

approved 11/28/12

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

High School Library
Business Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2012

PRESENT:

Mr. Jim Frey
Mr. John Giger, Vice-chair
Ms Leslie Lathrop
Ms Alison Manugian, Chair
Mr. Jon Sjoberg (Arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

ABSENT:

Mr. Luis DeLoureiro, Secretary
Ms Berta Erickson

ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Anthony Bent, Superintendent
Mr. Gerald Martin, Director of Business and Finance
Ms Kerry Clery, Director of Teaching, Learning and Accountability
Ms Jeanne Mitchell, Human Resources Manager

STAFF, PRESS, OTHERS: R. Stewart, Groton Herald; P. Comtois, Groton Landmark; L. Mills, L. Garden, B. Dodson, P. Myerson, B. Payne, See attached sign-in sheet

I. Call to Order:

The GDRSC Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the chair, A. Manugian.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Ms Dodson with her fourth grade students from Swallow Union

Jack Barry and Olivia Shusta led the Pledge of Allegiance. B. Dodson said Jack is conscientious and athletic and Olivia is an avid reader and an enthusiastic student.

Olivia said she is excited to go to school every day and while she likes all different subjects, reading is her favorite. Her hobbies include swimming and playing lacrosse. Jack said he likes football, basketball and baseball and is taking saxophone lessons. Writing is his favorite subject.

III. Announcements

J. Frey announced the boys varsity soccer team won the semi-final and will be playing for the state championship on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at Worcester State College.

J. Sjoberg announced the Groton-Dunstable Drama Guild is presenting *A Night of Greeks* on Friday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 18th at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theater. 3Rivers Arts Youth Theater is presenting *The Pied Piper* on Saturday, November 17th at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 18th at 3:00 p.m. at Lawrence Academy.

IV. Approval of Minutes

J. FREY MOVED TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2012.

SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

In Favor: J. Frey, L. Lathrop, A. Manugian, J. Giger

Abstention: J. Sjoberg

J. FREY MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2012. SECONDED BY J. SJOBERG

In Favor: J. Frey, A. Manugian, J. Giger

Abstention: L. Lathrop, J. Sjoberg

V. Vote to Accept Warrant Articles

J. FREY MOVED THEY APPROVE THE WARRANTS AS PRESENTED, WITH ONE PAYROLL WARRANT TOTALING \$845,526.49 AND VARIOUS VENDOR WARRANTS TOTALING \$1,139,821.93.

SECONDED BY L. LATHROP

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Questions and Comments from the Public

None

VII. Presentations

Field Trips - Girls & Boys Basketball and Ice Hockey

Girls and Boys Basketball

Varsity basketball coach Mark Hennelly reviewed the varsity girls basketball trip to Hyannis on November 30th through December 2nd for pre-season scrimmages and team bonding. Approximately 16 girls are expected to attend and the cost is \$150 per student. He noted that about three-quarters of the basketball camp money he raises goes towards supporting this trip and other fundraising money will be used.

Coach Hennelly briefly discussed the boys varsity basketball team trip to Harwich during the same time period. The cost per student is \$150 and twenty boys are expected to participate.

J. FREY MOVED THEY APPROVE THE BOYS AND GIRLS BASKETBALL TRIPS TO CAPE COD.

SECONDED BY L. LATHROP

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Boys Ice Hockey

Coach Payne highlighted the pre-season ice hockey game to the Cape. The cost per student is \$250 and includes lodging, transportation, meals and entertainment. Three games are planned. This is the third year he has been running the trip and they will be staying at the Cove Resort in Yarmouth. He noted many coaches and parents attend.

J. FREY MOVED THEY APPROVE THE PRE-SEASON ICE HOCKEY TRIP TO CAPE COD.

SECONDED BY L. LATHROP

SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Standard Based Report Cards - K. Clery, Liz Garden, Laurie Mills (4th grade teacher - Florence Roche), Barbara Dodson (4th grade teacher - Swallow Union) (Information)

K. Clery said the new initiatives are delivered in silo's but are very connected.

L. Garden said the report card committee, consisting of teachers, specialists and administrators, spent last year researching and discussing standards based grading and standards based report cards. With input from both schools, the committee created a new report card template that seems to work. Elementary schools have switched to a trimester schedule this year and the first report cards will go home December 7th.

