

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, April 8, 2019
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Shannon Molloy, Jon Green, John Ruark, Sharlene Cronin, Aziz Aghavev and Linda Dwight. Absent: Chloe Cushing and Maureen Babcock

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Shannon Molloy read the vision statement.

Public Commentary: None

Student Report: None

Travel Request Vote:

Michael Poe requested approval for a field trip to Milwaukee, WI the weekend of May 24th through May 26th in order for the Debate team to attend the NCFL tournament.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and John Ruark seconded to approve the trip as presented.
VOTE 5/0

HES Leadership and Safety Patrol Sharing

Scott Mulcahy introduced students from Hildreth Elementary School to share information on the following topics:

HES Grade 4 & 5 Leadership group

* Ellie explained the work that the student leadership group did for the project Cradles to Crayons.

* Hannah explained the work the student leadership team did for the project Loaves and Fishes.

*Ashlyn explained the work the student leadership team did for the Veteran's Day Breakfast and Ceremony.

HES 5th grade Safety Patrol- students explained some of their job responsibilities on safety patrol:

*Noah - Walking students to dismissal and having recess and lunch with kindergartens.

*Jake – Raising the flag and walking students to specials.

*Noah P – Recycling and volunteering in another classroom.

HES Grade 3-5 Newspaper Committee

*Lena – Shared her vision for the Husky newspaper.

*Saara – Shared the benefits that working on the newspaper committee gives to students.

*Harrison- Shared what he loves about working on the school newspaper.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee that she continues to meet with her mentor from the MASS New Superintendent Induction Program after the end of the formal program. Claire Sheff Kohn, a retired MA and NJ Superintendent, graciously continues to provide me with wise council and sage advice and support.

***Athletic Advisory Meeting and Softball Field Update**

The athletic advisory met on March 26th. This is an advisory group that started meeting four years ago after Darren Magan and Dr. Dwight saw the need to bring people together from HAA, Park and Rec, parent boosters, community members, and school leaders to improve athletic programs for students of all ages. Anyone with an interest in this area has been welcome to attend.

At our recent meeting, we focused part of our discussion on the fields, in particular the needs of the softball players. Several members expressed frustration at the lack of information on the progress of the Ann Lee's field project. Dr. Dwight agreed to organize a meeting of those directing the project and report back to members of the group.

Updates since then - Liz Allard, Don Ritchie, Tim Kilhart and the construction company met on the field on 4/4. They determined that temporary permission could be granted for the project to begin because the work is outside of the 100-foot state regulated buffer, but within the 200-foot town regulated buffer. The project should begin later this week with this special town permission.

***Inclusion Meeting and Arm in Arm Events**

The Inclusion Committee met on April 1st. They discussed the curriculum review for bias completed by each teacher this year as part of our inclusion work and a Civil Rights Review. Kathleen Doherty shared two examples from her department. Teachers have carefully reviewed their materials, asked important questions, and documented how they teach about the bias. Our conversation continued and included the need to develop a better form with rating scales and teaching students how to identify bias in the resources they read. Upcoming Inclusion events being held are a PBS film, Dayla's Other Country along with discussion, a showing of Teja's video of collected Bromfield stories and he led a discussion. The Harvard Schools Trust and Arm in Arm supported community events.

***Student Government Day**

Dr. Dwight had the honor of chaperoning two students to the Student Government Day at the State House in Boston on April 5th. While the students met in the House Chamber and then met with several political leaders, Dr. Dwight attended sessions on the civic curriculum requirements, resources, and professional development opportunities. Dr. Dwight will be sharing the information with the Social Studies department.

***Representative Meeting about the State Budget Priorities**

Tim Bragan organized a meeting of department leaders and Jen Benson. Chief Sicard and Dr. Dwight joined him for the meeting and shared how budget cuts have impacted our departments. She asked questions and shared information about what she was working on and supporting in this budget development phase.

***Wellness Committee to Meet**

Colleen Nigus, our head nurse in the district, is organizing a Wellness Committee meeting centered on reducing vaping. The Committee will discuss education, detection, consequences,

and more. We will set goals aimed at reducing the 30% self-reported use by our Bromfield high school students.

