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UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
December 15, 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. Public Comment

Jim Hogan, father of a recent Uxbridge graduate and two current students, told the Committee he would not be a proponent of an override. He also said he felt that the potential cost savings in closing McCloskey made closing the school something to consider.

3. Curriculum Mapping Update

Dr. Cavanaugh updated the Committee on the progress of curriculum mapping at the district schools. She said that at the high school many subjects will complete their mapping by June 2016. Most maps at McCloskey will be ready and publishable by the end of the school year. Taft school had most of its ELA maps already in place and they are only adding a small part. She believes Taft will have all maps ready by June 2016, with the exception of Science since the district is currently waiting to see the new science standards that will likely be accepted in January 2016. The Whitin school is currently studying their instructional practices prior to beginning their mapping.

4. College and Career Readiness Update (District Goal 4)

All building principals presented their progress in their continued implementation of college and career readiness.

5. UHS Program of Studies (District Goal 3)

Principal Rubin said the scheduling committee would be meeting after winter break. He currently has two different schedule models and believes both are good options. Both would require a 7 period day. He reiterated that he would need the Committee to authorize the hiring of 4.8 teachers for the high school. Mr. Rubin said, that, based on his calculations, it would be necessary to add those positions if the district wanted to ensure all core classes are offered as full year courses and still offer a variety of elective choices. He said that if he kept the same number of staff, and made all core classes year-long, students would be limited in their ability to take electives and therefore he would not offer a Program of Studies that had those limitations.

6. FY17 Budget Planning Update

Mr. Carney led a presentation on the FY17 budget. He said that the Committee needed to have contingency plans in place to cover the deficit if the district does not receive additional revenue.

He presented 2 contingency plans:

The first plan would close McCloskey Middle School and remove any of the district's new position requests. Students in grades PreK-8 would be all placed within the Whitin and Taft schools.

--Mr. Carney said that, based on the district's average annual revenue increases, if the Committee did not choose to close McCloskey in FY17, it would likely have to close the school in FY18.

The second plan would include the elimination of new position requests, reduce bus transportation to the minimum required by law, and no longer fund any sports and extracurricular activities within the operational budget. There would also be multiple staff reductions some of which could bring elementary classroom averages above 25 students/class.

Mr. Sawyer reiterated how important it is that the Committee makes a decision on closing McCloskey soon because it affects the FY17 budget and also requires significant time to implement.

Mr. Sawyer said the Committee needed to give him direction on what number he should use to develop the FY17 budget. He requested that the direction be given to him that night.

He also said there are potential other revenue sources the district can use to offset the deficit, but none of them come close to eliminating it.

He reminded the Committee that the district is exploring several cost-saving options such as purchasing district - owned vehicles to assist in transporting out-of-district students through the district versus using contracted transportation services.

Recommendation from the Budget Subcommittee School Committee

Ms. Taparasky said that closing McCloskey is not something that all members of the Committee agree is a good option but it is something that needs to be considered. She also said that in discussions the budget subcommittee did not support cutting athletics or extracurricular programs at the high school or middle school. The subcommittee will look at bus transportation as a form of savings and they have given Mr. Sawyer the exercise to see what transportation would look like if it only serviced legally required students.

The subcommittee has requested that the town manager put the one-time purchases of a well for irrigation at the high school and vehicles to service out-of-district students as part of the capital plan.

Ms. Taparasky said the budget subcommittee recommended that the school department fund the additional teachers for the high school program of studies and table the other school requests. She said the subcommittee left open the possibility of funding increased substitute pay. The subcommittee's recommended total results in an increase of \$1,557,721 over FY16.

She requested that all additional sources of revenue be explored before the Committee makes the decision to take McCloskey offline and noted that the district still needs to determine whether it is even feasible to close the school.

In discussion, Ms. Stark and Mr. Dugan supported increasing the budget by only the amount that will be legally obligated for the district in FY17. The other members recommended adding an additional \$250,000 to hire 4.8 teachers for the high school.

Ms. Taparausky made a motion that the School Committee sends Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Carney in the direction of an increase to our budget of \$1,557,721 which will include the \$1,277,721 that is legally obligated, and the FTEs for Uxbridge High School. Ms. Modica seconded the motion. The Committee voted 4-2-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Dugan and Ms. Stark voted no. The motion passed.

Ms. Taparausky discussed having a public forum for the School Committee to allow the public to come and talk about the district. The meeting was scheduled for January 5, 2016 at 6:00PM at Uxbridge High School. This would be an hour before the scheduled regular School Committee meeting.

7. Foreign Exchange Program and Service Agreement (A)

Passed over

8. Foreign Exchange Revolving Account

Passed over

Sample School District Spending Parameters

Establish Spending Parameters for UPS (A)

9. UHS Lacrosse Co-op Program with Hopedale (A)

Ms. Taparausky made a motion that Uxbridge High School will co-op a lacrosse program with Hopedale High per the parameters that were discussed earlier, student fee is \$200, and the MIAA fee will be picked up by an anonymous donor to cover all costs associated with that. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 6-0-0. The motion passed.

10. COPSYNC Discussion

Mr. Carney told the Committee that the town manager has said the town will fund the first two years of the program. The district would begin paying its share in year three.

Ms. Taparausky made a motion that the school department supports the COPSYNC program effective this fiscal year and moving forward. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 6-0-0. The motion passed.

11. Superintendent Update

Administration has decided to stay with MCAS for Spring 2016.

12. Old/New Business

Ms. Taparausky requested that a discussion surrounding MCAS 2.0 be added to the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Dugan said that the Policy Subcommittee is waiting for information to help revisit Policy KF at a future meeting.

13. Meeting Minutes - December 1, 2015

Passed over

14. Next School Committee Meeting - January 5, 2016

Public forum will precede the meeting at 6:00PM.

15. Adjournment


Ms. King entertained a motion to adjourn in to executive session with no new business to follow. Ms. Taparasky moved the motion. By roll call vote: Ms. Taparasky—YES, Ms. Modica—YES, Ms. Stark—YES, Mr. Dugan—YES, Ms. Miller—YES, Ms. King—YES.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33PM.

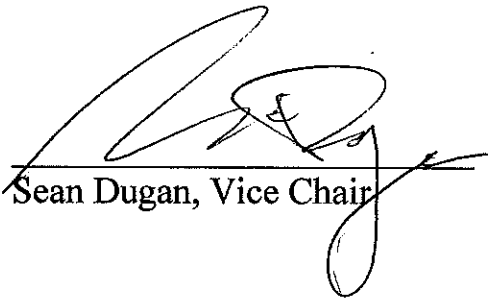
Respectfully submitted,


Debbie Stark
School Committee Secretary

School Committee Members:



Melanie King, Chair

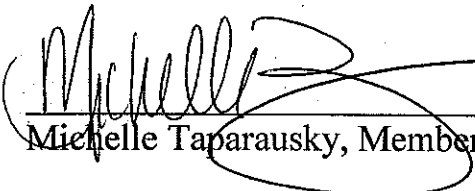


Sean Dugan, Vice Chair




Debbie Stark, Secretary

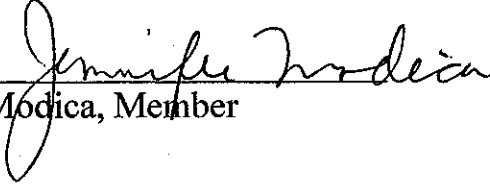
Jane Keegan, Member



Michelle Taparasky, Member



Charlene Miller, Member


Jen Modica, Member