Components of a standards based system include the content standards as outlined by the Common Core State Standards. These standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at an identified point in time. The reporting tool allows a teacher to accurately communicate a student's progress towards meeting standards at critical points throughout the school year.

L. Garden said traditional grading (A, B, C) categories are too broad to give a clear and accurate picture of students' skills, progress and capability levels. It is also more subjective, based on assignments given by the individual teacher rather than progress towards the identified standard. The new report card aligns with the Massachusetts Common Core Standards, provides parents with a better understanding of their child's strengths and weaknesses and gives more specific information about what students should know and be able to do in all academic areas. It was noted that each grade level had used a different report card.

The performance levels were highlighted: M = Meets the Standard, P = Progressing toward the standard, I = Making insufficient progress towards the standard and N/E = Not evaluated this term. Benchmarks have been created for each trimester. She stated a student is not scored on his/her effort or behavior; these are scored separately. Sample grade level reports cards were reviewed. Achievement is separated from work habits on the standards based report card and the Social Skills and Student as a Learner part of the report card were reviewed.

Switching to trimesters allows primary students to make developmental jumps and to grow physically, socially and academically. It also allows teachers to tailor instruction appropriately based on demonstrated abilities, gives more flexibility in pacing the curriculum and promotes more detailed and meaningful conversations at parent/teacher conferences. L. Garden noted it is not a case of "more is better" in terms of how many report cards a child receives but is about how much specific, rich, quality information is received on a report card.

L. Mills said social skills are very important and she is glad they are separated from the academic skills. Last week's parent/teacher conferences were about the student's learning skills and not about the grades. She said the collaboration between the two elementary schools has been great.

B. Dodson said it was exciting to work on this and this report card will be more specific than previous ones for students to know where they stand.

L. Garden said parent education is key and information available on the website was reviewed. They will do a survey of parents after the second trimester and another survey of the parents and teachers at the end of the year. J. Sjoberg asked if this will be more work for the teachers. L. Mills thinks there will be no less work but it will be less cumbersome.

J. Frey said he is impressed with the collaborative effort that went into this. He said Principal Silverman has talked about using this report card in the middle school and asked if he had input. L. Garden said they included the 5th and 6th grades in the initial process and they have started some work there. She said it will be more of a change and will be a goal to work on next year. He said they may be in a position to share their work with other districts and L. Garden said they hope they can benefit others as collaboration is great.

L. Lathrop asked if the teachers have the technology to input the data and L. Garden said they have done some training.

A. Manugian noted parents review papers that are sent home and have an idea of how their child is doing. She asked if parents will see changes and L. Garden said yes.

VIII. Reports

A. Subcommittees

Curriculum & Instruction - No report. Members received a copy of the October 17, 2012 minutes.

Policy Subcommittee - L. Lathrop reported they met yesterday and they do not have a set meeting schedule since they are transitioning to MASC to do the policy book. She reported they would like to rescind the exhibits in Policy IE that are Areas of Essential Learning.

Budget & Finance Subcommittee - J. Frey reported they will be meeting at Prescott on Thursday, November 29th at 8:00 a.m.

Personnel and Negotiations - J. Sjoberg reported they will be meeting on November 20th. They have discussed re-thinking the employment policy and J. Mitchell is working on employment regulations.

B. Superintendent

Dr. Bent read a notice from Principal Mastrullo about the boys varsity soccer team. They captured the Mid-Wach League championship and earned a 6th seed in the state tournament. They will play in the state championship game at Worcester State College on Saturday, November 17th. The team is the defending state champ after defeating Concord-Carlisle last year.

Dr. Bent reported Groton-Dunstable has been recognized as one of 46 Massachusetts districts that has increased their number of students taking AP courses and improved or maintained scores.

