

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 5, 2014
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Michelle Taparausky, Chair	_X_	_____
Jane Keegan, Vice Chair	_X_	_____
Sean Dugan, Secretary	_X_	_____
Eileen Gorman, Member	_X_	_____
Melanie King, Member	_X_	_____
Charlene Miller, Member	_X_	_____
Debbie Stark, Member	_X_	_____

1. Call to Order-

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

2. Executive Session for Teacher Contract Negotiations

Eileen Gorman moved that the Board enter into executive session. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the all 7 Committee members voted unanimously 7-0-0 to enter executive session. MOTION PASSED.

The Committee reconvened at 7:21pm.

3. Public Comment

Karen Gensler asked if we pay per student, per test for the standardized tests the district administers. Mr. Carney said he would have to compile the information on said tests to provide at a later date. Ms. Gensler also asked what the possibility was of the state sticking to the Common Core standards. Mr. Carney responded that he would address that as a new business item at the next meeting.

Jane Keegan requested that building principals in the district allow students the opportunity to sing the first stanza of the Star Spangled Banner on September 12th to recognize the 200th anniversary.

4. World Stride Heritage Performance Festival- UHS Music Department

Kathleen Penza presented a proposal to the Committee to bring students to a music Festival on April 10-12, 2015 in New York City. She explained that it would cost \$350 per student, plus any spending money. Ms. Penza noted that it would be two nights, and during the weekend the students would perform and be able to meet with other musicians from across the country. She assured the Committee it was an insured

program and that their deposit on the trip was refundable.
Ms. Penza showed the Committee a brief video on the program.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee vote to accept the proposal to send students to the World Stride Heritage Performance Festival in New York City on April 10-12, 2015 at the cost of approximately \$350 per student. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee Voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

5. Middle School and UHS Grading Procedures Presentation

McCloskey Middle School Principal Dr. Richard Drolet started the presentation by stating that he research opposition to their proposals on grading reform and found little research against it.

Dr. Drolet provided an example of why changes are being made, noting disparities in grading among teachers, among other factors.

Tara Bennett, Uxbridge High School Principal, also cited disparities in teacher's grading, among other factors. She also noted that they are looking to move away from behavior-based grading and more towards academic-based grading.

Both administrators provided the Committee with a short video on grading reform.

Committee members engaged in a back and forth dialogue with the administrators on their thoughts of the changes (please refer to recording for further details).

6. Policy Subcommittee Updates

Jane Keegan, Policy Subcommittee Chair, updated the Committee on changes to district policies.

Ms. Keegan provided an update on the Community Use of Facilities Policy and what was discussed at the Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Keegan discussed changes that were made to the Student Discipline Policy, citing changes to the name of the policy.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee adopt policy JIC, Student Discipline. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

Ms. Keegan noted that the only change to the Student Absences Policy was that it required more notification.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee accept policy JH, Student Absences, in its first reading. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

7. FY15 Budget Update and Town Budget Discussion

Town Manager David Genereux, noted that at the close of the fiscal year, he looked at local receipts and made changes to the budget. He discussed other changes that have been made to reduce the deficit.

School Business Manager Don Sawyer discussed items that factored into the reduction and recommended the Committee wait until September to officially vote on a final number.

Michelle Taparauskys, Chair, discussed options the Committee could choose regarding the directions they could take on reducing the deficit.

Mr. Sawyer noted that he was more comfortable taking a smaller portion of the school choice in money.

Mr. Genereux cited concern with waiting too long to decide on a direction.

Melanie King asked for clarification on where the reductions came from.

Jane Keegan moved that the Committee vote to reduce their budget appropriation by a sum to be determined with any remaining balance being covered by monies from the school choice in account. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

8. School Committee Appointment to Serve on the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative.

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee appoint Superintendent Kevin Carney to serve on the board of the Southern Worcester County Education Collaborative. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

9. Superintendent's Update-

Mr. Carney spoke about class sizes within the district and strategies to properly proportion them. He updated the Committee on the courses that were under the 15 student threshold in classes at UHS.

Mr. Carney discussed training for the Committee through the Mass. Assoc. of School Committees. Ms. Taparausky noted that she was looking for dates in September. Mr. Carney reminded the Committee that the Administrator's Institute was on Wednesday August 13th from 9am-11am.

Mr. Carney announced that Taft Principal Judi Lamarre had accepted a new position in her home district of Bellingham. He also announced the appointment of an Interim Principal, Ms. Marla Sirois, and that she had accepted.

10. Old/New Business

Mr. Carney noted that he would provide an update on the PARCC and MCAS assessments in September.

11. School Committee Meeting Minutes- June 11, 2014

Sean Dugan cited two minor changes to the minutes.

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting of the Uxbridge School Committee. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

12. Executive Session for Teacher Contract Negotiations and Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2014.

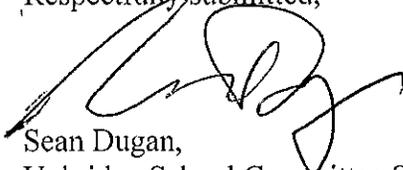
Sean Dugan moved that the Committee approve the executive session minutes of the May 6, 2014 meeting of the Uxbridge School Committee. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

13. Adjournment-

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee adjourn. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

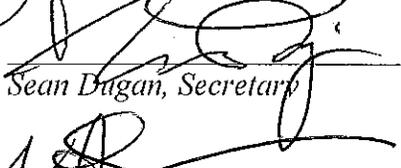


Sean Dugan,
Uxbridge School Committee Secretary

School Committee Members:


Michelle Taparousky, Chair

Michelle Taparousky, Chair


Sean Dagan, Secretary

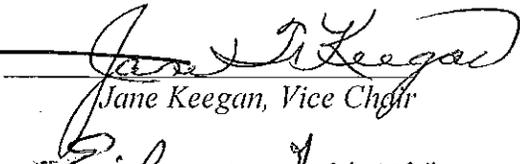
Sean Dagan, Secretary


Melanie King, Member

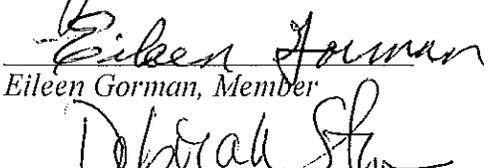
Melanie King, Member


Charlene Miller, Member

Charlene Miller, Member


Jane Keegan, Vice Chair

Jane Keegan, Vice Chair


Eileen Gorman, Member

Eileen Gorman, Member


Debbie Stark, Member

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