

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting

October 5, 2022

5:45pm

Whitin Intermediate School Library

Attendees:	Present	Not Present
Debbie Stark, Chair	X	
Christine Pezzullo, Vice Chair	X	
Matthew Keane, Member	X	
Patrick Tuer, Member	X	
Barry Desruisseaux, Member	X	
Tiffany Bashaw, Member	X	
Jonathan Rota, Member	X	

1. Call to Order 5:47 pm by Debbie Stark

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Tour of Whitin Intermediate School

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK  
2023 OCT 3 AM 10:57

The School Committee took a tour of the interior and exterior of the Whitin Intermediate School.

Public aspect of the meeting resumed at 6:30pm

4. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

5. Recognition

Dr. Baldassarre introduced Principal Leanne DeMarco, who recognized three members of the Whitin Intermediate School community: Frank DiSimone, Emily Ross, and Laura O'Connell.

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Custodian Frank DiSimone has been at Whitin for 5 years, even switching companies last year when the Uxbridge Public Schools changed their cleaning company, in order to stay at the building. Principal DeMarco explained that "Mr. Frank" always does what is needed with the facility and is an integral part of the Whitin family.

Emily Ross is a 7th grade student who has attended school within the district since kindergarten. Every year she has grown academically, behaviorally, and through her social emotional maturity, as of late participating in things such as morning announcements and Cheer Club.

Laura O'Connell is a Paraprofessional who has been with the Uxbridge School District for 9 years. She works with students who have additional needs beyond academic, helping them navigate the middle school years and preparing them for high school.

## 6. New Business

### Secondary Entrance to High School

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto, with new business to follow, by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

School Committee entered into Executive Session at 6:39pm.

Regular session meeting resumed at 7:17pm.

## 7. Reports

### Superintendent Report

Interim Superintendent Dr. Baldassarre shared an update on new hires, promotions, and the open positions within the district, as part of a staffing report.

The group discussed the shortage of substitute teachers; the School Committee requested that the Administration assess the situation and determine what might be needed to make the role more attractive to potential substitute candidates.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Baldassarre disclosed how many students ride each bus and shared that there are only 2 students currently on a waitlist with a need for bus transportation (Whitin students).

Currently sports and activity schedules are being arranged, and Uxbridge Public Schools' vehicles being used, to get students to after school commitments such as games, in the absence of

regular buses. Interim Superintendent Dr. Baldassarre will continue monitoring the situation and report back to the School Committee.

Chair Matt Keane provided an update from the recent Policy Subcommittee meeting regarding five policies that are being reviewed, including the School Facilities Use policy. The October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature recommendations from Administration on how this specific policy could be revised.

Debbie Stark and Patrick Tuer met with a diverse group of Uxbridge High School students who are interested in being the student representative to the Uxbridge School Committee. The students will decide structure of their participation on committee, and who the representative will be. A more comprehensive update will be shared at October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 8. Old Business

Interim Superintendent Dr. Baldassarre re-submitted his goals with measurable action items; the School Committee will review them to determine acceptability and give him feedback before next meeting.

Motion that Uxbridge School Committee accept the School Improvement Plans for Taft Early Learning Center, Whitin Intermediate School, and Uxbridge High School for SY22-23 by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

Motion that Uxbridge School Committee accept the Taft Early Learning Center handbook for SY22-23 by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

Motion that Uxbridge School Committee accept the proposed revisions to the Whitin Intermediate School handbook for SY22-23 by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

Chair Debbie Stark shared an update on the effort to identify a firm to use for the Superintendent search process. She has spoken with a couple firms and is waiting to hear back from a couple more. She will provide proposals to the School Committee by the beginning of next week, with the intent that School Committee then have a conversation to make final decision on choice of company.

Motion to appoint Debbie Stark, Matt Keane, and Christine Pezzullo to an Ad-Hoc committee to update School Committee on status of Superintendent search by Debbie Stark, seconded by Barry Desruisseaux. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

## 9. Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the August 24, 2022 Uxbridge School Committee meeting minutes as presented, by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 6-0-1 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-T, MK-abstained, DS-Y)

Motion to approve the September 7, 2022 Uxbridge School Committee meeting minutes as presented, by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 5-0-2 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-abstained, MK-abstained, DS-Y)

Motion to approve the September 21, 2022 Uxbridge School Committee meeting minutes as presented, by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 6-0-1 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-abstained, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

## 10. Reorganization

Debbie Stark is stepping down as Chair of the Uxbridge School Committee.

Motion to appoint Matt Keane Chair of the Uxbridge School Committee by Christine Pezzullo, seconded by Barry Desruisseaux. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

## 11. Future Agenda Items

Update on Student Advisory Council

Next meeting will be October 19, 2022 at Uxbridge High School Library.

## 12. Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body; to conduct strategy with respect to preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel; and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, in preparation for negotiations with the UTA if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position, with no new business to follow, by Debbie Stark, seconded by Christine Pezzullo. Vote: 7-0 Approved. (JR-Y, TB-Y, BD-Y, CP-Y, PT-Y, MK-Y, DS-Y)

Regular session meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.