

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting

January 6, 2021

6:30pm

(Meeting via Zoom platform)

RECD WEB TEAM CLERK
2022 MAR 1 4:01 PM

Attendees:	Present	Not Present
Matt Keane, Chair	X	
Paul Paulino, Secretary	X	
Kim Cirrone, Member	X	
Brett Pomeroy, Member	X	
Holly Black, Member	X	
Debbie Stark, Member	X	

- 1. Call to Order 6:31pm by Matt Keane**
- 2. Public Comment:**

A survey has been sent to parents, faculty, and students at Uxbridge High School, as part of the Superintendent search process. It is also available on the district website.

Matt Keane read the attached emails, and entertained public comment, regarding the potential closure of the Kids Club at the Taft and Whittin Schools.

Peter DeMers requested an update from Committee regarding HVAC issues at the high school.

Boosters will be sending an email regarding their fundraising effort for a future lighting project.

- 3. FY21 Budget**

Kid's Club Program Update

Dr. Tiano and School Committee discussed options for reducing amount of deficit, including raising tuition and reducing costs such as overhead.

First graders will be back in the building full-time on January 19th.

Day Care Director Betty Brodeur shared information about operating expenses and costs to run the program.

Motion to raise tuition on the daycare program 25% starting February 6, 2021 by Paul Paulino, seconded by Brett Pomeroy. Vote: 4-2. Approved.

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4. Superintendent Update

First time for professional development immediately following winter break, getting staff back into building before students; initial feedback was positive.

Kindergarten registration information going out end of February; there will be an evening registration session.

Pre-K lottery will be on March 3rd.

Dr. Tiano introduced Erin Hightower, new Board of Health Director for Uxbridge. She has been working with district nursing staff re: contract tracing.

Uxbridge will be adopting CDC and DESE guidelines regarding quarantine protocols; updated information is on the BOH website and Facebook page.

Nurse Becky Padula shared an update on the Binex Now Antigen testing process; program will begin next week. School members will be tested if they show symptoms. In the case of a student, parents will be notified and give permission for student to be tested. If test is positive student is discharged and quarantine begins.

Staff and student positive rates will determine if school needs to go full remote.

A survey was sent to staff to gather information to prepare for vaccine rollout.

5. FY22 Budget

Dr. Tiano shared the FY22 Budget presentation, including process and timeline.

There are known variables, such as 3 new positions:

Interventionist/Dean

Elective teacher: Computer Science/Tech/Business

Special Education Administrative Assistant,

plus unknown variables.

School Committee discussed International Fund; do not want salaries taken from this fund.

Brian Hyde, Business Manager, answered questions and clarified information about the International Fund, and School Choice numbers.

Committee requested cost details to have a late bus at each school.

6. Committee Reorganization

No response to position designations.

7. Old/New Business

New Business:

Discussion regarding DESE representative presenting assessment findings to Committee.

Request for information about conclusions after first grading period

Meeting and collaboration with Uxbridge Boosters re: lights project.

8. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Debbie Stark, seconded by Brett Pomeroy. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26pm.

School Committee Members:

DocuSigned by:

Matthew Keane

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Matthew Keane, Chair

Holly Black, Member

Debbie Stark, Member

Paul Paulino, Secretary

DocuSigned by:

Kim Cirrone

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Kim Cirrone, Member

DocuSigned by:

Brett Pomeroy

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Brett Pomeroy, Member

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Good Evening,

I would like to make a comment about Kids Club to be read school board meeting.

My family had moved to Uxbridge just as my son began kindergarten. Luckily, we were able to join the before and after school program. We have treasured this program and the dedicated staff that were so welcoming to our son and us. Mrs. Washburn and Mr. Scott have enriched our son's life. This program truly has helped him become more independent, practice executive functioning skills and socialization skills. Our son never wants to be picked up early. I am thankful for their kindness, patience and support throughout the years.

This school year has presented many changes for us all. For some students Kids Club this is a small sense of normalcy for them. They find comfort in the routines, safety in presence of the dedicated staff. We made the decision to send our child to school in the hybrid model because our son thrives at school and needed to be in the classroom. During the spring, he just kept asking when can I go back. This fall it has been, why can't I go to school five days a week. He misses his teachers and his peers on his remote days. Secondly, we knew Kids club would be here to help. This program gives him a safe space to play. This has not always possible this year. He looks forward to Kids Club on his in person days.

I am asking you to please not take this program away. This decision will force families to switch learning plans for our children after they have made connections to their peers and their teachers. They have been working with these folks for almost half the school year. These connections are important. To disrupt a child's learning, not only academically but their social emotional well-being in this manner would be detrimental and callus. This decision will impact many families in our community. Whether it is a loss of a job or the loss of attending school in person, a positive resolution must be reached. Please do not take this program for our community.

Thank you for your time.

Maryfrances Kirshenbaum

Good Evening School Committee Members and administration.

I am writing in regards to the decisions that are to be made towards the Kids Club Program at Taft and Whitin. As the parent of a third grader who has utilized this program since he was in Kindergarten, I am pleading with you to not shut this down.

I understand from a business standpoint that due to the program not making the revenue this year that it "makes sense" to close the doors on this. However, I am afraid that if this is done it will have detrimental long term effects for parents but more importantly the students that attend.

This is more than a before or after school program, this is a community for our children to grow, explore, have fun, and build those friendships that will last a lifetime. Kids Club, in normal years, always has a waitlist and this should show exactly how valuable this program is to the families of Taft and Whitin. This year, due to hybrid models and full remote schedules there is not the same amount of kids that would attend. Does that mean that we are to punish the program and turn our back on it when every other year they have exceeded expectations with enrollment? Is there a reason why the district has all these grants yet none can be applied to Kids Club to try and offset the loss for this school year?

I did receive the survey that was sent out about raising tuition costs by either 50% or 100% and unfortunately if this is to happen I would have to withdraw my child from the program as the cost for one day in after school would not be financially feasible for my family. You again are faced with an impossible decision but I am asking you to please keep the program up and running not for the sake of the parents but for the kids that do attend. They have already had so much taken from them this year, do we really need to take this from them too?

Thank you,
Catherine Sunkett

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