

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
August 24, 2020

Members attending: Sharlene Cronin, SusanMary Redinger, Suzannne Allen, Shannon Molloy, Abby Besse, and Linda Dwight Absent: Maureen Babcock

Others in attendance Brooke Caroom, Taylor Caroom, Aziz Aghayev, Cristin Hodgen, Katy Covino, Colleen Nigzus.

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

Abby Besse read the Vision Statement

SusanMary Redinger read a statement indicating that the meeting was being held remotely and the meeting was being held via video conferencing. Members in attendance were identified through a roll call process.

Public Comment: None

Student Report:

Felicia Jamba reported that students are excited for classes to start. Summer work is due this week and work is being passed out to AP students. Taylor Caroom reported that the Senior Class held a class meeting today. About 30 students attended. It was a great opportunity for students to talk about ideas for the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

MIAA Sports Participation for Remote Learners; VOTE

There is a possibility that students who attend school remotely will need approval by the School Committee to participate in sports. Dr. Dwight ask the Committee to vote before the season potentially starts in mid-September.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move that we allow students who elect to attend school remotely this year be to be allowed to participate in MIAA sports.

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

Rental Fees for Facility for Town Employee Childcare; VOTE

Cristin Hodgens spoke as the leader of the Childcare Committee to explain the general idea on how the Childcare Committee evolved and ways they are working towards partnering with the school and town. Currently there are five families with a total of nine students interested in attending.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the childcare plan as detailed by Dr. Dwight and to allocate up to \$500 per month for rental fees to the Unitarian Church Fellowship Hall.

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

Remote Learning Update

Katy Covino – leader of the Remote Advisory Council explained that the goal of Advisory Council is to work collaboratively with school administration to maintain equity of access and engagement for remote learners. Once school starts the Advisory will help administration know what is working and what needs to be changed or improved.

Student Schedules Presentation (Graphic)

Dr. Dwight shared information on the TBS and HES Remote Learning schedules.

Personnel Increase Request; VOTE

Dr. Dwight requested that the Committee approve the hiring of 2 long term substitute teaching positions in order to cover the hybrid and remote re-entry plan. At this time, we are able to fund these positions through personnel changes within the current budget and will come back if additional funding is needed.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to authorize the Superintendent to hire up to two new positions for this one contract year.

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

BOH Testing

Colleen Nigzus clarified that Tamara Bedard from the Nashoba Board of Health will be the contact person to report any COVID related issues. Dr. Dwight and Colleen Nigzus will conduct the contact tracing within the school for staff and students. That information will be passed to Tamara Bedard at the Board of Health for follow up. Dr. Dwight will communicate to families any positive cases in the schools.

Colleen Nigzus explained that the Department of Public Health released a memo regarding rapid response testing. If we have a cluster in the school district DPH will send a mobile response team out to do testing with quick results. Parent permission is required. Call from administration to BOH who will then call DPH.

Sharon McCarthy – cautioned people that a cluster has very specific guidelines and must meet requirements. Screen testing can be counterproductive because of the false positive rates. Shannon Molloy reported that there is a parent group working with a lab to possibly provide testing in the schools.

COVID Budget Impact

Aziz Aghayev presented the updated COVID Budget spreadsheet that presented expenses, purchases, inventory and assumptions as of August 10th.

Year End Financials; VOTE

Aziz Aghayev gave an update of the FY20 year-end financials by cost center. He will be back to a future meeting to give an update on the revolving fund accounts.

M/S Ramp Submission; VOTE

David Pollack from the Abacus Architect firm attended the meeting to explain the changes to the Middle School ramp project with the directive to renew the ramp to be safe, low maintenance and at the lowest cost that is reasonable. The members are in general agreement about the approach, but will wait for estimates to take a formal vote. The estimates will be brought to the CPIC meeting and then SusanMary Redinger will work with Abacus to arrange another meeting with School Committee in order to take a formal vote to approve the project.

COVID Related Policy Review; VOTE

Suzanne Allen read through a first read of the proposed COVID Travel Policy. The policy requires a 96 hour wait time for testing if someone travels to a restricted state.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to adopt the COVID Travel Policy as reviewed by legal counsel and amended by the Committee.

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

Shannon Molloy presented amendments to Policy File JH. The amendments will clarify student absences and excuses as they pertain to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve policy JH as amended.

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

Suzanne Allen read through the COVID Exposure/Symptom Guidelines adapted from DESE and amended by the Committee. The Exposure/Symptom flow chart was also amended.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the policy and flowchart as amended.

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

Future Meeting Dates

August 31st –

Saturday – September 26th for retreat

September 14th

Agenda Items

Handbooks
Policy
Devens sheet
Anti-Racism update
COVID-19 testing
PreK and K tuition

Minutes

Without objection, SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes approved as amended.

Liaison/Subcommittee Updates

None

Grant Approval

Apple Pencil 1st Generation Stylus –Lisa Terrio - \$558.00
Remote Learning Science Tools for High School – Jackie Travers, Julie Burton, Kristen Vanderveen - \$1,745.50
PebbleGo Additional Modules – Marybeth Quaadgras, Erin Sintros - \$1,299.00

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the gifts as presented.
Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Public Commentary-

Kerri Green – Oak Hill Road – remote learning

SC Commentary

Suzanne Allen – screen testing can be a useful tool and should not be dismissed. Would like more details on the hybrid model and how it will look for students.

Adjourn

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger consider the meeting adjourn at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

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