

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

July 25, 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	X	

2023-2024 TERM CLERK
2023 AUG 15 4:11 PM

● Call to order (6:00)

Mr. Desruisseaux called the meeting to order.

● Public Comment (6:00-6:01)

No public comment

● Academic Achievement (6:01-6:29)

Dr. Baldassarre had not yet arrived to the meeting so this item was taken out of order.

Dr. Dwyer spoke about the HQIM grant that was approved by the committee in the amount of \$87,400 for the 2023-24 school year. It will help grades K-8 in implementing the Illustrative Math curriculum. The grant will provide professional development and tools to help staff engage students to actively learn and to help promote discourse. The Teaching Lab is their professional development partner and it will partner with the district on ½ day curriculum days and throughout the year.

She shared that the district currently has two solid assessment systems, a K-12 data dashboard and iReady that will help the district work with the increased data it is collecting to make better informed teaching decisions. Data meetings happen 3x a year but the Teaching Lab partnership will help them expand beyond this.

- b. He felt it might be helpful to make periodic updates to the published plan as it develops.
- c. He would like to include a way for the public, particularly parents, to have an easily accessible way to share feedback.

Mr. Desruisseaux asked if staff should also have a way to give feedback. Mr. Shinnick felt that diversity of responses was important. Dr. Dwyer said that the district has purchased Panorama that can help them develop surveys for students, staff, and parents.

Dr. Baldassarre said he will work that week with the Technology Director to prepare the information for the website. He will bring it back to the committee to ask for their approval at their next meeting.

● **Capital Project Update (6:52-7:45)**

Mr. Aicardi presented an overview of the district's funded capital projects that have been recently completed, are still in progress, and have not yet begun.

These included:

- a. **School parking lots sealcoating (completed)**
- b. **Taft/Whitin doors and locks (completed)**
- c. **Whitin stucco facade (completed)**
- d. **VCT flooring for Taft (in progress)**
 - i. Due to favorable pricing, the district asked for, and received permission from the chair and vice-chair of the capital committee, to replace more flooring areas than they had originally requested. The extra flooring remained within the amount approved at town meeting.
- e. **Chillers for Taft and Whitin (in progress)**
 - i. These have been ordered but have a significant supply delay of more than 48 weeks.
- f. **UHS Softball field (not started)**
 - i. The chair and vice-chair of the capital committee have informed the district that the \$200K appropriated to the schools for the softball field can only be used for construction expenses.
 - ii. The district has contacted 3-4 companies to get an overview of the whole campus parcel because they do not have a design plan for where to place the field and want to make sure they have an overall understanding of how a softball field will best fit into the campus.
 - iii. Mr. Aicardi said the district is at an impasse because it does not have appropriated funding for the field outside of its actual construction.

Mr. Aicardi told the committee that the district has been making significant progress in capital projects but the committee needs to be aware that even with large amounts of funding, the district is limited in how much they can accomplish in one year because they have limited manpower.

Mr. Desruisseaux suggested that the district might want to consider identifying the high priority needs that address the out of date areas of the schools and then bond out a dollar amount that would address that list. He said the district could then make a 5-year plan that focused on addressing smaller items.

h. Taft playgrounds (not started)

i. Dr. Baldassarre said he plans to start community involvement with the playground project the following week.

● Emergency access update (7:45-8:18)

Dr. Baldassarre gave an update on the current progress toward developing a second area of accessibility to the high school. He said that the district currently has two issues: the congestion that develops when school is released and the lack of a second entrance for emergency access. He shared that the Public Safety Committee has discussed these issues and has decided they are two separate issues. He shared that Fuss & O'Neill had created five different possibilities to consider for an emergency secondary entrance. All five options connect via Quaker Highway. The Public Safety Committee has looked over the choices and has a top recommendation.

Dr. Baldassarre said that in an attempt to leverage the already appropriated \$500K for a secondary entrance, he had asked the Public Safety Committee their thoughts on asking the engineering firm whether the preferred emergency entrance can be widened or expanded in a way that could allow it to be used/opened at the end of the school day for departing vehicles. If Fuss & O'Neill say it can be widened, then the Public Safety Committee will seek approval from the Department of Transportation. The topic will be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting (August 9).

Mr. Desruisseaux shared concerns that all of the five potential options presented by Fuss & O'Neill might have issues with grading and line of sight requirements. He shared a couple of alternative options he had considered. They included expanding the current exit from the high school from one lane to a left and a right turning lane as well as taking advantage of a rough pathway that runs along the entrance to the high school and along the backside of the practice football field.

● **Approve Minutes (8:27-8:28)**

Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 13 and June 21 and 22. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Casper seconded the motion. The committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

● **Adjournment (8:29)**

Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. The committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Stark
Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

School Committee Members:

Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

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C. Edw. Maharay
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Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

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Benjamin Casper
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Mr. Ben Casper, Member

DocuSigned by:
Michael Dion
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Mr. Michael Dion, Member

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Arlene Liscinsky
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Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

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David Shinnick
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Mr. David Shinnick, Member

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Aaron Lenart
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Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member