1. Superintendent Search Committee (Action)

J. Frey reported they will be drawing names tonight for people to serve on the Search Screening Committee. There will be an open focus group session at the PAC on November 19th at 7:30 p.m. Several focus groups are being run and the school committee will have theirs on December 1st. He distributed a copy of the final version of the brochure.

He reviewed the names of the current members and the following names were drawn:

Parents: Barbara Lamont and Mary Beth Pallis

Alternate Parent: Jeff Sun

Citizen at Large: Dave Sciuto

Alternate Citizen at Large: Greg Baker

There are still openings for an additional teacher, a member of the support staff, a member of the student advisory council and a senior citizen. Anyone interested in being part of the committee may contact J. Frey or J. Mitchell. If transportation is keeping a senior citizen from applying, L. Lathrop said they can get that person a ride.

J. Giger said "senior citizen" is not defined and asked what the standards would be. J. Frey said the perception is someone that is retired with no children in the district. The Screening Committee's first work session is December 8th and they would like the committee finalized by November 27th.

J. FREY MOVED THEY APPROVE AND APPOINT THE SUPERINTENDENT SCREENING COMMITTEE AS IT EXISTS WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: KERRY CLERY, LIZ GARDEN, CLAIRE O'NEILL, DANNY DEVLIN, JOSHUA DEGEN, BARBARA LAMONT, MARY BETH PALLIS, BETSY BLAIR, JEFF SCHWEFLER, JIM GLATIOTIS AND DAVE SCIUTO WITH ALTERNATES GREG BAKER AND JEFF SUN. SECONDED BY L. LATHROP
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

J. Giger suggested they contact Ms Campbell at the Groton Senior Center and reach out to the Dunstable Senior Center.

C. Director of Business and Finance

1. Payroll System - J. Martin reported they are on schedule for the parallel payrolls in December.

2. Middle School Roof - They have received final approval from SBA for the middle school roof project. The SBA reimbursement is 45.74%.

D. Advisory Committees - No report

E. Chair

1. Subcommittee reorganization - A. Manugian reported B. Erickson will be joining Budget and Finance and L. Lathrop will be the GDAY liaison.

2. MASC Conference - She, L. Lathrop, K. Clery and Dr. Bent attended the MASC Conference in Hyannis and she noted there was a lot of talk about the importance of civics. One of the sessions she attended was on the importance of school committee evaluation. She also learned about the governance support project.

L. Lathrop said she has information on the new superintendent evaluation they will need to do.

Dr. Bent said it would be good for the new superintendent to participate in the superintendent induction program and for school committee members to participate in the governance support project. He did a couple of presentations at the conference and one was on Finland.

K. Clery said this was her first time attending the conference and noted the audience in each session was mixed. She hopes they can continue to work together and appreciates the support she receives.

IX. Discussions

L. Lathrop said they would like to rescind the exhibits in Policy IE that relate to the Areas of Essential Learning.

L. LATHROP MOVED THEY RESCIND THE EXHIBITS IN POLICY IE AS THEY RELATE TO AREAS OF ESSENTIAL LEARNING. SECONDED BY J. FREY

J. Sjoberg said there is enough in other policies for the school committee to participate in the curriculum. Dr. Bent said he expects to have Ms Clery give many different presentations relating to curriculum.

Since there was no indication on the agenda that this would be discussed tonight, J. Giger said they should treat this as a first reading since two members are not present this evening. Members agreed this would be a first reading and the motion was withdrawn.

L. Lathrop asked if there is any information about where the money goes that is paid to MIAA for tournaments. Dr. Bent said he will get an answer. J. Martin said he looked at their website but there is no information on how they run their business.

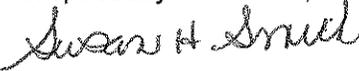
X. New Business

None

XI. Adjournment

J. FREY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:33 P.M. SECONDED BY L. LATHROP
SO VOTED IN FAVOR UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,



Susan H. Smith
Recording Secretary

With attachment