

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
 DECEMBER 2, 2014
 UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Received by
 Uxbridge
 Town Clerk

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Michelle Taparauskys, 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 Taparauskys, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Student Updates

Daniel Lanoue provided the Committee with an update on athletics from the high school, including recognition for Jake Taparauskys and Anthony Abate for making the SWCL all star team in football and a preview of winter sports.

Brooke Blackburn provided an update on Student Council’s activity in the past month, which included an event where students cleaned graves for Veterans Day.

3. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

4. Bullying Prevention Plans Update

Jennifer Gaudet, Curriculum Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on the biannual update of the bullying prevention plan. She discussed changes that have been made, professional development being administered in each building, provided an overview of the bullying prevention exercises at each school. She also stated that only one bullying incident had been identified out of approximately 20 reports.

Ms. Taparauskys asked if there was an error in reporting since there was such a disparity in the number of reports and findings. Dr. Richard Drolet explained that many of the incidents were reported by students to the proper staff as bullying, but after further investigation, they were determined not to be instances of bullying.

5. FY16 School Staffing and Expense Budgeting Update

Uxbridge High School Principal, Tara Bennett, provided an overview of her buildings budget process. She explained that this year she didn't tell each department the figure she was looking for them to reach, rather she told them to explain what they needed and the budgeting team would go from there. Mrs. Bennett explained that they were \$20,000 over budgeted, but it was a good exercise to see what departments truly needed. She stated that they were looking for one paraprofessional for IEP students/Mosaic Program.

Melanie King added that she was impressed by the high school budgeting process and the level of detail that was considered.

McCloskey Middle School Principal Dr. Richard Drolet reported on McCloskey's need for technology improvements and a reading specialist. He explained that the request for technology improvements would come in the form of a Technology Integration/Library Specialist. Superintendent Kevin Carney asked why Spanish wasn't advocated more at the middle school level. Dr. Drolet stated that to bring the Spanish program back at the middle school, they would need to hire two full-time employees, and the school council decided it would be more beneficial to have the two other positions mentioned.

Whitin Elementary School Principal Lori Fafard stated that the budgeting teams met in October to discuss their needs, and then it went to her Administrative Assistant. She explained that they were level funded at \$39,943. Mrs. Fafard stated that she was in the process of switching some lines to pay for supplies necessary for the upcoming year. She reported that they were substantially behind in terms of technology, with only a small number of working computers available building-wide. As for staffing, Mrs. Fafard stated that she wanted to keep all of her staff, as a reduction of one teacher at any level would mean much higher class sizes. Mrs. Fafard advocated for lunch and recess monitors for the building, so her teachers could have more common planning time.

Kevin Carney stated that he would be reporting on technology in January.

Sean Dugan added that he was impressed with the collaborative nature of the school and how they team worked so cohesively to work on the budget process.

Taft Early Learning Center Principal Marla Sirois stated that she was looking to move line items around to get workbooks for next year. Various Taft school council members spoke on their involvement in the process. Ms. Sirois stated that she was requesting a .5 art teacher for the school, 2 paraprofessionals at the Kindergarten level to assist with large classes and address SPED issues early on, to bring back lunch and recess monitors, and to rent a copy machine as there is currently only one for 23 teachers.

6. Budget Sub-Committee Update

Sean Dugan, Budget Sub-Committee (BSC) Chairman, provided the Committee with an update of what the sub-committee had been reviewing with regards to student activity fees. He discussed the 3-0-0 recommendation by the BSC to keep the activities free. He reported that the consensus came as result of new information from the band and drama clubs that showed no costs other than the stipend for the two positions, which were previously thought to be the most expensive clubs, but also because they felt it would deter kids from participating.

Mr. Dugan provided the Committee with an update on the bus contract discussions. He stated that the BSC voted 3-0-0 to keep the bus specifications the same at 12 buses, with the same radii. Committee members and School Business Manager Don Sawyer discussed the possibilities mentioned by the BSC.

