

**UXBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2008
UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

School Committee Members in Attendance:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ernest Esposito, Chair	___X___	_____
Michelle Taparousky, Vice Chair	___X___	_____
Peter Baghdasarian, Member	___X___	_____
Mason Seagrave, Member	___X___	_____
Mary-Meg Walsh, Member	___X___	_____
John Higgns, Member	___X___	_____
Jane, Keegan, Secretary	___X___	_____

Also in attendance: Superintendent, Daniel Stefanilo

- 1.) **Call to order:** 7:00 p.m.
- 2.) **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- 3.) **Opening Day Comments from Superintendent and Principals:**

Superintendent Stefanilo gave an overview of the opening day activities. He also informed the Committee of the changes in the building. The main office which serves the public had been redesigned to be more user-friendly. A new computer lab has been completed with most of the furniture donated by Waters Associates of Milford. His administrative team of Dr. Boyaj, George Zini, and Tara Bennett meet on a regular basis. Overall, the opening day for teachers and students went extremely well.

Dr. Boyaj, speaking as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, informed the Committee that they have adopted a new reading program. The company has provided four consultants: one for kindergarten, one for grade one, one for grades two and three, and one for grades four, five, and six. MCAS scores should be received in September. The focus is on "How can we improve student performance." Dr. Boyaj stated that it seems everyone is having fun.

Whitin School

Dr. Boyaj also reported on the Whitin School, because Ron Farrar and Amy Pulifaco were attending Whitin School Open House. At the Whitin School there were no staff turnovers, there has been an increase in enrollment, and there has been very positive feedback from parents.

Taft Elementary School

Ms. Paula Montesi reported that the Taft School had a wonderful opening. The classrooms looked great on the first day of school and the teachers have embraced the "fish" philosophy.

The custodians worked very hard during the summer to get the school in outstanding condition. The Taft School removed the carpet from six classrooms and replaced them with a tile floor, which is easier to keep clean and helps those children with allergies.

Computer jobs have been upgraded and the third and fourth grade teachers are working as teams.

The playground with the new material is outstanding and the children are enjoying it. There is also an increase in the Taft School enrollment.

Early Learning Center

Sharon Petrowicz, Lead Teacher at the Early Learning Center, reported that the ELC has had renovations done to the building; new windows and new siding has been added to the building. The ELC has hired a new music teacher. Opening day was very successful.

Special Education

Dr. Haughey reported on the Special Education Program. The new 18-22 year old program is now being served on Mendon Street. We have had one person that has come in from outside our district at the rate of \$17,500. We are looking at other people coming into our program.

Business Manager

Don Sawyer reported on the busing activities during opening day and overall everything went according to schedule. He reported that we will be providing the Whittin School with a new parking area for approximately 22-25 spaces. This will help take the cars off the street and reduce the safety hazard that now exists.

He also reported that the district is purchasing a van to transport special need students. The cost of the van is approximately \$19,000. Overall, this will save the district money as we now pay approximately \$40,000 a year to transport one student to Oxford.

Mr. Sawyer also informed the committee that the food service program and the day care program at the end of the fiscal year ended in the black.

4.) Finance Committee Chairman:

Mr. Edward Maharay, Chair of the Finance Committee, addressed the Committee about holding a working session between the Finance Committee and the School Committee, to ensure that both committee's are on the same page and are working together for a common purpose. The Committee agreed to meet with the Finance Committee on October 14, 2008.

5.) SBA Feasibility Study:

John Higgins, Chair of the School Building Committee, updated the Committee on the steps that are part of the \$500,000 Feasibility Study that the State requires all districts to complete to be eligible for State reimbursement to build a new school.

6.) Warrant Article:

Don Sawyer explained the warrant article that the Committee will submit at the Fall Annual Town Meeting. In addition, he explained the funding process that he and the Finance Director

have agreed upon. *Jane Keegan made the motion to submit the article, second by Mary-Meg Walsh. Vote 7-0 in favor of the article.*

7.) Superintendent Goals:

The Chair asked the Committee to be ready to discuss goals for the Superintendent at their next meeting.

8.) Unit A Ratification of MOA:

The Committee voted to ratify the MOA for Unit A. *The motion was made by Michelle Taparausky to ratify the MOA for Unit A, second by Peter Baghdasarian. Vote 7-0 in favor.*

9.) School Committee Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting of August 5, 2008 were reviewed. *A motion was made by Peter Baghdasarian, second by Mary-Meg Walsh to accept these minutes as amended. Vote 7-0 in favor.*

10.)Adjournment:

At 9:00 p.m. Peter Baghdasarian made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Michelle Taparausky. Vote 7-0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Ernest Esposito, Chair

School Committee Members:

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Michelle Taparausky, Vice-Chair

Jane Keegan, Secretary

Peter Baghdasarian, Member

Mason Seagrave, Member

John Higgins, Member

Mary-Meg Walsh, Member

