

DocuSign Envelope ID: B3C62006-4147-4A03-8F07-1C39E2C06B29

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

June 21, 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	

• Call to order

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

• Public Comment (6:01)

POSTED UXB TOWN CLERK
2023 AUG 8 AM 10:42

No public comment.

• Superintendent Update (6:01-6:08)

Dr. Baldassarre shared with the public that the school committee and Unit A members had completed negotiations. He highlighted the following:

- The unit members approved the contract 108-6. The contract was unanimously approved by the committee.
- Over the next 3 years the unit will receive the following COLAs: 1%, 1.75%, 2.0%
- The new contract includes adjustments to the salary schedules so teachers can progress to the highest level of the schedule quicker.
- The unit will now receive up to 15 FMLA days. The previous number was 10.
- The unit will receive one day a year that they can take off for religious based holidays.
- There has been an adaptation to the school year schedule that will allow the district an earlier start to the school year.
- There will be four additional minutes of instruction added each day at Taft. Over the three years of this contract that will equal one extra week of learning.

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023

h. The contract also includes some new stipends.

● **Preschool Update (6:08-7:33)**

This conversation was led by Director of Pupil Services, Anne Knapp, and Taft ELC principal, Jen Bellville.

Ms. Bellville started by saying that last fall there were preliminary concerns that the school might not have enough staffing for the number of pre-K students it was projecting, but she thought they would be able to manage. She stated that beginning in January the district experienced a “tsunami” when it began assessing an unusually high number of three to five year olds who were being assessed with the following challenges: speech / language, fine motor skills, attention, social development. She stated that the “world of early childhood has changed.” Both Ms. Bellville and Ms. Knapp said they have never seen anything like this in their professional careers. They said the increasing needs of younger students is happening across the Commonwealth and is not unique to Uxbridge.

Ms. Knapp gave a rundown to the committee on special education staffing levels at the Pre-K level and all of Taft. She stated that Uxbridge receives \$365,596 in federal funds for complying with federal mandates.

They presented a slideshow explaining the district's PreK program and its current and projected forecast. The slideshow included the following:

- a. Classroom make-up
- b. Individual student assessment process
- c. Three year trend on number of annual evaluations
- d. Three year trend highlighting the number of students determined eligible for services
- e. Current level of need
- f. List of immediate additional Pre-K staffing needs
- g. Concerns for potential additional Pre-K staffing needs

The PreK program needed a 5th classroom mid-year. They stated the school will need a sixth classroom for FY24. Ms. Bellville says they currently only have 25 vacancies across all its PreK programs and many students are still being evaluated and that the district constantly has new referrals throughout the year. She stated that the program currently has 0 seats available in its substantially separate classroom.

In regard to kindergarten, Ms. Bellville shared a slide that showed the current FY24 enrolment numbers per classroom. She stated that they moved a budgeted second grade position into kindergarten to create a seventh kindergarten class. She has concerns that summer kindergarten

registration might make the district need an eighth kindergarten class. She stated that in a typical summer Uxbridge gets between 20 to 30 new kindergarten registrations. She stated that the upcoming kindergarten class already has 13 ELL-screened students. All kindergarten classes have a halftime paraprofessional. She stated that the seventh classroom will have its halftime paraprofessional funded through Title I.

Mr. Desruisseaux asked if the school had enough space for all the additional classroom needs. Ms. Bellville said the school is okay but is running out of physical space. An additional challenge is that additional classrooms have non-staffing costs such as equipment and books that will have budgetary implications.

Mr. Aicardi explained the budgetary implications for the PreK needs. It was stated that for a fifth and sixth preschool class the cost is estimated to be \$159,000 over the estimated FY24 preschool revolving fund's capability.

Mr. Maharay stressed that as the district figures out how to reconcile the PreK/Kindergarten budgetary needs it also focuses on the importance of making sure the taxpayer understands the needs of the district in a way that shows it is worthy of their support.

• Ticketing at Athletic and Other Events (7:33-8:03)

Mr. Rubin gave an overview of ticketing over the last several years.

