

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting

February 24, 2021

6:30pm

(Meeting via Zoom platform)

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 OCT 27 PM 3:04

Attendees:	Present	Not Present
Matt Keane, Chair	X	
Paul Paulino, Secretary	X	
Kim Cirrone, Member	X	
Brett Pomeroy, Member	X	
Holly Black, Member	X	
Debbie Stark, Member	X	

- 1. Call to Order 6:30pm by Matt Keane**
- 2. Public Comment:**

Matt Keane read the attached email regarding reconsideration of implementing pool testing in the district, and a request to consider implementing a virtual public school district component in the Uxbridge Public Schools.

Community member Sherry O'Day requested immediate School Committee conversation regarding the inequity between softball facilities and transportation access, and baseball facilities.

Lola Grube, a softball player and student at Whitin School, made a request for the proposed softball field at Uxbridge High School to be completed.

Paul Paulino thanked community members who have come forward to participate on the Superintendent Search Committee.

- 3. Superintendent Update**

Dr. Tiano shared an update on sports; successful winter sports season; Fall 2 sports just began, and Spring sports start April 26th and run through June 30th.

The Parabola Project nominated Uxbridge High School to participate in The Canopy Project, which connects schools who have been identified as using emerging innovative practices in education.

Jeff Riley, Commissioner of Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, announced plans to bring students back for in-person learning, with youngest learners being the first priority. It will be a phased in approach; thought is to have elementary students return the first

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week of April. Remote learning will still be an option for this current school year only. Board of Education still needs to approve full plan. Current recommendation is for 3' distance between desks. People associated with public education will be eligible for vaccines in next phase.

Dr. Tiano shared that Uxbridge Schools are looking to bring elementary students back by March 22nd. Transportation logistics have been discussed and currently there is ability to accommodate all bus students who have previously registered.

Nursing team is creating a proposal for pool testing; if application is submitted by March 1st and accepted, testing would be paid for through end of April. Committee requested viewing of that proposal and update on Binex testing results.

Conversation regarding what needs to be done in each building to be able to bring all grade levels back for in-person learning. Request for information on what distance between students is feasible at each grade level (ex. 4', 5' 6').

District will be hosting a town hall for parents to share information and take questions around return to school.

Nursing staff does have KN95 masks if teachers request them.

Dr. Tiano shared that with regard to interventions, staff are working on second round of data collection, to analyze information to narrow down where to target support.

They are working to determine which students, what their deficits are, what the timeline is for meeting their needs, and figuring out how to meet their needs.

4. Program of Studies

Principal Rubin shared details about program of studies update and partnership with Quinsigamond Community College.

Motion to approve Uxbridge High School Program of Studies revisions for SY21-22 as presented by Debbie Stark, seconded by Holly Black. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

5. FY21 Budget Update

Business Manager Brian Hyde reviewed the budget packet and shared updates and changes from budget to actual.

School Committee needs to approve any grants that have been awarded, per Mass. Law.

6. FY22 Budget Discussion

(3) FTE requests: Dean of Students (Uxbridge High School); Technology, Business & Computer Science teacher; and Special Education Administrative Assistant (Taft ELC).

Principal Rubin reviewed what the Dean of Students role might look like (using existing job description). Committee had discussion regarding potential need for job functions to be divided between two positions or labelled as one counselor position with a Dean stipend.

Motion to request from the General Fund for FY22 \$23,175,266.00 by Debbie Stark, seconded by Holly Black. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

Next steps include creation of Stabilization Account for Special Education and discussion regarding how it can be funded; and revisiting the positions included in the FY22 budget, including approval of job descriptions.

7. UHS Lights Update

Matt Keane shared an update on the lights project, which is a fundraising effort being held by Boosters to raise money to put in lights at the turf football field at the High School. Boosters would like to acknowledge donors who participate with a recognition wall of names.

Mr. Keane will check with school district attorney to confirm approval process (and right of refusal) should a donor's product or messaging not align with school district values and philosophies.

School committee will request a more formal and detailed design proposal.

8. Superintendent Search Committee

Motion to appoint the following members to the Superintendent Search Committee: Mr. Michael Black representing Taft ELC, Miss Amanda Matthews representing Whitin School, Mr. Patrick Orr representing Uxbridge High School, Mr. Patrick Tuer representing the at-large parent, and Ms. Lynn Gaskill representing the at-large community member by Brett Pomeroy, seconded by Debbie Stark. Vote: 5-0 (one abstention). Approved.

9. Recording Secretary Job Description and Pay Rate

Motion to approve the School Committee Recording Secretary job description as posted, with a pay rate of \$125.00 per meeting by Debbie Stark, seconded by Paul Paulino. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

10. Old/New Business

New Business:

Request from Whitin PTO to consider proposal regarding Whitin Outdoor Classroom.

Discussion about softball field project.

Review of numbers related to Binex testing and information about pool testing.

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Schedule a policy subcommittee meeting.

Discussion regarding Covid related needs for next school year.

11. Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Union contract negotiations, Non-Union contract negotiations, and Memorandum of Agreement between Uxbridge School Committee and Uxbridge Teachers Association Unit B by Brett Pomeroy, seconded by Kim Cirrone. Vote: 6-0. Approved.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

DocuSigned by:

Matthew Keane

Matthew Keane, Choir

Paul Paulino

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Paul Paulino, Secretary

Kim Cirrone

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Kim Cirrone, Member

Deb Stark, Member

Holly Black, Member

Brett Pomeroy

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Brett Pomeroy, Member

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