

**Uxbridge School Committee Meeting  
March 19, 2024  
Uxbridge High School Library and Remote Participation**

**School Committee Members in Attendance:**

	Present	Absent
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair	X	
Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair	X	
Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk (remote)	X	
Mr. Ben Casper (remote)	X	
Mr. David Shinnick	X	
Mr. Aaron Lenart	X	
Mr. Michael Dion	X	

**• Call to order**

Mr. Desruisseaux called the meeting to order.

**• Public Comment**

Tina Ryan: Thanked the people who were attending the meeting. She told the Committee she came to the meeting hoping to collaborate with them in regards to the proposed elimination of Whitin sports. She read two letters from 7th-grade students, Mackenzie Matthews and Abby Desruisseaux, that highlighted what sports meant to them.

Paige Foley: She is an 8th grade cross country runner. She spoke about the importance of running in her life and how that evolved because of middle school sports.

Katie Foley: She said she appreciated that the elimination of sports was a difficult decision and thanked the school committee for the opportunity to talk and potentially come to a solution.

Ella Ryan: Whitin student. Spoke about the benefits of sports and the positive impact they have had on her.

Jack Ryan: Whitin student. Shared that he was sad to hear there would not be Whitin sports and spoke on the impact of sports in his life.

Michael Caffrey: Whitin student. He spoke on how sports have positively impacted his life and discussed the value he sees for others when sports are offered.

Cameron Mills: Whitin student. He said that he was devastated that he would not be able to represent Uxbridge for football and hoped the decision could be reconsidered.

Tessa Caffrey: She said she was disheartened and alarmed that sports at Whitin are cut for FY25. She highlighted the value of sports for students' physical and mental growth. She asked the Committee to reconsider and come up with a mutually beneficial solution that preserves middle school sports.

Tracy Desruisseaux: She said she had 20 years of professional experience in substance abuse and mental health and listed several positive impacts associated with sports participation.

### • **Playground Design Selection**

Dr. Baldassarre, Ms. Toth, and Mr. LaBossiere discussed the process that has led to their playground configuration recommendation. The chosen vendor, Ultiplay, presented three potential options. Parents and staff had an opportunity to look over the options and provide feedback. Mr. LaBossiere also worked with his leadership council (made up of 3rd-grade student-leaders) to get their feedback. The feedback was brought to the playground committee which ultimately selected the second option as their preferred model.

Dr. Baldassarre said the total estimated cost is around the amount allocated at the spring town meeting (\$220K). He hopes to have the playground installed in the two weeks after the end of the regular school year and the beginning of the extended school year programming. Installation time is estimated at one week.

Mr. Casper inquired as to whether there would be any annual maintenance costs and whether the budget includes them. Dr. Baldassarre said the maintenance should be similar to what is currently needed and be handled by the onsite facilities employees. Ms. Toth said that after FY25, the maintenance costs will be put into the pupil services budget.

Ms. Liscinsky asked if there was a warranty with the new project. Dr. Baldassarre said it was his understanding there was some sort of warranty and he would find out what it covers.

Mr. Shinnick asked that the district keep in mind the lifespans of the new equipment and surfacing when developing the district's multi-year capital plan.

**Motion:** *Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to approve the option 2 plan for the Taft playground. Mr. Dion moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Ed: YES; Ben: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

## ● FY24 Budget to Date

Dr. Baldassarre shared three documents with the Committee that outlined the current internal controls/procedures for the management of grants.

Ms. Sheridan gave an update on the district's FY24 budget. As of 2/28/24, the adjusted available balance (if using all the appropriated budget offsets) is \$29,958. She is concerned because there are areas of the budget that have not been fully encumbered.

At the moment, the district is only approving essential expenditures until the end of the fiscal year.

The state has approved a district amendment to the ESSER 3 grant that will give the district ESSER funding that has been earmarked for other areas to help cover some FY24 overages in substitutes and special education transportation.

**Motion:** *Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to take Uxbridge High School's focus and recognition out of order. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Dion seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Ed: YES; Ben: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.*

## ● UHS Focus and Recognitions

### o UHS Academics Update

### o BVT Acceptance Data

### o Student/Student Group Recognition

Dr. Rubin gave a slide presentation on the topic. The presentation included slides on the following:

- a. Steps being taken in teaching and learning
- b. Top 10 durable skills
- c. Places outside of Uxbridge where UHS had been recognized or had a presence
- d. Number of BVT applicants from Uxbridge, including number accepted and enrolled, from FY16-25
- e. Administrative focus areas
- f. Extracurricular pursuits and successes
- g. How UHS leadership supports other schools and districts
- h. Future planning in 2024 for UHS educators and students
- i. Current challenges

Student interns Matt DiLibero, Madison Fairweather, Aidan Blood, and Ellie Lewis shared their experiences as interns at UHS.

Dean of Students, Mr. Moura, spoke about the internship model at UHS.

### ● Superintendent Update

Dr. Baldassarre shared the following:

- a. Mentioned that there are only three school committee meeting dates to complete his annual evaluation before the next town election. Asked whether the Committee would still want to meet over the April vacation. Said that he will be updating the superintendent evaluation drive with additional evidence for the Committee. Offered to meet with any Committee member who might want additional information from him if they would prefer that over emailing.
- b. The budget narrative for the town meeting is in draft form.
- c. The mental health summit is April 3.
- d. The district has been preparing for ESY and 21st-century summer programming. The district is preparing a second application for the 21st-century grant to hopefully offer that programming at Whitin over the next 3 years.

The Committee said they will meet during April vacation on April 16.

### ● 2024 - 2025 School Calendar: Revised and Voted

Dr. Baldassarre said the calendar needed to add a vacation day to the December break. They also changed the October and November ½ day to October 3 and November 1.

Motion: Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to approve the new revised 24-35 school calendar. Mr. Dion moved the motion. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Ed: YES; Ben: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.**

### ● Minutes

Motion: Mr. Maharay made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes (February 15, February 27, and March 5). Mr. Casper seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Ed: YES; Ben: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.**

● **Adjournment**

Motion: Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Shinnick seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Dave: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Mike: YES; Ed: YES; Ben: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,


Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

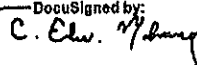
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Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

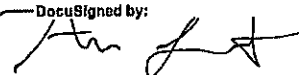
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Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

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Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

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Mr. Ben Casper, Member

Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member

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*Michael Dion*

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Mr. Michael Dion, Member