He expressed that he has concerns that it would be a problem if the athletic revolving account has no money in it. He gave examples of unbudgeted athletic needs that arise during the school year that would typically be covered within the athletic revolving account. He believes the school should ticket certain events to collect revenue to use for those situations, but he also believes the district should provide students and families an "out" from too much ticketing.

Mr. Aicardi also stated that he felt the ticketing "area" might help alleviate the pressure on the operating budget from unforeseen needs that come up within the year.

In their discussions about expenses that occur to the athletic program and operating budget the committee mentioned that they need to revise its current facilities use policy.

The committee asked Mr. Rubin and Mr. Aicardi to come back to them with recommended pricing for ticketing.

• Karen Dwyer academic achievement (8:03-9:27)

Dr. Dwyer gave a detailed presentation and overview of the historical trends and instructional changes of Uxbridge achievement. She started with an overview of learning loss from Covid and mentioned that the academic recovery is expected to take at least 5 years.

Her presentation included the following:

- a. Summary of the new Massachusetts standards and how they differ from the old standards
- b. Summary of the new MCAS and how it differs from the old MCAS
- c. Breakdown of Uxbridge versus State performance, 2017 through 2022, in various categories
- d. Breakdown of Uxbridge performance versus its geographical peers' performances on recent MCAS
- e. Instructional and data-tracking changes taking place in the district
- f. List of consultants the district has recently worked with
- g. The critical goals for the district
- h. The staff and professional development needs that have budgetary implications

• Goals & Evaluation Process for Superintendent Review (9:27-9:45)

Mr. Desruisseaux stated that he had sent the DESE process for goals and evaluation to the committee.

Mr. Maharay said that because the school committee was so new he felt there should be a primary focus on having Dr. Baldassarre and the school committee work on his goals for next year and that they will be able to evaluate him on those.

Ms. Liscinsky questioned whether the committee felt it should get feedback on the current progress of the currently approved goals from last fall.

After the possibility of Dr. Baldassarre providing a self-assessment was discussed among members of the committee, Dr. Baldassarre said he had no reservation in doing so. He also stated that most of his goals are team goals and he is open to expanding on his current goals, writing new ones, or some combination.

The committee decided they would like to have Dr. Baldassarre's goals presented at their meeting in July.

- **New Business (9:45-9:50)**

The committee tabled a memo from Mr. Rubin regarding potential changes to the Uxbridge High School handbook until their June 27th meeting.

Ms. Liscinsky asked to have a discussion about preparing a proposal to solicit new legal representation.

The next meeting will include a request of approval for job descriptions for Curriculum Council and curriculum coaches.

Mr. Maharay requested an update for the next agenda on whether the committee can defer approving job descriptions to the administration.

- **Old Business (9:50)**

No old business

- **Approve Minutes (9:50-9:51)**

Mr. Maharay made a motion to approve minutes as written. (6/13). Mr. Casper seconded the motion. The committee voted 6-0 to approve the motion. The motion passed.


- **Executive Session (9:51-9:52)**

Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. the individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties (to discuss complaints with administration) and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel-superintendent contract. With no new business to follow. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Ed: YES; Aaron: YES, Arlene: YES, Dave: YES, Ben: YES, Barry: YES. The committee voted 6-0 to approve the motion. The motion passed.

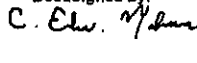
The regular meeting adjourned at 9:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Stark
Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary


School Committee Members:

DocuSigned by:

A670885F1E154E8...

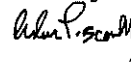
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

DocuSigned by:

A9388D748AA7447...

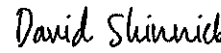
Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

DocuSigned by:

923493F9030E47E...

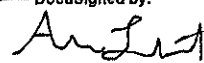
Mr. Ben Casper, Member

DocuSigned by:

6F847E4C72754F7...

Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

DocuSigned by:

6F70B14707B5434...

Mr. David Shinnick, Member

DocuSigned by:

B2A15CD40DDA4E8...

Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member