

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 6, 2018
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

Received by
 Uxbridge
 Town Clerk

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Matt Keane, Chair	X	
John Morawski, Vice Chair	X	
Stephanie Fernandez, Secretary	X	
D. Brett Pomeroy, Member	X	
Jen Modica, Member		X
Debbie Stark, Member	X	
Heidi Happy, Member	X	

1. Call to Order: 7:10 Matt Keane Called the meeting to order.

2. Student Updates - none

3. Public Comment- none

4. School Liaisons- Discussion of intent: understand activities and information about the schools.

WES- Heidi Happy, Liaison- good vibes- discussion on transition for 4-7

Heidi requested all principals include school committee on emails.

Taft Council is this week 2/8- Stephanie Fernandez

5. UHS Program of Studies - Vote to Approve (A)

Mr. Rubin explained the courses of studies.

-Stress management course is new.

-Over the next couple of years looking to branch out to partner with medical facilities, the zoo and public to increase opportunities for students in the pathways direction.

Heidi Happy made a motion to accept curriculum of Uxbridge high school unit of studies for FY2019. John Morawski seconded the motion.

6-0

6. FY 2019 Budget

\$21,995,103 was proposed through the sub - budget committee:

Minutes 2/6/18

-maintenance, grade 2 teacher, RS, two K Paras, Grade 4, Spanish Teacher, Tech and Eng. Teacher, HS Guidance Teacher, Peers Program teacher and .4 Guidance teacher for the Peers Program.

S.C. Deliberation on positions.

Moved to discussion on Bus fees and sports fees.

Deb Stark is proposing we take the \$100,000 from the savings from transportation. Heidi Happy made a motion to move \$21, 895, 103.00 to the town for budget approval . Brett Pomeroy made a second motion.

6-0

Vote to approve FY 19 Budget (A)

7. School Committee New Policy: Recycling Policy- 2nd Reading (A)

Brett Pomeroy made a motion to approve the recycling policy in 2nd reading.

John Morawski seconded the policy.

6-0

8. School Committee New Policy: Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy (A)

Chair of the BOS has asked us to approve the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy for School Department.

Brett Pomeroy made a motion to approve the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy in its first reading.

Debbie Stark seconded the motion.

6-0

Kevin Carney made a motion to create a file number for Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy and figure out where it will lie in the Policy Manual.

9. Exxon Mobile Grant Award (A) Looking for Marla Sirois to speak about this grant and the usage of the money.

Ask Mrs. Sirois to present at the next meeting- 3/ 6

10. Superintendent Update-

Kevin's report will be attached to the minutes**

Filing an amendment for an appeal for the grant money may prolong the recapture of \$400,000.

Name change from Whitin Elementary School to Whitin Intermediate School.

Principal Leanne Demarco will be WIS principal and Greg Irvine will be the assistant principal of WIS.

Lori Fafard will be retiring.

Congrats to Madison Quinn, 6th grader, won the award for Debra Wheelock Chapter for an Essay Contest. State winner and sent to National Competition.

School Cancelled School for tomorrow.

Discussion upon the McCloskey Building and repurposing the building- Debbie made a request to understand what time that takes from a board's perspective, administrator's perspective, etc. What are the costs associated with this project?

11. Superintendent Search-

Thursday, February 9 at 6pm

- Teachers on the screening committee: Pam Yukna representative from Whitin, Hurley Silbor for the HS and Nancy Doyle representing from Taft
- Principal representation is LeAnne Demarco

12. Discussion of Screening Committee Charge (A)

Number of applicants for interviewing of final applicants - 4

First meeting of the month we will need to create questions for the finalists for Supt.

Stephanie Fernandez made a motion to charge the screening committee with bringing forth 4 candidates to the school committee as finalists.

Heidi Happy seconded the motion.

5-1

13. Old/New Business

Filing an amendment for an appeal for the grant money may prolong the recapture of \$400,000.

-explanation of plan (legal, consulting fees to repurpose of the building).

-Name change for WES

Second reading for the efficient vehicle.

Cancel 2/27 of the month and next meeting will be March 6th.

14. Regular Meeting Minutes (A)

1/16/2018

Debbie Stark made a motion to approve the minutes. John Morawski seconded the motion.

5-0-1

15. Next School Committee Meeting -March 6th

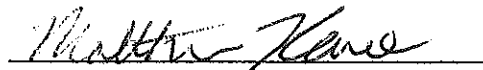
17. Adjourn- 8:54 John Morawski made a motion to adjourn with no new business to follow.

Heidi Happy seconded the motion.

Debbie Stark- yes, Jen Modica- absent, Brett Pomeroy-yes, John Morawski- yes, Heidi Happy-yes, Stephanie Fernandez - yes and Matt Keanne- yes.