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee maintain the same level of buses at 12 with 2 SPED buses, and to put the bid for the contract out as soon as possible as decided by the School Business Manager. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted in favor of said motion 6-0-0. MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Dugan reported that Mr. Sawyer had proposed the installation of a water well at the high school to save money from the public water option that was currently being utilized. He stated that it would save the School Department \$250,000 over 10 years. Mr. Sawyer elaborated on the parameters of the water well installation process.

Mr. Sawyer discussed the updated FY16 budget document and changes that have been made to it.

7. FY15 Budget Update

Mr. Carney stated that the School Department was currently under a budget freeze in anticipation of potential cuts to local aid from the state level.

8. School Committee Training

Ms. Taparausky reported that 5 members of the Committee attended a training workshop put on by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on November 17th. She stated that she learned a few new things, and that she wanted the Committee to review protocol in the coming months. Ms. Taparausky, and the Committee, discussed the signing of warrants and the superintendent's evaluation.

9. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Carney announced that Curriculum Director Jennifer Gaudet would be leaving the Uxbridge Public Schools, and be taking on a new role at Greater Lowell Vocational High School.

Mr. Carney stated that questions about the 2013-2014 Annual Town Report were due by January.

Mr. Carney provided an update on his goals for the district.

10. Old/New Business

Ms. Taparausky stated that the Dan Stefanilo 5k was a success and recognized Deb Stark and Sean Dugan for participating. She also read an email from a parent who was pleased with the success of her daughter at Taft and praised the good work of her teachers.

Mr. Dugan discussed his experiences at the 2014 Statewide Conference for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, including a budgeting workshop and a seminar on superintendent evaluations.

Mr. Dugan also discussed his meeting with Lori Fafard regarding the work of the Whitin School Council. He informed the Committee that DPW Director Ben Sherman was coming in to teach the kids about his work in town, and that a Safety Task Force was being formed with possible funding from Charter.

11. School Committee Minutes – November 4 and November 17, 2014

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee accept the minutes of the November 4, 2014 School Committee meeting. Eileen Gorman seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of said motion. MOTION PASSED.

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee accept the minutes of the November 17, 2014 School Committee meeting. Charlene Miller seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-1 in favor of said motion. MOTION PASSED.

12. Adjourn

Sean Dugan moved that the Committee adjourn. Charlene Miller seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0-0 in favor of said motion. MOTION PASSED.

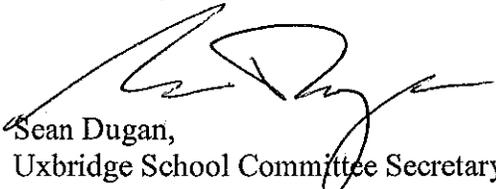
The Committee adjourned at 9:39pm.

13. Executive Session - Open Contracts and Minutes for November 4, 2014

The Committee, by roll call vote, entered into executive session at 9:39pm.

Michelle Taparauskys-YES, Sean Dugan-YES, Charlene Miller-YES, Deb Stark-YES, Melanie King-YES, Eileen Gorman-YES.

Respectfully submitted,



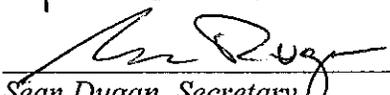
Sean Dugan,
Uxbridge School Committee Secretary

School Committee Members:

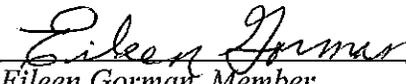


Michelle Taparauskys, Chair

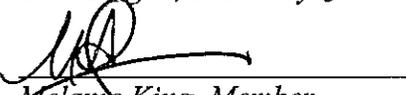
Jane Keegan, Vice Chair



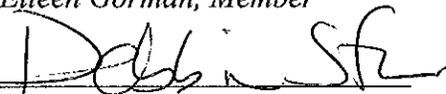
Sean Dugan, Secretary



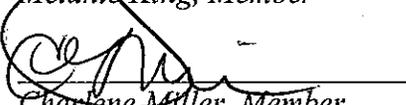
Eileen Gorman, Member



Melanie King, Member



Debbie Stark, Member



Charlene Miller, Member