wanted to know if the percentage of increase was similar to the last three years. Her concern is that when we negotiate the next contract FY19, there will be a jump of another 10%.

Ms. Stark asked if the same company contracted for athletics and field trips.

Ms. Taparausky was looking for all current Uxbridge residents to remain eligible employees to drive for the company.

Ms. Keegan moved that the School Committee approve the bid presented by the Vendetti bus company to cover July 1 2015- June 30, 2018 the specifics as outlined in

their proposal to cover totaling \$2,913,278.40 to cover general education transportation and specialized transportation in the district and authorize the chairman to sign. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. Motion approved 6:0

7. **Whitin Garden Grant-** The Whitin Elementary School is looking to start a garden club collaborated with Food Services to apply for a grant. The grant offers \$2,000 for tools for the garden.

Ms. King made the motion that the School Committee accept the grant monies awarded of \$2,000.00 for the Whitin Schools Garden Grant from Lowes Charitable and Education Foundation. Deb Stark seconded the motion. Motion approved 6:0

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Carney announced the appointment of Marla Sirois as the Taft Elementary ELC principal. He announced the appointment of Marc Calarese as the Athletic Director of the Middle School and High School.

Mr. Carney intends to announce the Curriculum Coordinator next week as the negotiations conclude. The High School principal search will begin on Tuesday, March 24th.

He congratulated the boys' varsity basketball team for winning the Central MA District championship for the first time in twenty-two years. They are a great group of kids and an inspirational team.

Dan Lanoue was congratulated for being selected for the Central MA Select All-Star team. He will go to WPI and play against the Boston Amateur Basketball Club.

Congratulations to Barbara Emerick and Kathy Penza did a great job with the musical.

Ms. Stark congratulated the Destination Imagination teams. The High School won first place and will go on to the States. The elementary team took second place.

9. Old and new Business:

Mr. Carney reminded the committee to review the list of how area schools use their revolving accounts and advised the committee to follow Marlboro's model.

10. School Committee Minutes

Mr. Carney suggested the February 24, 2015 minutes to be held in order to have the opportunity to add a piece of information rather than attaching it.

March 3, 2015 minutes were presented for vote.

Melanie King made a motion that the committee accept the minutes from March 3, 2015 minutes as written. Deb Stark seconded. Approved 6:0

Comment (CM1):

11. Executive Session - Open Contracts

Ms. Taparausky moved that the Committee adjourn open session and enter into executive session with no new business to follow. Charlene Miller seconded the motion. The Committee, by roll call vote, adjourned the open session meeting and entered into executive session at 9:01 pm with no new business to follow.

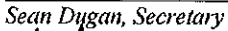
Charlene Miller-YES, Deb Stark-YES, Melanie King-YES, Eileen Gorman-YES, Jane Keegan-YES, Michelle Taparausky -YES,

Respectfully submitted,

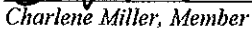
Charlene Miller,
Uxbridge School Committee

School Committee Members:

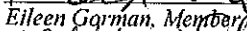

Michelle Taparausky, Chair

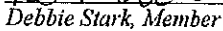

Sean Dugan, Secretary


Melanie King, Member


Charlene Miller, Member


Jane Keegan, Vice Chair


Eileen Gorman, Member


Debbie Stark, Member