

**Uxbridge School Committee Meeting
December 19, 2023
Uxbridge High School Library**

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair	X	
Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair	X	
Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk	X	
Mr. Ben Casper	X	
Mr. David Shinnick	X	
Mr. Aaron Lenart		X
Mr. Michael Dion (arrived @ 6:01PM)	X	

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2024 JAN 11 AM 9:45

● **Call to order (6:00)**

Mr. Desruisseaux called the meeting to order at @6:00PM.

● **Public Comment (6:01-6:03)**

Leanne DeMarco acknowledged the support Whitin Intermediate received from the Uxbridge Police Department, faculty, staff, and families regarding storm-related issues that arose with the previous day's school dismissal.

Motion: Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to move some agenda items out of order and to move Jen's item ahead of Jessica's. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

● **Jennifer Toth, Director of Pupil Service - Update (6:04-6:37)**

Ms. Toth gave a slide presentation on her 90-day entry observations. She elaborated on, and the Committee discussed, various topics including:

1. Activities she has participated in over her first 90 days
2. Her following three areas of focus and the strengths and opportunities within each one:
 - a. Instructional programs
 - b. IEPs, compliance, and student supports
 - c. Family and community connections
3. What the district believes it needs to continue to meet the needs of its students

Ms. Toth shared that the district currently has 145 students on active IEPs, 47 referrals in PreK-12, and 31 students in out-of-district placements.

• Director of Technology - PowerSchool (6:37-7:40)

Ms. Brittingham and Ms. Toth led a presentation and discussion with the Committee regarding the district's planned student information system upgrade (PowerSchool). The plan is to roll out the platform for school year 2024-25.

Budget: They explained that as a district migrates between platforms it is often necessary to maintain the old and new platform for a period of time. Ms. Brittingham has worked with PowerSchool and the company is willing to waive their fee for this year and accept a down payment of \$16,972 from FY24. That amount can be covered by an existing special education grant. The cost for FY25 would be \$84,733. This includes one-time costs such as implementation charges and training. The current platforms that would be eliminated with the adoption of PowerSchool would normally be budgeted in FY25 for \$49K so the FY25 budget would need an additional \$35,733 to use PowerSchool. After the first year, PowerSchool will have an annual subscription charge of \$42K which would result in savings from the projected costs of the currently-run programs.

The presentation slideshow included the following:

- a. Product overview
- b. Feedback from other PowerSchool users
- c. Challenges associated with the existing platforms and how PowerSchool addresses those issues

Dr. Baldassarre said he still plans to request funding for PowerSchool from capital to support the unforeseen circumstances that should be expected with a new implementation. He believes the amount he will request will be lower than the amount he had previously shared with the Committee.

Mr. Shinnick expressed concern about how the district would manage a situation where it is not ready to fully implement PowerSchool in the new school year and needs the existing platforms in some capacity for FY25. The administration said that type of situation could be addressed within the funding requested for unforeseen circumstances,

The committee said they supported adding additional funding to the FY25 budget request that could assist district staff with the workload that will come when migrating data between the old and new platforms.

• Community Playground – Bid Recommendation and Next Steps (7:40-7:45)

The district received three quotes from vendors for the playground. All vendors are on the state contract list and all quotes came in under \$250K so the current appropriated funding should cover the project. The core team for the playground will evaluate the bids and recommend a selection for the Committee to approve.

Mr. Dion said he believes it could be beneficial to include SEPAC in the quote selection process. Dr. Baldassarre said he would look for a way to include SEPAC in the bid.

● **Taft Early Learning Center Update (7:45-8:19)**

Principal Mark LaBossiere gave a presentation update on Taft ELC. His presentation included slides and discussion which included the following:

1. Enrollment/class sizes
2. Student subgroups with comparisons between 2018-19 and today
3. Taft PreK and its process and classroom makeup
4. Current curriculums
5. Different data points that are used
6. Areas of strength
7. Areas of growth
8. Community partners
9. How the school committee can support Taft

● **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Preparations (included within the above agenda item)**

Dr. Baldassarre gave a brief rundown on Taft staffing areas that will be addressed with the FY25 budget request.

● **Grant Acceptances (8:19-8:24)**

○ **FY25 Entitlement Grants**

Motion: Dr. Baldassarre asked the Committee to accept fund code 274 in the amount of \$16,972. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: Dr. Baldassarre asked the Committee to accept fund code 305 in the amount of \$297,093. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: Dr. Baldassarre asked the Committee to accept fund code 140 in the amount of \$39,278. Mr. Dion made a motion to accept. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: Dr. Baldassarre asked the Committee to accept fund code 309 in the amount of \$25,299. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Mr. Casper seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

Motion: Dr. Baldassarre asked the Committee to accept fund code 598 in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Mr. Dion seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

● Superintendent's Update (8:24-8:47)

- a. A new food service director has been hired.
- b. The district now has three licensed TCIS trainers. The district is going to unveil a 12-hour course that will include 3 days of 4-hour training that will be intended for all employees of the Uxbridge Public School district.
- c. Calming rooms at Taft are complete.
- d. All the required information needed for licensure of the 21st-century program at Taft has been submitted. They will be visited by BEC on January 17th, 2024 for final approval of the program.
- e. The referral form for the behavioral health and social-emotional learning model has been released to principals.
- f. Hardware for Raptor has arrived and is being installed. The administration will be getting together to develop protocols for situations prior to it being implemented in the schools.
- g. The district is looking at different emergency notification setups.
- h. The district is looking to form a relationship with the Merrimack Teaching Fellows to help provide paraprofessional supplemental support for students. Because these students would be supplanting a union position, it will need union approval. The administration will be meeting with union leadership about this possibility.
- i. Unit C negotiations have begun.
- j. He has sent a couple of policies to the district's counsel for review. He has not had time to review the information he has received back but will make proposed adjustments based on counsel's recommendation.
- k. An electric vehicle has been found at McCloskey. It had been declared as surplus by the town and it is currently at Uxbridge High School for potential future use.
- l. He discussed the impact of the previous day's storm and thanked the community for their assistance in getting through the challenges.
- m. Multiple models for consideration for next year's school calendar have been developed.
- n. ESSER funding will expire on August 31st, 2024. The schools and town have allocated \$250,000 for HVAC at Taft. Two options are currently being explored on how to best use this funding. Mr. Shaw has said that the money will be spent before the close of fiscal year 24.
- o. He is actively updating his superintendent evidence files.

● Minutes (8:47)

Motion: *Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to approve the minutes of November 7. Mr. Dion moved the motion. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.*

Motion: *Mr. Dion made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-1 in favor of the motion. Mr. Desruisseaux abstained. The motion passed.*

● **Adjournment (8:48)**

Motion: Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Mr. Dion seconded the motion. The Committee voted 6-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

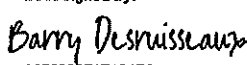
The meeting adjourned at @8:48PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

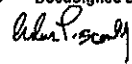
Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

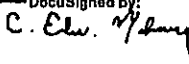
School Committee Members:

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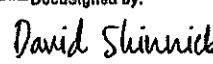
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

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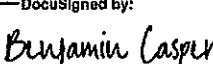
Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

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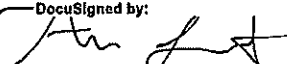
Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

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Mr. David Shinnick, Member

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Mr. Ben Casper, Member

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Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member

Mr. Michael Dion, Member

