

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: Sharlene Cronin, SusanMary Redinger, Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Shannon Molloy, Maureen Babcock

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Olivia Ren and Josh Myler.

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

Abby Besse read the Vision Statement

Public Commentary - None

Student Report – Olivia Ren reported that AP testing started last week. Most people are doing it in person with social distancing. Testing will go on throughout the month of May. The Project 351 Club which is a Middle School Service club is holding a clothing drive this week. Donations can be made in bins located in the middle school wing and at entrance of HES. Students are adjusting to the full days of school. Started out rocky but everyone is adjusting.

Superintendent Report - Attached

Policy Review (VOTE)

Suzanne Allen reviewed proposed changes to the COVID-19 policy as a result of the DESE recommendations related to exposure guidelines. The policy was a changed to reflect that students will be exempt from being a close contact in school if they remain 3-6 ft apart and are fully masked. Close contacts including participants in extracurricular school activities and sports are still required to quarantine.

With no objections, SusanMary Redinger approved the Policy as amended.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy (Aye) Redinger (Aye)

Health Insurance Gap Coverage

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to table the insurance item to a later time.

Final Budget Approval (VOTE)

The Committee reviewed, approved and voted the FY22 final budget numbers as:

General Fund Allocation of \$13,984,923

Offsets of \$3,723,061

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the FY22 budget as presented which includes the encumbrance to the Devens account.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

FY22 Budget Priorities Review

Sharlene Cronin reported that with the availability of additional, one-time grant funding through ARPA and ESSER, the budget subcommittee met to consider how those funds may be applied toward our budgetary needs in the coming years. The Budget Subcommittee recommends that Dr. Dwight prioritize the development of proposals for deepening the Middle School wellness programming and for hiring a curriculum coordinator who could also have responsibilities in the area of DEI and data analysis. These proposals would be presented to the full Committee for a review and vote at a future meeting.

In addition, the district will identify and close gaps resulting from COVID-19 learning loss, review initiatives and programs that have been put on hold or divested due to budget cuts. Dr. Dwight reported that the FY22 budget was created with one less Math teacher at The Bromfield School. Dr. Dwight feels the elimination of this position is spreading the department too thin and is recommending the Committee approve an additional Math teacher be hired at the Bromfield School for the 2021-2022 school year.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to authorize the Superintendent to hire a full time Math Teacher at The Bromfield School for the 2021/2022 school year.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

Director of Community Recreation and Education

Dr. Dwight presented the job description for a proposed new position for the town and school for a Director of Community Recreation and Education. If the School Committee votes to approve the job description it will be handed to the town and will be brought back for future movement.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move that we approve the job description for the Director of Community Recreation and Education as presented.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

Summer Program Review

HES Principal, Josh Myler presented the 2021 Summer Support Program details that will be offered at Hildreth Elementary School this summer. There will be two sessions that will run July 13 through July 22 and July 27 through August 5. Sessions will run three mornings per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Students in rising first through rising sixth grade can sign up for one or both sessions. The program is supported by state and federal grant funding.

Water Storage Tank Replacement Funding (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight reported that there is a leak in the hot water tank at the Bromfield School. Pat Harrigan has evaluated the system and recommends a replacement as it is beyond repair. Dr. Dwight is requesting an amount up to \$30,000 to be taken from the Shaw Trust account for this replacement.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move to accept the proposal for the storage tank as presented.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

Grant Approval

Dr. Dwight submitted for approval a grant from the Harvard Schools Trust and the Harvard PTO in the amount of \$1,500 each to be used to offset the cost of the sound system for graduation.

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the grants as presented.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

Bromfield House Lease (VOTE)

The Committee reviewed the rental agreement between the Town of Harvard and Shawmut Woodworking & Supply, Inc. for the lease of the Bromfield House to commence on May 17, 2021 and shall continue as a month to month tenancy until such time as it is terminated by either party upon thirty days' prior notice. Legal Counsel has reviewed the agreement. By allowing Shawmut to lease the Bromfield House, landscaping and trailer removal will be able to begin sooner. The rent will be paid at \$1,000 per month and will be credited into the building project funds.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve the lease agreement as presented.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

SAC Topics for 5/28 Meeting

SusanMary may change the SAC meeting to May 21st to not interfere with the students last day of school. Topics for the meeting include:

Wish list items

Best practices

Lessons learned from a year of COVID

Send any additional ideas to SusanMary Redinger and add them to the agenda.

School Committee Member Assignment to BOS Revenue Committee

SusanMary Redinger introduced the background information for the formation of the Harvard Revenue Ideation Committee. The Committee composition includes in agreed to join the Committee. SusanMary Redinger was appointed and agreed to take on the role to represent the School Committee.

ATM review

SusanMary Redinger ran through the school side items that will need to be spoken about at the Annual Town Meeting which includes

1. The Card Access system at the Bromfield School
2. HVAC system at the Bromfield School
3. The Bromfield House disposition
4. The solar panel lease for the schools

SusanMary Redinger will be prepared to speak to all of the warrant items (minus the solar panels) but is happy to allow others to speak if they would like.

Future meeting dates

May 24th

June 28th

No meeting June 14th

July 26 - retreat

No meeting July 12

No meeting August 9th

August 23rd

Town Meeting

Agenda Items

Reorganization Meeting

Budget priorities

Review summer PD

Minutes

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the April 12th meeting as amended.

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the April 26th meeting as amended.

Subcommittee Report

Sharlene Cronin had nothing to report.

Shannon Molloy reported that DEI met but she was unable to attend the meeting and had no update.

Shannon Molloy reported that the testing group met and discussed the role of testing in the policy changes and potential in the summer program going forward. They are also discussed the possibility of participating in a “sniff” test study out of Yale University. They are looking for partners who are running other testing sites. to create data.

Shannon Molloy reported SEPAC met and they are hoping to deploy their survey to families by the end of the school year. They were also pleased to be included in the hiring process for Dr. Harrington’s replacement.

Suzanne Allen reported that HES School Council met and discussed the excitement surrounding the move and when kids will tour the building. The bulk of the meeting was used to look at next year’s school improvement plan. The math curriculum, “Go Math” has been extended for another year. Also discussed were restorative practices, pandemic changes, and scheduling difficulties.

Maureen Babcock – DEAC met and reviewed the survey results. There was no surprising feedback. Mass Development has hired a new recreation director. They have not yet replaced the DPW director. There are a dozen homes on Bradley Circle that families are moving into. There may be a shift in building plans due to the cost of materials. The apartment building will be the last thing they will do.

Abby Besse reported that the TBS School Council will be meeting tomorrow.

Abby Besse reported that Parks and Rec met and learned that the money allocated to make improvements on the baseball and softball fields has been spent. Both infields have been completed. The Ann Lees outfield needs more work as well as it needs mowing. The Pond Road field had the fences installed this week and has been mowed.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the new school building was turned over today. Students are touring, movers will start moving on Friday. Monday and Tuesday teachers will be unpacking and Wednesday the students will be welcomed into their new school.

The project is on time and on budget. There is money in reserve for any unexpected in Phase II. We are super excited; the new building is a breath of fresh air.

Public Commentary – None

School Commentary

Suzanne Allen shared the success of student – Caroline Charland who was selected for her art work to be in the K-12 doodle contest. The top 5 vote getters get to visit an artist and get a cash prize and the winner's school district gets \$50K toward technology equipment. Please check this out and our best wishes to Caroline and her family.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 7 for the following purposes: To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant -in-aid requirements; specifically, to approve the executive session minutes from prior meeting. We will not be returning to Open Session.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Bessie (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

