

Received by
Uxbridge
Town Clerk

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
December 1, 2015
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

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

1. Call to Order

Melanie King, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Student Updates

Student Emily Fernandes, mentioned upcoming events at the schools including holiday concerts and the annual Holiday Party. Student Trevor Rafferty highlighted several activities that had student council participation such as a blood drive, Soup for Troops, and the Town Loop Challenge.

3. Public Comment

Peter Demers requested information on how to see a copy of the Superintendent's newly signed contract and asked where he could find copies of the Superintendent's goals and objectives for this year.

Ms. King asked the Committee if they would allow additional public comment at the end of the meeting for comments specifically directed at the FY17 budget. Ms. Stark, Ms. Modica, and Mr. Dugan agreed to allow additional public comment. Ms. Taparausky objected to the proposal.

At the second public comment, Paul Paulino reminded the Committee on how important IEP and other similar services are for district students. Mr. Demers mentioned that even though closing the McCloskey school might save operating expenses, it would still cost money to move out of the building and to maintain the facilities while it remained vacant. He also said he wished that the school department, as well as the town, would provide total compensation statements of town employees, instead of only listing individual salaries.

4. Special Recognition

Mr. Carney presented Margaret (Peggy) Fairbanks a plaque honoring her retirement after years of service as a speech and language therapist.

5. COPSYNC - Police Chief Lourie

Police Chief Lourie spoke to the Committee to get their support to implement the COPSYN program throughout the district. It is an extensive community alert system that, in an emergency, provides immediate alert to the local police station and allows important information to be quickly shared between other police departments and emergency responders. This system would not only connect district schools, but also all town departments. He

estimated the cost of the program to be \$10,000 for the first year and approximately \$5000 annually after that. He said these costs would likely be split between the school and town departments.

6. UHS Ski Trip Proposal (A)

Teacher Sarah Gaudet requested permission for interested high school students to go on an overnight ski trip to Jay Peak, in Vermont, February 16-17, 2016. This would be the second year the trip would be offered.

Ms. Taparousky made a motion that Uxbridge High School is permitted to go to a Jay Peak ski trip on Tuesday February 16-February 17 and returning the evening of the 17th with the Gaudets as the chaperones. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0. The motion passed.

7. FY16 Budget Update

Mr. Sawyer said that the current year's budget is being impacted by unexpected special education costs of approximately \$500,000. He said the School Committee will need to take action in order to balance the budget otherwise the district will have a shortfall before June 30, 2016. The district is currently in a budget freeze, however Mr. Sawyer does not believe the amount of this deficit can be made up by the freeze.

8. FY17 Budget Planning Update & Discussion

Mr. Carney showed a presentation that outlined the challenges facing the district for FY17. As of this meeting the town manager has told Mr. Carney that the projected increase for the school operational budget (\$300,000) will likely only cover the increases in insurance costs. The budget shortfall is currently projected to be \$1,277,721 based on increases in required expenses. If school needs-based requests are added to the budget the shortfall will be \$1,769,721.

The presentation included a list of potential areas to reduce the deficit, such as closing McCloskey Middle School, and consolidating district students into three schools, or reducing bus transportation to state required minimums. It also showed the tiered lists of potential staffing cuts that school administration compiled for the School Committee to consider if the deficit is not eliminated.

Ms. King asked the public to give feedback to the Committee in regards to their opinions on how the deficit should be addressed.

9. UHS Lacrosse Proposal

Athletic Director, Marc Calarese presented the Committee with a proposal to allow Uxbridge students to enter into a co-op lacrosse league with Hopedale. Currently 16 Uxbridge students have expressed interest. He indicated that the cost to the school budget would be \$200 total, with \$100 going to the MIAA for each team (girls and boys). The Committee decided to wait until the next meeting to vote on the proposal in order to have more members present to vote and to allow Mr. Calarese time to confirm that the only cost to the schools would be the \$200 registration fee.

10. UPS Annual Report SY2014-2015 - 2nd Reading (A)

Sean Dugan made a motion that the School Committee approve the Uxbridge Public Schools annual report in its second reading. Debbie Stark seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0. The motion passed.

11. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Carney mentioned the following:

- He, along with Ms. King, attended a recent Student Council meeting as part of their listening tour.
- The Unit B contract is now available for members of the Committee to sign.
- The Taft and Whitin schools recently had a day where members of our community read stories to each elementary classroom.
- The next Committee meeting will provide an update on the curriculum mapping progress.
- He will make a recommendation at the next Committee meeting as to whether he feels the district should choose MCAS or PARCC for Spring 2016 testing.

12. Old/New Business

Ms. King told the Committee, that although she contacted the Douglas school district to gather information about their potential interest of regionalizing their district, she has not received any returned call or emails.

13. Meeting Minutes - November 3 & 17, 2015

Mr. Dugan made a motion that the Uxbridge School Committee accept the meeting minutes from November 3 as presented. Ms. Modica seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0. The motion passed.

Mr. Dugan made a motion that the Uxbridge School Committee accept the meeting minutes from November 17 as presented. Ms. Modica seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0. The motion passed.

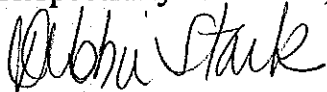
14. Next School Committee Meeting - December 15, 2015

15. Adjournment

Mr. Dugan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Modica seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 5-0-0.

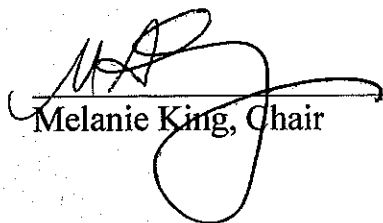
The meeting adjourned at 9:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,

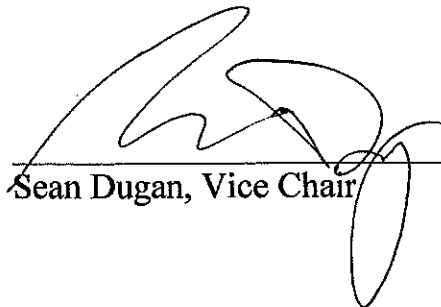


Debbie Stark
School Committee Secretary

School Committee Members:



Melanie King, Chair



Sean Dugan, Vice Chair

Debbie Stark

Debbie Stark, Secretary

Jane Keegan, Member

Michelle

Michelle Taparowsky, Member

Charlene Miller, Member

Jennifer Modica

Jen Modica, Member