

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2021
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: Sharlene Cronin (6:30), SusanMary Redinger, Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Shannon Molloy (6:35), Maureen Babcock

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Josh Myler, Taylor Caroom and Brooke Caroom.

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement.

Dr. Linda Dwight called the organizational meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and identified that the meeting was being recorded. There was a change in the order of agenda items. Items 4 and 5 went before 2 and 3.

Student Report:

Brooke Caroom reported this is the last week for seniors. The prom will be held this weekend. Graduation will be held the following weekend, along with many fun activities including a car parade. Robin Douglas held a successful clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons.

Taylor Caroom reported that the staff versus senior field day was a huge success and the Seniors were excited to win. The Celebration event was held after field day. It was beautiful and super fun. It is a positive feeling getting to the end of the year and having things wrap up.

Superintendent Report - Attached

Reorganization of Committee Officers

Abby Besse made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to nominate SusanMary Redinger for Chair the School Committee. SusanMary Redinger accepted the nomination.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Redinger (Aye). Molloy (not present)

SuanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to nominate Abby Besse for Vice Chair. Abby Besse accepted the nomination.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Redinger (Aye). Molloy (not present)

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to nominate Suzanne Allen for Secretary. Suzanne Allen accepted the nomination.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Redinger (Aye). Molloy (not present)

Public Commentary

Rachel Kopay, 221 Littleton County Road, Harvard, MA – Mask policy

Pam Brown, 202 Littleton Road, Harvard, MA - Mask policy

Molly Waring, 128 Littleton Road, Harvard, MA – Mask policy

Jen Manell, 273 Stow Road, Harvard, MA – Mask policy

Mask Policy Review (VOTE)

The Policy Subcommittee walked through the conflicting guidance/guidelines from DESE, the CDC and the MIIA relative to the mask wearing. Currently, students are no longer required to wear masks outdoors. In addition, students will not need to quarantine if they are considered a close contact with someone while outdoors. The recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee is that there will be no change to mask wearing indoors for student PK-12. At HES students will continue to wear masks outdoors. At Bromfield students can decide if they want to wear masks when they are outdoors.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move to approve the COVID mask policy as amended.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Molloy (Aye)

Shift in Start Time Update

Dr. Dwight is ready to move ahead with the research-based change to the school start time. Dr. Dwight met with the HTA to review the start time for students and teachers. This information will be communicated out to families before the end of the year for planning purposes. We will evaluate the pilot program in the spring of 2022.

Food Service Program Recommendation

Dr. Dwight announced that Chef Paul has decided to retire from his position as Food Services Director and pursue his passion for cider making full-time. Dr. Dwight explained the idea of hiring both a Chef and a Director of Nutritional Services in order to meet the needs of the required paperwork as well as providing a nutritional/artistic lunch. Dr. Dwight is working on a job description as well as outreach to other communities to see if there is any opportunity to job share. The Budget Subcommittee will work on the cost of the various models versus the expected offsets.

Director of Community Recreation and Education

Dr. Dwight met with Tim Bragen, Bob O'Shea and Marie Sobalvarro regarding moving forward with the shared town and school Director of Community Recreation and Education. Dr. Dwight presented the job description for the Committee to review and approve.

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), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Malloy, Redinger (Aye)

End of Year Activities Update

Mask wearing at the Prom will be optional– no rain date

No sit-down dinner at the Prom

Only the Senior class will be attending

Binex testing will be required on Friday for all who attend

Masks are optional for graduation

Students will sit together

Family pods may be increased to 8 family members
Rain date for graduation is Sunday

Grant Approval

The Harvard PTO gift of \$397.19 to fund an inclusive library with books on various disabilities for the SAIL class was presented for approval.

The Harvard PTO gift of \$600.00 to fund the First Grade's "Exploring Organisms at Bare Hill Pond" with the Nashua River Watershed Association Educator field trip was presented for approval.

SusanMary Redinger with no objection approved the grants as presented.

Meeting Dates

SAC/SC – May 26th 7:00 a.m.

SC – June 28th –

Retreat – July 26th

Mask policy - TBD

Agenda Items

Superintendent Evaluation

School Committee Self Evaluation

Planning for the Retreat

SEPAC Report

School Improvement Plans

District Improvement Plans

Minutes

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the May 10th meeting as amended.

Subcommittee Report

Abby Besse – The Bromfield School Council met last week. The Council discussed ideas and categories to focus on when developing the next School Improvement Plan.

Abby Besse – reported that the town approved funding for the Parks and Recreation Committee to further invest in our fields and work is happening to create the position of Community Recreation and Education director.

Suzanne Allen – reported that the HES School Council will meet next week. The Transportation Advisory meets in June.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that the Budget Subcommittee monthly meeting is scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month.

Sharlene Cronin –was excited to announce that at the School Building Committee meeting they were informed that the demolition of the old building is beginning and expected to be completed in July.

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC held an end of year event. School personnel and families attended. Ms. Ference did an amazing job putting it together. It was a great end cap for the year. The SEPAC survey is out. It is getting good responses. Please share with anyone who may have received it to fill it out.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Safer Teachers, Safer Schools group met. They had a guest speaker who was a Behavioral Economist who talked a lot about testing participation and what motivates it. One of the big things that came out of it was how young children can help drive adult behavior. There will be more information coming soon regarding support for testing in the fall.

Maureen Babcock reported that there is a COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the Clear Paths Veterans Center in Devens.

SusanMary Redinger reported CPIC meets again on June 1st. Funding was approved for the card access system and the HVAC work.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the bulk of the work at HES is done. The porch screens have been ordered and demolition is underway. Unwanted items and building materials are being reused and/or recycled in accordance with LEED standards. On time and on budget.

SusanMary Redinger reported that Governor Baker may rescind some of the emergency regulations in place relative to the Open Meeting Law. It is not clear if the meeting will need to be held in person. SusanMary will keep us posted as soon as updated information is available.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Revenue Generation Committee has not met yet. SusanMary Redinger reported that the Bromfield House Disposition Committee was disbanded but due to the failed vote at ATM, Rich Maiore has asked the school committee and parks and rec to work together to determine an appropriate use for the property and be prepared to present something at the fall STM.

Public Commentary

Rachel Kopay, 221 Littleton County Road, Harvard, MA – Thank you for all of the work that you do.

SusanMary Redinger – With appreciation acknowledge the great contribution by Taylor and Brooke Caroom as student representative to the School Committee. We appreciate you and will miss you very much.

Taylor and Brooke – acknowledge that it has been a wonderful experience.

Closing Commentary

Shannon Molloy – clarifying something that happened at a meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.