

School Committee Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
November 30, 2020

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

Others in attendance Nick Thornton, Aziz Aghayev, Josh Myler, Scott Hoffman and Marie Harrington.

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

SusanMary Redinger 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 Commentary:** Elizaveta Ragulin Coyne, 9 Babbit Lane - school closing criteria due to COVID.

Elise Bilodeau – 3178 Belmont Ave, Dallas Texas – future agenda item - to review curriculum.

**Student Report:** Nick Thornton reported that students are just coming back from a homework free Thanksgiving break. Fall sports are wrapping up and Winter sports are around the corner. The Cross-country teams did very well this year. Students are finding ways to make things special during these different times. A current project that students are working on is a mural. Students will create individual squares that will be all combined to create the mural. Next week the Bromfield Drama Society is putting on a virtual show called “She Kills Monsters.

**Superintendent Update**

See Attached.

**Budget Review**

Dr. Dwight presented the FY22 budget with the assistance of the School Business Manager Aziz Aghayev, Josh Myler, Scott Hoffman and Marie Harrington. The town asked the school department to bring forth a level funded budget. With steps and columns as well as some contracted increases the budget increase is \$86,505. The Budget Subcommittee proposed to increase the Devens offset to cover the deficit in the FY22 budget. Discussion was held around the World Language program and the Health program at HES. The HCTV asked for an increase in the school contribution to the cable programs offered to the school. In addition to a level funded budget, the town asked the school department to prepare a budget with a 5% reduction. The Budget Subcommittee will meet to discuss ways to cut in order to decrease the budget by 5% and bring ideas back to the full committee for input. The proposed FY22 budget as presented and amended tonight will be brought back to the next meeting for a vote.

## **Policy Review**

Suzanne Allen made a motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve Policy File HA – Negotiations Goals as presented.

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

Suzanne Allen made a motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve Policy File JBB – Educational Equity as presented.

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

Suzanne Allen made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve Policy File JF – School Admission as presented.

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

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve Policy File JFABD – Rights of Homeless Students –as presented.

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

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to adopt policy JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care -

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

Suzanne Allen read through policy JLCB – Immunization Policy as a first read. The Committee made edits to the policy. The Committee agreed to forego the one meeting wait time normally in place for new policies and voted to approve at this meeting.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move that we adopt policy JLBC on an emergency basis.

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

Suzanne Allen shared that the Policy Subcommittee updated the Learning Model decision points which are the dates where students can change from remote to hybrid are February 1, March 1, and April 12. The Committee will revisit the dates around March 1.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the Learning Model decision dates as amended.

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

Suzanne Allen directed attention to the policy that states if 2 staff or students in our district contract COVID the school will shut down. A potential change is to have the policy read if there 2 or more COVID positive cases per school within a 14-day timeframe among faculty, staff or students would result in a shutdown of the building. Members of a household would be considered 1 case per school. Data shows that schools have remained a safe place for students. Dr. Dwight will include a question on the next parent survey to seek public input as to how the community feels about making this change.

## **Screening Initiative Plan Update**

Dr. Dwight shared the current status of the Screening Initiative RFP. The high cost of the proposals made the project inconducive. After making changes, a second RFP went out. The proposals are due back next week. The Screening Initiative group will evaluate the criteria and

then open the cost proposals and see where we are at. Shannon Molloy indicated that she would be in favor of the Committee taking a stand in favor of the statewide surveillance testing. SusanMary Redinger suggested that Shannon Molloy write up a resolution to share with the Committee at a future meeting.

**MCAS Resolution Introduction**

Shannon Molloy shared the “MCAS and High Stakes Testing Resolution”. The resolution was submitted by the MASC Board of Directors. The resolution rejects the call for the students of 2020 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing be required to make up during the 2020/2021 school year. In addition, it calls for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020/2021 school year so all students can benefit from direct instruction. Ms. Molloy asked the Committee if they were in support of the resolution. Dr. Dwight explained that it takes federal legislation in order to get a waiver on the testing. The administration and teachers are in favor of not adding this addition pressure to students at this time. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the assessment. A new criterion would have to be written to accommodate the Adams Scholarship criteria for recipients. The Committee agreed to revise the resolution by removing “Remote Learning Model” from the third paragraph. Shannon Molloy will take care of getting the resolution on letterhead and send it out.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the resolution as amended.

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

**Grant Approval**

The following gifts were presented for approval:

From	Purpose	Amount
Harvard Schools Trust	Osmo Genius	\$300
Lyndra Company	Bromfield Robotics Team Expenses	\$500
Harvard PTO	Offset the cost of the parent teacher reservation system	\$870
Harvard PTO	Staff tools to assist in their classroom and remote teaching	\$2,775.11

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the grants as presented.

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

**Future Meeting Dates**

December 4 - Student Advisory

December 14- only scheduled meeting in December

January 11 – first meeting of the new year

## **Agenda Items**

Budget

Policy

Screening Initiative Plan Update

Testing Resolution

## **SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports**

*Suzanne Allen – The Wellness Committee* met, it was great to convene with that group of people. There was a large discussion on how COVID policies are rolled out and the level of success with the policies. There was talk about sports, the mental health of staff and students and the overall increase in stress. The guidance department reported on how the SWAT team is doing some cool stuff to push out positivity and community. And lastly the group talked about flu shots and testing.

*Suzanne Allen - HES School Council* met, and largely talked about budget, the student survey, COVID and were updated on the building project.

*Suzanne Allen – Policy Subcommittee* -Policy is currently working on Policy J and will have more to come soon.

*Abby Besse – TBS School Council* met and spent a lot of time discussing and understanding the budget process.

*Sharlene Cronin – Budget Subcommittee and Negotiations* have been covered.

*Sharlene Cronin – Athletic Advisory* – missed the last meeting but no major changes reported.

*Shannon Molloy – The Wellness Committee* meeting was really great.

*Shannon Molloy* sat in on the Budget Subcommittee meetings and found the zoom format to be very helpful.

*Maureen Babcock* - No update

*SusanMary Redinger* – HEAC met and went over the HVAC report. SusanMary Redinger took questions down and sent them to Patrick Harrigan to have answered. They are interested in knowing what controls are being overridden and are interested in understanding what the service providers are doing and who will be managing the work going forward.

*SusanMary Redinger* reported that CPIC is in the process of voting on all the capital projects. They meet on Thursday and will have ratings and feedback on their recommendation for funding.

*SusanMary Redinger* attended the Selectboard meeting where they voted not to change the town's health insurance provider. The Selectboard will want the teacher premium addressed. The Selectboard interviewed candidates for the The Bromfield House Disposition Committee. They did not vote on the composition of that Committee yet.

*SusanMary Redinger* reported that there is a new HES building project video on the website. The project is currently on budget and on time. The expectation is for a mid-May move in. The final move in date will be nailed down by January. The furniture order was finalized, and in the process of opening bids and narrowing what needs to be done on furniture purchase. Thank you to Josh for all the work he has been in doing keeping track of everything.

**School Committee Commentary** – Sharlene Cronin would like to add Ransomware as a future agenda item.

**Minutes** – Will review minutes of November 12<sup>th</sup> at the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

At 9:15 p.m. SusanMary Redinger with no objection made a motion to move into Executive Session – Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 21 (a) and (3) for the following purposes:

- (a) To discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collection bargaining with Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

The Committee will adjourn in Executive session.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga