

UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
April 5, 2023
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

School Committee Members in Attendance:

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

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

1. Call to Order (6:35)

Dr. Audette called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment (6:36)

No public comment

4. Recognition (6:37-6:46)

Dr. Baldassarre welcomed and thanked high school members of the Mending Spartan Minds group. The club was created to help put SEL leadership into the hands of the district's own students. UHS school adjustment counselor and Spartan Minds advisor, Lori Tobin, shared a background on how the group was created and its past and on-going initiatives.

5. Superintendent Update (6:46-7:14)

1. Dr. Baldassarre passed out two documents to the school committee that represented potential renovations to the two Taft playgrounds that would make them accessible to all students. The first document he shared was for the Taft preschool playground. The proposal would involve a new playground in the same interior courtyard that currently houses the current PreK playground. He shared that there were some accessibility challenges with the current playground, and highlighted several of them. These concerns included inconsistent ground cover, drainage, and a sandbox that was not accessible for all students. His proposal priced out the new playground at a little over \$340,000. It would include a full new structure to replace the existing structure as well as new flooring. Dr. Baldassarre will be looking to find alternate funding sources to help offset

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the price of this project. The second playground proposal shared was a retrofit to the current Taft/community playground that will loop around the side and back of the current playground. He shared that a \$100,000 capital request for the playground had already been submitted by the town for the spring town meeting and reminded the Committee that the school's capital request also included \$100,000 for that play space. Dr. Baldassarre has requested \$74,000 from the fiscal year 2024 state budget to accommodate making the playground accessible. The current retrofit proposal has been priced out at \$74,000, but Dr. Baldassarre told the committee that this number was only based on a schematic. Since the playground is open to the community outside of school hours, he highlighted that the retrofit would make the playground inclusive for all kids-at all times-both in and out of the school day.

2. Dr. Baldassarre gave a brief follow-up to the mental health summit that the district had hosted.
3. Dr. Baldassarre said he is currently working on writing an adjustment counselor job description to bring to the Committee for their approval.
4. Dr. Baldassarre provided the Committee with some updated information about the Massachusetts IEP improvement project. He said the new process will be implemented in fall 2024.
5. Dr. Baldassarre has scheduled a tour of the Norfolk Aggie school and has invited members of the school committee and the selectboard to attend.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked what would happen to the existing PreK playground structure if a new playground is approved. Dr. Baldassarre said that it could be moved to another location for reuse.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked whether the 100k capital playground requests from the town and the schools were duplicate requests. Dr. Baldassarre said that 100k was what was needed for the current Taft playground request. Mrs. Pezzullo said she watched capital and believed they were treating the two requests as two separate requests with an overall ask of \$200K. Dr. Baldassarre said that if the playground receives money beyond \$100K, it will allow the playground changes to go far beyond the current hope that had been presented that night.

Mrs. Pezzullo said she appreciated that there had been a collaborative playground meeting between certain stakeholders and asked that the school committee also get to participate in those meetings moving forward.

Dr. Audette asked Dr. Baldassarre what the district would need to do to accommodate all students if the funding for the playgrounds doesn't fully pan out. Dr. Baldassarre stated that the primary issue with the playgrounds is its flooring. If funding is not realized, they will place in some temporary options such as mats to make it more accessible. He stated that he estimated the cost of redoing the ground flooring for the community playground would be in the \$200,000 range.

6. Assistant Superintendent Update (7:14-7:36)

Dr. Dwyer gave a presentation on district progress in promoting equity throughout Uxbridge public schools. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

7. FY23 Update (7:36-7:56)

Mr. Aicardi shared that since his last update payroll had removed some unfilled teaching positions from the FY23 budget numbers and that had helped with their end of year projections. He has asked building principals and department heads to be judicious in their remaining budget requests for this year. The current end of year projection has the district predicting a shortfall in the \$100-\$115K range. Because of this, he will be preparing some options for the school committee to consider as they work to close out FY23. He will continue to update the Committee at every meeting.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked when the Committee would start hearing the recommendations to address the end of year. Mr. Aicardi said he hoped to give recommendations in late May and have the Committee give formal direction at their June 7 meeting.