18. Executive Session
Unit Contract Negotiations
Non Union Contracts
Approve Executive Session Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Fernandez
School Committee Members:



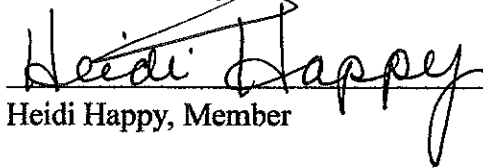
Matt Keane, Chair



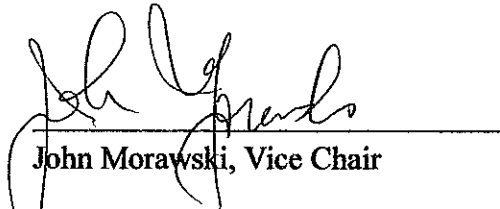
Stephanie Fernandez, Secretary



D. Brett Pomeroy, Member

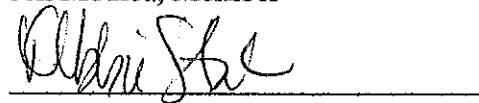


Heidi Happy, Member



John Morawski, Vice Chair

Jen Modica, Member



Debbie Stark, Member

Superintendent's Update - 2.6.18

As we prepare for the temporary closure of the McCloskey building in June, we have made progress in addressing common program and pathway needs for our students across the Blackstone Valley. All districts have acknowledged the fact that the Valley has lacked a sustainable presence of higher education institutions and we have yet to address educational programming in the agricultural sciences. With manufacturing and engineering programs strengthening among our districts and with the development of biomedical sciences underway, we recognize the opportunities that are ahead of us.

The closure and potential repurpose of McCloskey positions us to file an amendment with the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) to appeal their decision to recapture the remaining \$400,000 that was granted to Uxbridge for the 1996 MSBA school building project. We will state in this amendment that it is the intent of the Uxbridge School Committee to keep the McCloskey School as an educational facility and, through the collaboration of multiple districts, we are long-term planning to transform the closed middle school into a Higher Education and potential executive learning Center for several communities in the Blackstone Valley.

If our appeal is granted by the MSBA and the recapture of funds is suspended due to our collaborative initiative, we earn time to build community outreach regarding this project, expand partnerships, and construct an articulation that will satisfy community interests, college interests, and ultimately critical workforce demands.

If our appeal is not granted, representatives from the School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee will be meeting with the Town Manager to devise a plan for how the remaining debt of the building will be addressed in the least impactful way to taxpayers.

Given the School Committee's vote to close the McCloskey Middle School on November 21, 2017 and Committee's voted support to pursue grant funding for vocational program opportunities on December 19, 2017, I believe that it is the School Committee's best interest to file an appeal with the MSBA and communicate the intent to continue the use of the campus for educational purposes. We have nothing to lose with this request.

If the School Committee does not wish to file an appeal, it is guaranteed that the Town will assume the remaining debt.

In other matters related to the building closure, at a future meeting we will ask the Whitin Elementary School to be renamed the Whitin Intermediate School for the 2018-2019 school year. The title including the term *intermediate* is a common term for schools containing grade levels of 4 – 7. Due to the time requirements of reporting school name changes to the Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education, we will ask the School Committee to vote on this name change (even if it is temporary) to allow management to not only notify DESE, but to sync the changes in our student information system. It is a timely process.

As the Whitin School changes names, it will also change principals. It is bittersweet that I announce the retirement of Principal Lori Fafard who has served as the Whitin Elementary School in this role since 2011. Prior to her service as Principal, Miss Fafard was the Taft and ELC Assistant Principal from 2005 – 2011. At a later date this year, we will honor her impact on the thousands of Uxbridge students and families she served, the hundreds of educators she led, and the greater community she represented so well.

Principal Leanne Demarco, currently serving as principal for Grades 6 and 7 will add Grades 4 and 5 to her responsibilities. Mrs. DeMarco and Assistant Principal Greg Irvine will increase visibility at the Whitin School over the remaining months of school and plans are underway for School Council Meetings as well as student and parent orientations. More information will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Sirois will soon be communicating to incoming families in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3 School Council Meeting dates that will focus on the transition as well as a Family Orientation Night.

At Uxbridge High School, orientation evenings are scheduled for February 8 for grade 8 and March 1 for grade 7, and communication has already been delivered to families.

Student News

Madison Quinn, 6th grader at McCloskey Middle School was chosen as the state winner for the Deborah Wheelock Chapter, Daughters for the American Revolution Essay Contest.

This year's topic was "World War I: Remembering the War to End All Wars". "The end of World War I was the beginning of a new age. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War. Imagine you are living in 1918. State where you are living and how the end the war will impact your daily life. Discuss the pros and cons for the changes this War introduced to society and how you imagine those changes will impact the United States in the years to come."

Madison wrote from the perspective of "Hebert Bridges" a resident of Uxbridge and Madison's great, great grandfather. Mr. Bridges was the father of Alice Bridges an Olympian who has a bridge named after her.

Madison's essay was chosen as the state winner for grade 6. Her essay will be forwarded to the national division for the division competition.

She will be honored at the Massachusetts Daughters of the American Revolution Annual Conference on March 10th.

Congratulations to Madison Quinn!