*Stipend follow-up

Stipends that were approved at our last meeting were presented and approved by the Chair and Vice Chair and paid out on the last payroll.

*Budget book revision

Version 4 of the Budget books were handed out which reflected the budget cuts approved by the Committee at the last meeting.

School Committee Self Evaluation

John Ruark explained the template that was used in past years and shared the MASC template to see if members would be open to a change in which evaluation instrument to use. After discussion, the Committee decided to use the new template, with room for comments, and not to be presented anonymously. The evaluation will be done by five School Committee members, our Devens representative and the Superintendent. John Ruark will get the evaluation out to members by Wednesday, April 10th and will want the results back by Monday, April 15th. The Committee will review the results of the evaluation at their next meeting.

Last Day of School Determination; Vote

Jon Green made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to accept the last day of the 2018/2019 school year as Friday, June 14th as an early release day as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Choice Discussion and Determination; Vote

Aziz Aghavev gave the Committee the School Choice financial breakdown showing the current carry forward balance and anticipated end of year balance. Dr. Dwight discussed the recommendation of the leadership team for an identified 15 slots as:

Current grade

Grade 4 – 3 students

Grade 5 – 4 students

Grade 6 – 4 students

Grade 7 – 4 students

SusanMary Redinger recommended no students in Grade 4, and increasing Grade 6 and 7 to 5 students, and Grade 9 to 1 student.

John Ruark made the motion and Jon Green seconded to move to open up the following slots for School Choice students in the 19/20 school year.

Current Grade 5 - 4

Current Grade 6 - 5

Current grade 7 – 5

Current grade 9 – 1

VOTE 5/0

Policy Review

John Ruark presented the following policies for approval: GA, GBA GBD, GBDE, GBEB, GBEB, GBED, GBEE, GBGB.

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve Policy GA as presented and amended.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve Policy GBA as presented.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve policy GBD and policy BHC as presented.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBDE as amended.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBEB as amended.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBEB as presented.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBED as presented.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBEE as presented and amended.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve policy GBGB as presented and amended.

VOTE 5/0

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger explained that the School Building Committee went over the list of add/deducts that would be included in the bid package in the event things need to be taken out. The list was prioritized and includes removing bricks, decorative tile, floor color to one color, eliminate outside shades, and change in ceiling treatments. The total of all changes will be approximately \$300K. The School Building Committee reviewed the change order process and how it will work. The change order working group will review changes and then at the next building meeting present changes. There will be weekly construction meetings. Surveying will take place this week. The project is currently on time and on budget. Final bid documents will be approved at the next meeting on April 25th.

Grant Approval

The following grant request was submitted from FanFare to School Committee approval.

Plaque Additions - \$156 – adding award plaques to add future names to recognize excellence in band and chorus.

“Loaner” Tenor Saxophone - \$2,047 – replace aging instrument.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and John Ruark seconded to accept the grants from Fanfare as presented in the packet.

VOTE 5/0

Agenda

Housing at Devens/Enrollment Impact

Budget Update

SC Evaluation

Public Hearing

Technology Presentation

Wellness Update

HES Survey

Approval of Meeting Minutes

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the March 25th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison Subcommittee

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC met and rescinded the \$480K that was approved for the library roof and instead approved \$25K to study the building structure and make sure that there are not issues that need to be resolved before a new roof is installed. The delay will allow for a grant to be submitted to the MA Cultural Council to seek help in funding the project. In addition, CPIC tweaked the rating form and got ready for town meeting.

Public and School Committee Commentary

Shannon Molloy attended the MASC School Start Program. The event was well attended with over 30 School Committee members in attendance. There was good and useful discussion with a panel made up of administrators, school committee members and students of schools that have implemented later start times.

John Ruark – Reminder to add to agenda for next time - warrant article items and designated speakers for town meeting. Also, a reminder that the High School and MS concerts will be held this week, it is a great event and hope to see people there to support our talented musicians.

Linda Dwight – Complemented the HES drama group for putting on the play “101 Dalmations”. It was a great performance and congratulations to all involved. It is so great to see our students performing with such confidence.

Adjourn

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Zadroga