

**Uxbridge School Committee Meeting
January 2, 2024
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	X	

• Call to order (6:00-6:02)

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Baldassarre spoke in memory of UHS student Camden “C.J.” Gibbons, who recently passed away, and requested a moment of silence.

• Public Comment (6:02-6:11)

Patrick Stephan shared that he was attending the meeting because he saw that the evaluation of the superintendent was part of its agenda. After reviewing the Dept. of Education’s guidelines for superintendent evaluation, he said the area that stood out to him the most was the area concerning professional culture. He asked the Committee to consider all the things that have happened this year, particularly how they relate to professional culture and how the residents of the community think about what happens in their schools, when they conduct the superintendent evaluation.

Cassandra Greeno told the Committee that the decisions they make can have a longer impact on the Uxbridge schools and residents than the length of their school committee terms. She said change is needed within the schools and said she appreciated that making the change could be tough for the Committee, but she requested that they move forward in a new direction for the greater good.

Steve Mandile gave his condolences to the Gibbons family. He listed school activities he has been able to participate in since the courts dropped the No Trespass Order against him. He highlighted the participation of the 2nd-grade students in the recent Wreaths Across America

event in Uxbridge. He said he was upset that a local news article about the participation did not acknowledge the two women, Janice Neitz and Amanda Gallerani, who had helped educate and coordinate the 2nd-grade students and he wanted to make sure they were recognized.

● **Budget FY24-25 (6:11-6:40)**

Finance Director Sheridan updated the Committee on how the FY25 budget will be presented, as well as how she is doing with the current FY24 budget.

She shared two handouts with the Committee. The first was the budget request worksheet that is given to principals and administrative department heads. She said she is currently trying to ensure the district's budgets align with end-of-year Department of Education expectations. The second handout was a list of the district's chart of accounts that displays the function codes and the descriptions of what those accounts are used for. She intends to work with staff to train them to better understand their budget and budgeting process to strengthen accuracy and timeliness in account reporting. This will include training on account structures and account coding.

Ms. Sheridan is trying to ensure accurate placement of expenses into their proper accounts. She said that she has uncovered budgeted items within the FY24 budget that she will need to reclassify into their appropriate accounts. New accounts may have to be added for certain reclassifications.

Dr. Baldassarre said that because the budget format is being realigned, when the Committee and the public see comparisons between FY24 and FY25, there will be jumps and drops in some reported lines. He said the new format will align with how an EOY report is reported to the state and will ultimately produce better data that the district will use to measure results.

Ms. Sheridan said there is the potential she might need more time to produce a FY25 budget that she is confident in, so the original proposed budget timeline might be pushed out.

● **Superintendent review (6:40-7:12)**

Ms. Liscinsky gave a synopsis of the evaluation review and form that the Committee used, and then read the prepared summative evaluation of Dr. Baldassarre. She stated that she had met with Dr. Baldassarre earlier that day to review the composite evaluation and narrative.

The summative narrative included:

- a. Individual member ratings of Dr. Baldassarre's progress toward his annual goals
- b. Individual member ratings of each of the 4 evaluation standards for Dr. Baldassarre
- c. Individual member overall ratings of Dr. Baldassarre's performance

- d. A compilation of various comments related to Dr. Baldassarre's performance written by individual members in their evaluation submissions
- e. Full Committee overall rating of Dr. Baldassarre

Dr. Baldassarre received an overall rating of **Proficient** based on 5 individual overall ratings of Proficient and 2 overall ratings of Needs Improvement.

Motion: *Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to approve the summary of the superintendent's review. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

Dr. Baldassarre thanked Ms. Liscinsky and the Committee for their comprehensive review and for articulating his areas of strength and areas of growth and said that he intends to use their feedback as he moves forward.

● Minutes (7:13)

Motion: *Mr. Maharay made a motion that they approve the minutes of December 19th. Mr. Dion seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

● Executive Session (7:14)

o "Executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent Michael Baldassarre)."

Motion: *Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. This would be Superintendent Michael Baldassarre. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Desruisseaux added "with no new business to follow" to the motion. Mr. Casper seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Maharay: YES; Mike: YES; Arlene: YES; Aaron: YES; Ben: YES; Dave: YES; Barry: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

● Adjournment (7:14)

The meeting adjourned into executive session with no new business to follow at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

School Committee Members:

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Barry Desruisseaux
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Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

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Arlene Liscinsky
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Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

DocuSigned by:
C. Edw. Maharay
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Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

Mr. David Shinnick, Member

DocuSigned by:
Aaron Lenart
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Mr. Ben Casper, Member

Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member

Mr. Michael Dion, Member