

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2021
6:15 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson,

Suzanne Allen read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary: None

Superintendent Report - Attached

SEPAC End of Year Presentation

Jenny Gillard, as Co-Chair of the Harvard SEPAC shared the activities and accomplishments they were able to achieve throughout the year. This was Jenny Gillard and Aspen Ferrence's second successful year as Co-Chairs of the Harvard SEPAC. Highlights of their accomplishment included:

- Hosted 2 virtual workshops that were well attended
- Hosted 2 in person events for families and special education teachers
- Developed an infographic explaining the IEP process
- Conducted a 10 question survey to gauge district families experiences

SusanMary Redinger praised Aspen Ferrence and Jenny Gillard for the wonderful job they are doing.

Director of Pupil Services Final Candidate (VOTE)

Jennifer Sauter was introduced as the recommended finalist to be the next Director of Pupil Services at the Harvard Public Schools. Dr. Dwight shared her background information and invited the Committee to ask questions.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint Jennifer Sauter as the new Director of Pupil Services.

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

Director of Community Recreation and Education Candidate Update

Kevin Mitrano was introduced as the recommended finalist as the Director of Community Recreation and Education. He will be meeting with Dr. Dwight and Bob O'Shea tomorrow to finalize a contract and is expected to start employment in July.

Dr. Dwight reported that six interviews have been set up to fill the position of Director of Nutrition Services.

Policy Review (VOTE)

The Policy Subcommittee reviewed updates to the mask policy. The change would allow fully vaccinated adults to meet in person and choose to wear a mask or not when students are not present.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the changes to the mask policy as presented and amended.

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

District Improvement Plan Year End Review

Dr. Dwight reviewed the updated, year-end status of the District Improvement Plan. Dr. Dwight proposed that a working group be formed to revisit the direction and strategy of the District Improvement Plan going forward. Dr. Dwight proposed having limited District Improvement goals for one more year which would include revisiting the improvement plan with a focus on a five year strategic approach.

Superintendent/School Committee Goals Year End Review

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the status of the School Committee/Superintendent goals for the 2020-2021 school year. The measure for goals one and two were met through the hard work of the committee, but goal 3 was not completed.

- Goal 1- Contract Negotiation
- Goal 2 - Develop and Approve a Budget for FY22
- Goal 3 - School Committee Best Practices

Goals will be an agenda topic at the upcoming School Committee retreat.

SC Self Evaluation Review

SusanMary Redinger shared information for members regarding the School Committee Self Evaluation. It was recommended that members complete the evaluation by July 21st so that the data can be compiled for discussion at the retreat.

Superintendent Evaluation

SusanMary Redinger proposed that the Superintendent evaluation be sent out after the retreat. Dr. Dwight would like to propose a change to the evaluation that would make the information easier to access and less erroneous. Dr. Dwight will share this potential change at the retreat. School Committee members will complete the Superintendent evaluation so that it can be reviewed at the August 30th School Committee meeting.

Summer PD Review

Dr. Dwight explained how the summer curriculum work is assigned and prioritized. Teacher teams presented many varied proposals based on district goals. The leaders evaluated the requests and determined how many proposals could be approved. Most all requests were approved due to the additional funding from the ESSER grant and the teacher's per diem daily rate for summer work changing to \$250 per day in the current teachers contract.

Grant Approval

None

Future Meeting Dates

August 10th or 11th - possible

August 25th – 6:30 p.m.

July 26th – 9:00 a.m.

Agenda Items

Policy

Updates on School Opening

COVID Update

Director of Education and Recreation

Minutes

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the May 24, 2021 meeting as amended.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Suzanne Allen - reported that the HES School Council met and they talked about staff changes for the upcoming year. Another conversation was how to implement some of the positive changes in teaching and learning as a result of the pandemic. Adeline Kelsey was welcomed as a new School Council member. The group will continue to work on the school improvement plan for next year.

Suzanne Allen - reported that the Transportation Advisory group meets on Wednesday.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that the Athletic Advisory has not met.

Sharlene Cronin - reported that the Budget Subcommittee meeting is slated to meet on July 20th.

Shannon Molloy– reported that SEPAC has met. The Board election took place and to a great extent the same board will be serving for the next year. SEPAC talked about supporting sports. It will be good to get the survey results. Thanked Jenny Gillard for providing us with the update this evening.

Shannon Molloy reported that the testing group met and primarily discussed testing over the summer. The state level testing group met and reported that some of the Binax tests that were about to expire might be able to be distributed to other groups that could use them. Abbot is going to extend the out dates for the test so they learned that they will not expire after all. They also discussed the role of testing, baseline testing and mandated vaccines. This group will continue to meet once per month over the summer.

Abby Besse - reported that the Bromfield School Council did not meet.

Abby Besse - reported that Parks and Recreation have been meeting and spending time discussing the hiring of the new director. At the last meeting they were able to tie up loose ends regarding payment for the maintenance of the baseball and softball fields. Work still needs to be done on Ann Lee field.

SusanMary Redinger - reported that CPIC met and the composition of the board is changing. There are two positions that need to be filled. They have agreed on the timeline and the documents for the fall.

SusanMary Redinger reported that demolition is progressing and the demo should be done by the end of July. We are on track for the excavation work to be completely done by the end of October. The Building Committee continues to work with our neighbors on water irrigation issues that hopefully will be taken care of when the second phase of the project is done.

Public and School Committee Commentary

None

Adjourn

With no objection SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Mary Zadroga](#)