At Mr. Tuer's request, Mr. Aicardi included grant updates in the meeting packet and Mr. Aicardi said he will be including them in the financial packets moving forward.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked if the district's expense warrants were posted on the district website. Mr. Aicardi said they were not, but he would look into how to do that.

Mr. Tuer asked if the administration foresaw any ESSER funding being left unspent. Mr. Aicardi said no.

8. FY24 Budget- No Bus Fee Vote (A) (7:56-7:57)

Mr. Tuer to approve. Mrs. Pezzullo seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

9. Policy KF (A) - First Reading (7:57-8:27)

Based on the proposed process where a nonprofit organization could request a building use waiver, Mr. Tuer asked whether there was a scenario where that request could be denied and stated he was concerned that a denial might happen.

Mr. Aicardi said he wanted to get a clear definition for what the Committee defined as a non-profit. He also told the Committee that waiving building use fees for any organization will have a negative effect on the district's building use fund.

Dr. Mobley said she also wanted a clear definition on what constitutes a non-profit. Mr. Tuer suggested the IRS definition.

Mr. Aicardi said he would come back to the Committee with a new proposal for KF that includes a definition of what qualifies as a non-profit.

Mr. Desruisseaux said he was concerned that there were costs associated with district rentals such as electricity, heat, and cleanup that the school district should not be absorbing. He was also concerned with waiving use fees for Uxbridge non-profits because all organizations registered in Uxbridge as a non-profit don't necessarily include only Uxbridge residents in their organization.

Dr. Audette said one of the benefits for waiving some fees to Uxbridge organizations is that it can be seen as an investment that helps market the district's schools and helps retain resident students. He said it also helps people feel they are part of the school community. He said he would like to keep the cleaning fees in place for rentals.

*Mr. Tuer made a motion to approve the amended KF with the change for the 2nd reading of defining non-profits and waiving the building use fee for Uxbridge-based non-profits. Mrs. Pezzullo seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-2 in favor of the motion. Mr. Desruisseaux and Dr. Mobley voted against the motion. **The motion passed.***

The Committee clarified that the current policy is still in effect and that a second reading is necessary to make any amendments or adoptions of official policy.

Dr. Mobley stated that she shares the belief all town kids should use the school facilities, but she would not vote yes until there is a final product.

10. 2023-2024 School Choice Slots (A) (8:27-8:37)

Dr. Baldassarre made the recommendation that Uxbridge continue to be part of the school choice program for 2023-24. He then presented his recommended number of school choice seats for SY23-24.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked if the district will be taking school choice students for pre-kindergarten. Dr. Baldassarre said no.

Mrs. Pezzullo asked what the district does in a situation where there are no school choice seats available for a grade but there is a student in that grade who would be paying tuition through an agreement with another district to attend an Uxbridge school. Dr. Baldassarre said that decision is made by the building principal, the special education director, and himself. It would not be considered a school choice seat. It would be a tuitioned-in seat.

Dr. Mobley said she was concerned that the recommendation of open seats for 9th grade had a contingency placed on it. She said the district either needed to reduce the recommended number or be prepared to accept all school choice applicants.

*Dr. Mobley made a motion to vote to approve the school choice seat availability in grades kindergarten through 8th and grades 10 through 12. Pat Tuer seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

Dr. Baldassarre said that at his next principals meeting he would clarify grade 9's numbers.

11. Whitin Field Trip- Roger Williams Zoo (A) (8:37-8:38)

*Dr. Mobley made a motion to approve the June 2, 2023 Whitin field trip to Roger Williams Zoo. Mr. Tuer seconded the motion. The committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

12. Summer Maintenance Worker Job Description (A) (8:38-8:45)

Dr. Baldassarre presented his proposed job description to the Committee.
Dr. Mobley and Mr. Desruisseaux expressed concerns that certain duties included in the presented job description would prohibit anyone under the age of 16 from having that job.

