

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
 SEPTEMBER 9, 2014  
 UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent	
Michelle Taparausky, Chair	_X_	_____	Received by Uxbridge Town Clerk
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. UHS Student Updates**

Brooke Blackburn provided the Committee with updates on the activity of the UHS Student Council, which included a recap of the events they volunteered at. She also noted that homecoming was to be held in early October.

Ms. Blackburn then provided an update on the UHS fall sports teams and listed the names of the team captains for each sport.

**3. Public Comment**

Ms. Taparausky reminded the audience that not all questions may be able to be answered on the spot but would be answered when the information was available.

Peter Demers asked for details on the shifting of funds from the general fund to grant funding, the details of the grant, the impact of professional development and technology reductions, what would happen if grants were no longer available, where the money from foreign exchange students would go, what was discussed at the administrator's meeting with the school committee on August 13th, and what the status of the teacher's union contract was.

Superintendent Kevin Carney explained that the administrators meeting with the school committee was to present goals to them in their draft form. Mr. Demers asked if those goals would be made public. Mr. Carney responded that they are to be presented to the Committee to be voted upon.

Ms. Taparausky said that most of those questions would be addressed throughout the Uxbridge School Committee Meeting Minutes- September 9, 2014

meeting, but that the teacher's union contract hadn't been settled yet.

Eileen Gorman wished everyone a "happy New Year" as the new school year had begun.

#### **4. Introduction of new UPS Educators**

Taft ELC Principal Marla Sirois introduced the only new staff member in her building, Michelle Boucher.

Whitin Elementary Principal Lori Fafard was unable to make it, but Mr. Carney welcomed Sherry Dupont as a new staff member.

McCloskey Middle School Assistant Principal Todd Kaplan introduced new staff members: Alison Edwards, Kayla Ledoux, Michael Agostinelli, and Doug Priore.

Uxbridge High School Principal Tara Bennett introduced her new staff: Brennan Bennett, Liane Edwards, Tracy Larkin, David Lyman, Dan Sabourin, Julia Cove, Beth Sherr, and Matt Sloan.

#### **5. School Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Eileen Gorman moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014 meeting of the Uxbridge School Committee. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.*

#### **6. 2nd Reading & Vote to Accept Policy JH - Student Absences**

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

#### **7. Vote to Amend Policy KF - Rental Fee of Basketball Courts**

*Jane Keegan moved that the Committee vote to amend policy KF on the rental fee of the basketball courts. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.*

#### **8. FY15 School Budget Update**

School Business Manager Don Sawyer reported that there wasn't much activity to report on, considering the school year was only one pay cycle in, but everything was going as planned.

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting Minutes- September 9, 2014

Mr. Sawyer addressed some of the previous questions that were asked by Mr. Demers on the shifting of funds, reductions in professional development, and other savings for FY15.

Both Mr. Carney and Curriculum Director Jennifer Gaudet addressed the shifting of funds from the general fund to grant funding by saying that some salaries are covered under the terms of some grants, so they moved them there. Mr. Carney noted that there were reductions in supplies and association membership lines. Ms. Gaudet noted that there was also a reduction in Virtual High School seats to reflect the number of students taking advantage of the classes.

Jane Keegan asked if the reductions would have a negative impact on the students. Ms. Gaudet responded that there would be no impact on the children's education.

## 9. Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Carney thanked everyone for a smooth opening day for the district's schools.

Mr. Carney informed the Committee that there was a \$600 anonymous donation made out to the district for the purpose of transporting the foreign student visitors earlier in the year. He also informed the Committee that there was a scholarship in the sum of \$500. Mr. Carney additionally informed the Committee that Grand Experiment LLC provided a \$2,500 donation to go to the drama department at the high school for allowing their film crew to set up their equipment on Taft Early Learning Center's property.

*Jane Keegan moved that the Committee accept the anonymous donation in the sum of \$600 and earmark the \$2,500 donation from Grand Experiment LLC to the UHS drama department. Melanie King seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.*

Mr. Carney discussed the status of the PARCC and MCAS adoption from across the state. He stated that 59% of districts opted to go with PARCC, while the other 41% decided to remain with MCAS.

Eileen Gorman added that PARCC would be quite an expense.

Melanie King stated that she was confident with the Committee's decision to stay with MCAS.

Jane Keegan noted that not all districts who could afford PARCC went with PARCC.

Mr. Carney explained what level funded, level service, and needs based budgets look like for the district. He announced that the school councils will be reporting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> their needs based recommendations for FY16.

Mr. Carney stated that there was a joint meeting of the chairs of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, and Finance Committee in August to discuss the closing of the budget deficit for FY15. He discussed the different options the Committee could choose from at Town Meeting.

Ms. Tapaurasky stated that a memorandum of agreement was going to be signed between the Committee and the Town Manager to allow the School Department to keep any money they don't use in the savings account.

Debbie Stark asked about free cash and why the burden was left all on the schools if the voters voted for a level service budget. She noted that she was troubled that the Town wasn't doing more to help.

The Committee discussed new Special Education (SPED) costs that came to the district and how SPED students can come into the district at any time and the district, depending on when the students enters the district, the School Department is entirely financially responsible for that students, sometimes with education bills in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Committee also discussed the potential options to choose from at Town Meeting and what actions would be taken by the Committee.

*Jane Keegan moved that the Committee amend the Spring Town Meeting recommended budget of \$18,585,974 to \$18,385,974. Sean Dugan seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 7-0-0. MOTION PASSED.*

## **10. Old/New Business**

Ms. Taparauskay announced that Duane Dube was interested in coaching a middle school girls basketball team and that he was looking to rent the McCloskey Middle School gym, but he wanted to know if he could pay at the middle and the end of the season. There was no opposition from other Committee members.

Ms. Taparauskay announced the school liaisons for each building. She noted that Debbie Stark would be at Taft, Sean Dugan would be at Whitin, Charlene Miller would be at McCloskey, and Melanie King would be at the High School.

Ms. Taparauskay informed the Committee that there would be a discussion on the water bill discrepancy at the October meeting.

Ms. Taparausky mentioned that the Dan Stefanilo 5k and the Town Loop Challenge would be combined and run together in November.

Mr. Carney discussed the revolving account for international students.

Mr. Carney discussed courses at the High School that were near the 15 student enrollment threshold.

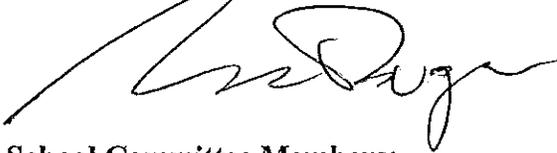
### 11. Adjournment-

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Dugan,  
Uxbridge School Committee Secretary

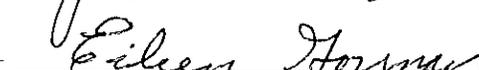


#### School Committee Members:

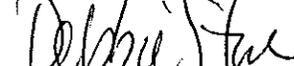
  
Michelle Taparausky, Chair

  
Jane Keegan, Vice Chair

  
Sean Dugan, Secretary

  
Eileen Gorman, Member

  
Melanie King, Member

  
Debbie Stark, Member

  
Charlene Miller, Member