

**Uxbridge School Committee Meeting  
September 26, 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	

**• Call to order (6:00)**

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

**• Public Comment (6:01-6:18)**

Kara Guy shared that she was concerned about the No Trespass Order issued by Dr. Baldassarre to Steve Mandile and the absence of an appeal process or expiration date. She stated that respectful discourse should be tolerated and encouraged within the school district and that she felt that the order was a misuse of power that erodes parent-school trust and promotes a climate of fear and intimidation.

Sarah Douglas read a letter of support for Steve Mandile that she had previously sent to the Committee. She talked about ways she has personally seen Mr. Mandile as a positive role model within the schools and the community and stated he is missed by many within the schools. She asked the Committee to allow Mr. Mandile to return to the schools.

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Cassandra Greeno shared several events that had happened over the last year that she felt were disturbing. They included concerns about the NTO for Mr. Mandile, the former Taft principal sharing with her that the past school year had been the worst one in her career, and an email she received via a FOIA request that was written by Dr. Baldassarre to members of the Committee that she said contained "vicious and falsified" information about herself and other community members. She also clarified that a previous request from her to the Committee that they conduct exit interviews was meant to help Uxbridge learn what it could do better in the future.

Angela Loveless spoke in support of Steve Mandile. She stated that she had had challenges with school and that the Kindness man (Mr. Mandile) had a positive impact on their family when coming to school. She said she felt the NTO was a "vendetta" and that she could not imagine not being able to attend school events because of it.

Mason Loveless is an Uxbridge student. He talked about the positive impact on himself and others when they see Mr. Mandile holding signs outside school every day trying to make

people's days better. He said Dr. Baldassarre shouldn't be able to take someone's time away from their daughters and asked the Committee to act on behalf of the community and address the NTO.

The Ryan family children read letters of support for Mr. Mandile and shared how they believe Mr. Mandile has been impactful to them and to others in helping spread kindness and feel better about themselves. They asked the Committee to allow Mr. Mandile to be able to come back to the schools.

Tina Ryan commented on the district's current complaint resolution policy as being problematic. She asked the Committee to consider a reorganization to change the chairperson. She stated she was concerned because the chair of the Committee is the liaison between the attorney and the full Committee and she had heard that the current chair utilizes the same law firm as the schools. She also felt there has been gatekeeping in regard to information and discussion at Committee meetings.

Jessica Mandile stated that Mr. Mandile has done nothing wrong and asked the Committee to do what was right and let Mr. Mandile come back into the schools.

**• Approve HS day trip for college and career readiness at Wrights (6:18)**

Dr. Baldassarre shared that, per policy, out-of-state field trips need approval from the school committee.

**Motion:** *Mr. Desruisseaux asked for a motion to approve the field trip application. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Casper seconded the motion. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.*

**• Approve Therapeutic Intervention Specialist Job Description (6:19-6:20)**

Dr. Baldassarre said that the position is recommended to be put in place by the Special Education Director as the district looks to define how behavioral supports are provided at the Preschool. He stated there was a typo in the job description and clarified the proper wording. (remove "provides")

**Motion:** *Mr. Desruisseaux asked for a motion to approve the modification. Ms. Liscinsky moved the motion. Mr. Maharay seconded the motion.*

Mr. Maharay asked if the position was in the budget. Dr. Baldassarre said the position would be posted as an anticipated position that would be included in the PreK funding request for fall town meeting.

*The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.*

• **Executive Session with no business to follow (6:20-6:23)**

**Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically, to maintain the attorney-client privileged communication**

***Motion:** Mr. Desruisseaux entertained a motion to go into executive session with no business to follow and we will adjourn from there pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(7) to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements, specifically, to maintain the attorney-client privileged communication.*

Mr. Shinnick said he wanted to provide more transparency, if it was possible, about the process the Committee would be undertaking in executive session. School attorney, Marc Terry, shared that the executive session was scheduled to review an attorney/client-privileged document. He said the substance of it related to the report done by the Ed Davis Company. The purpose is to receive and review the advice he had offered in a letter he previously sent to the Chair of the Committee in regards to that report and then move forward from there.

*Mr. Maharay moved the motion. Ms. Liscinsky seconded the motion. By roll call vote: Mr. Maharay: YES; Mr. Lenart: YES; Ms. Liscinsky: YES; Mr. Casper: YES; Mr. Shinnick: YES; Mr. Dion: YES; Mr. Desruisseaux: YES. The Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion. The motion passed.*

• **Adjournment (6:23)**

The Committee adjourned to executive session at 6:23 PM


Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Stark

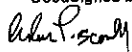
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Uxbridge School Committee Recording Secretary

School Committee Members:

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Mr. Barry Desruisseaux, Chair

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Ms. Arlene Liscinsky, Vice-Chair

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C. Ed. Maharay

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Mr. Ed Maharay, Clerk

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David Shinnick

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Mr. David Shinnick, Member

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Benjamin Casper

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Mr. Ben Casper, Member

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Aaron Lenart

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Mr. Aaron Lenart, Member

DocuSigned by:

Michael Dion

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Mr. Michael Dion, Member