

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

February 23, 2023

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	Present	Absent
Mr. Pat Tuer, Chair	X	
Chris Pezzullo, Vice Chair	X	
Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Member	X	
Mrs. Tiffany Bashaw, Member	X	
Mr. Jon Rota, Member	X	
Dr. Bernard Audette, Member	X	
Dr. Lisa Mobley, Member	X	

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2023 OCT 3 AM 10:58

1. Call to Order

Mr. Tuer called the meeting to order at 6:11PM.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Budget Discussion (6:13-7:05)

Dr. Mobley opened up the discussion by asking Dr. Baldassarre and Dr. Dwyer if they could explain how the original proposed budget meets the district's goals and strategic plan and how, if nothing changes within the original proposal, the district is going to improve the academic achievement of the district's students.

Dr. Baldassarre explained that the budget was built by many administrators who have just joined the district who are planning to work with what they currently have. He was not ready to just throw money at enhancements when they have only had limited time to do the work that would help them understand the district's data to determine overall impact.

Dr. Dwyer highlighted that the budget proposal will still include the 9 positions that are currently being funded by the ESSER grant and the district is just getting going in understanding how effective they can be for the district. She said that having them included again for the next year will help the district better document and understand how the students are improving with that interventionist help. She stated that she felt that because of the ESSER funding this budget will meet the district's goals for FY24. Dr. Dwyer also mentioned several grants she has written that

have either been awarded or are still pending that will help in the curriculum areas. She also spent time addressing potential concerns some people have had about not using an outside consultant for the Diversity and Equity Audit and the district's long-term (multi-year) plan for this focus. Dr. Dwyer said she did feel concern that the FY24 proposal might not be adequate in the subsequent year but that she felt confident they could make the FY24 proposal work in a way that would let them see where the gaps are, the improvements they need to make, and how efficient they need to be in their work.

Dr. Mobley stated that she wanted to see an adequate budget proposal for FY24 that would maintain the district's services (including the ESSER 3 positions) and that the district would continue data collection that would help them determine the effectiveness of it so when administration comes before the school committee for the FY25 budget, if the positions yielded positive achievement, they would be able to share the results. Dr. Dwyer agreed and said she believed the district had a good handle on what students need for FY24 and the budget includes that.

Dr. Baldassarre said the district also plans to increase engagement in the upcoming year with the intention to collect additional data that will help identify district needs.

Dr. Baldassarre gave a brief synopsis of the House 1 budget which had been released earlier that day.

Mr. Tuer expressed concerns that Mr. Aicardi had stated that budgetary best practice was for a district to hold one year of circuit breaker in reserve but that the budget proposal did not continue that practice. Dr. Mobley said that she was not concerned with holding less than a year if that was something that the town needed to help the town's overall budget and she stated that she felt it is important that the schools and municipal departments have a strong partnership. Dr. Audette agreed with the importance of the town/school relationship.

Dr. Mobley said she felt a lot of the confusion around this budget is the lack of metrics that could help identify why some things were needed. She acknowledged that the current administration and most of the school committee had only been there a short time but, moving forward, there should be a focus on providing measurable data to justify a budget etc.

Dr. Audette said he was comfortable supporting what the administration feels is the right budget for the district. He said that he felt there were some clear areas the administration is working on, and he believes that the Committee and administration need to be proactively be talking about them to prepare better for future budgetary discussions.

It was restated that the Committee had been given an extension by the town to submit their FY24 budget. The deadline for submission is now March 1, 2023.

Town manager Sette spoke and said he was concerned that the Committee had closed the budget hearing at their previous meeting, but was now considering add-ons. He said he felt the original number to run the district should be locked-in unless something happens during the town

meeting. He asked the Committee to put all their money on the table, specifically the surplus account (school choice).

Dr. Mobley said she felt the timing in receiving the potential add-ons to the original budget proposal made it impossible to consider them for FY24.

4. Adjournment (7:06)

*Dr. Mobley made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Desruisseaux seconded the motion. Mr. Tuer chose to do a roll call. By roll call vote: Dr. Mobley-YES, Mr. Tuer-NO, Mrs. Pezzullo-YES, Mrs. Bashaw-NO, Mr. Rota-YES, Dr. Audette-NO, Mr. Desruisseaux-YES. The Committee voted in favor of the motion 4-3. **The motion passed.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

School Committee Members:

Mr. Patrick Tuer, Chair

Mrs. Christine Pezzullo, Vice Chair

Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Member

Dr. Bernie Audette, Member

Mrs. Tiffany Bashaw, Member

Mr. Jon Rota, Member

Dr. Lisa Mobley, Member