

Uxbridge School Committee Meeting

April 7, 2021

(Meeting via Zoom platform)

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 OCT 27 PM 3:05

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 6:32pm by Matt Keane
2. Public Comment:

Matt Keane introduced Deirdre Thomson, new Recording Secretary for the School Committee.

Matt Keane read the following emails into public comment:

Email #1

Chair Matt Keane noted that topic will be added to future meeting agenda for follow-up discussion.

Email #2

Paul Paulino shared that The New Uxbridge Times had recognized several UHS students for selection into statewide art award showcases.

Mr. Paulino also noted that Principal Rubin recently presented as part of a panel discussion during the annual South by Southwest Education Conference.

3. Whitin Outdoor Classroom

Paul Paulino shared that Whitin Intermediate School PTO has been working with Uxbridge School Facilities Department and Doug Nydam from Nydam Landscaping to develop outdoor courtyard area between the gym and the far wing at back side of school.

Scott Pashoian, Director of Facilities, reviewed the project plan; "The Courtyard" will be 5 concrete pads, surrounded by stone dust, that make up a monolithic, flat surface. Pads will feature picnic tables, including (1) that is ADA compliant, and an exterior white board for student use. Additional perimeter area could be used in future for plant beds.

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Debbie Stark inquired if area is in ADA compliance (ex. sidewalks accessible for wheelchairs); Leanne DeMarco, Principal of Whitin School, shared that there is currently a handicap accessible door in the courtyard and the area is currently utilized by a student in a wheelchair.

Leanne DeMarco recognized Bethann Lafontaine and Whitin PTO for their work on this project; Whitin PTO has fully funded The Courtyard, with exception of picnic table provided by facilities department. Committee Members echoed appreciation and sentiments.

Motion to accept gift of The Courtyard from Whitin PTO by Paul Paulino; seconded by Debbie Stark. Vote 5-0. Approved.

4. Superintendent Update

Dr. Tiano shared excitement all students K-12 being back in buildings for in-person learning for first time since March 2020; expressed appreciation for district-wide efforts to transition and reinstate in-person learning.

Covid pool testing update was provided; pool testing for the 3 schools has been phased in over the past few weeks, there are currently (194) students and (38) staff participating across the district, with more joining this week.

Taft School has 7 pools comprised of 10% of students and 14% of staff; Whitin School has 7 pools with 13% of students and 1% of staff; and 14% of students and 10% of staff make up the 3 pools at UHS.

Samples are sent via Fed Ex and results are returned within 48 hours. A positive hit in the pool will result in every student and staff in pool receiving a rapid test. Any positive cases (identified through pool tracing or outside sources such as primary care physician) will then isolate and contact tracing, with assistance from Board of Health, will be conducted.

Pool testing will be paid for by state through the end of current school year.

Paul Paulino inquired about whether all staff who want to be vaccinated are finding appointments; Dr. Tiano shared that they are working with Board of Health within the outlined dates, and staff are assisting one another with room coverage if appointment times conflict with school. School nurses are keeping track of all who are vaccinated.

Dr. Tiano requested that update re: District-wide improvement plan be added to agenda for next meeting.

UHS received its fourth Innovation Pathways designation; this designation is in business, finance and logistics.

5. Curriculum Update

Wendy Phillips, Director of Curriculum, shared updates on the new proposed math and science curriculums.

A grant was secured to transition from 6-8 FOSS and the current science curriculum to OpenSciEd, a national curriculum which Mass DESE endorses. Grant award includes

opportunities for professional development, access to a network of teachers to use as a resource, and any durable equipment needed to complete a unit.

Program identifies "Teacher Champions", one per grade, who will be trained in all 6 specialties and available to assist staff.

Ms. Phillips also shared progress of Math Adoption and reviewed documents shared with the Committee.

Original 8 programs under consideration were reduced to 4, and finally 3 for field testing; those include Illustrative Math, Envision, and Bridges. Teachers will plan and teach a lesson, then give a review. Field testing will begin mid-May and will include one lesson taught at every grade level.

Paul Paulino requested that lesson materials be shared with committee.

Motion to accept grants in the amount of \$9,500 for UHS and \$20,900 for Whitin Intermediate School, from the One8 Foundation to support the OpenSciEd curriculum by Paul Paulino, seconded by Debbie Stark. Vote: 5-0. Approved

Motion to approve OpenSciEd curriculum for science, grades 6-8 by Debbie Stark, seconded by Paul Paulino. Vote 5-0. Approved

6. SY21-22 School Choice Openings

Annually School Committee votes regarding continued participation in the School Choice Program; vote is due by May 1st.

For SY21-22 Administration is recommending the following school choice slots per school:

Taft School – 0

Whitin School – 5 slots in grade 4, 10 slots in grade 5, and 0 slots in grade 7

UHS – 10 slots in grades 8-11, and 15 slots in grade 12

Dr. Tiano shared information about current number of kindergarten registrations, anticipation that they may be higher this year because of deferred enrollments, etc.

Motion to approve SY21-22 School Choice open slots as recommended by Debbie Stark, seconded by Holly Black. Vote: 5-0. Approved.

7. New Business

Debbie Stark requested update on where district stands with regard to qualifying for projects since state has just opened period for Statements of Interest for building materials.

Ms. Stark additionally requested a discussion (as a follow-up to information about number of incoming kindergarten students) regarding if a 7th kindergarten teacher is needed and how to amend budget accordingly for that salary.

Paul Paulino requested a status from Jennifer Ramsdell regarding special needs.

Mr. Paulino also requested that the principals of the 3 schools share their asks/needs in order to be able to enact recommendations laid out in Principal Rubin's presentation on Intervention.

Matt Keane will send an email asking for availability for next School Committee meeting, currently scheduled for during school vacation week.

Motion to Adjourn by Paul Paulino, seconded by Debbie Stark. Vote: 5-0. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Keane

Matthew Keane, Chair

Paul Paulino, Secretary

Kim Cirrone

Kim Cirrone, Member

Deb Stark, Member

Holly Black, Member

Brett Pomeroy

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