*Dr. Mobley made a motion to approve the job description with the amendment to remove the words after athletic fields to read "and maintains grounds and athletic fields." Mr. Tuer seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

13. Superintendent Evaluation Presentation- Dr. Mobley (8:45-9:03)

Dr. Mobley explained that she, Dr. Audette, and Mrs. Pezzullo had met as a subcommittee/working group to look at the superintendent evaluation process with the intention to make it equitable, transparent, and collaborative. She then gave a presentation to the Committee that outlined the recommendations of that group. The recommendations included a timeline outlining the key benchmarks to complete the process.

April 5: The group presents its recommendations to the full Committee.

May 3: Dr. Baldassarre will present his evidence to the chair of the Committee who will then share that evidence with the full Committee. The working group provided Dr. Baldassarre with a document to be able to organize his evidence.

May 10: The full Committee will participate in a workshop to complete the evaluation process. This will be a posted meeting.

May 17: The Committee will present the superintendent evaluation to the public. This will represent a culmination of what happened and was discussed in the workshop and will comprise of a single overall rating that the Committee feels is appropriate for Dr. Baldassarre. Dr. Mobley noted that this is different from the traditional method where each Committee member would present their own individual rating of the superintendent.

The subcommittee wants a focus to be on standards one and two of the evaluation rubric. Dr. Mobley shared a list of the elements within these two standards and they will be asking Dr. Baldassarre to provide evidence for each of these elements.

If the committee believes that Dr. Baldassarre has reached a proficiency rating in the majority of elements within a standard, this will result in a proficiency rating for that particular standard.

For standard one, Dr. Baldassarre will need four of the six elements to be rated proficient in order to get a proficiency rating for standard one.

For standard two, Dr. Baldassarre will need three of the five elements to be rated proficient in order to get a proficiency rating for standard two.

In regards to standards 3 and 4 the subcommittee determined the one element within each standard that must be rated proficient to receive an overall proficiency rating. For standard three the subcommittee picked the element of Engagement (3-A). For standard 4 the subcommittee chose the Cultural Proficiency element (4-B).

Dr. Mobley emphasized that evidence on the other elements within standards three and four is optional, but the Committee will welcome more evidence if Dr. Baldassarre would like to share any.

She then shared a brief overview of how the Committee will approach evaluating Dr. Baldassarre's goals. Dr. Mobley said she hopes that through this process the Committee will be able to use the evidence and the evaluation process itself to help develop Dr. Baldassarre's 2023 - 2024 goals.

Dr. Mobley said that any elements rated below proficient will require Dr. Baldassarre to write a superintendent SMART goal for the 2023-2024 school year

The Committee selected a 3:30 start time for their May 10th workshop. This workshop will be both in person and virtual.

14. Old Business (9:03)

Mrs. Pezzullo requested future agenda discussions on the following: district strategic plan, district improvement plan (DIP), individual school improvement plans (SIPs).

15. New Business (9:03-9:08)

Luke Boisvert, student representative to the Committee, shared an update on events happening at the high school.

Dr. Audette reminded everyone of the upcoming town election and encouraged eligible residents to get out and vote. Mrs. Pezzullo stated that May 11th was the deadline for new voters to register to be able to vote in the May town elections.

16. Meeting Minute Vote - 3/15/23 Full Committee Meeting (9:08)

*Dr. Mobley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mrs. Pezzullo seconded the motion. The committee voted 7-0 to approve the motion. **The motion passed.***

17. Executive session - To approve executive session minutes from 3/15/23 and 3/29/23

Passed over

18. Adjournment (9:09)

*Dr. Audette entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Tuer moved the motion. Mrs. Bashaw seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. **The motion passed.***

The meeting adjourned at 9:09PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Stark

Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

School Committee Members:

Dr. Bernard Audette, Chair

Mrs. Christine Pezzullo, Vice Chair

Mr. Patrick Tuer, Member

Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Member

Mrs. Tiffany Bashaw, Member

Mr. Jon Rota, Member

Dr. Lisa Mobley, Member