

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
November 9, 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, Patrick Harrigan

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

Sharlene Cronin 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: None

Student Report: Nick Thornton reported the school is going well and moving along as usual. The Cross-Country teams continue to do well. The Soccer team is struggling a little bit more than usual this year.

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Mass Development Update/Report

Maureen Babcock shared the update she presented to the Mass Development Board of Directors. The report was made up of information related to the students from Devens who attend Harvard Public Schools. The Mass Development Board of Directors has been supportive of the Devens Educational Advisory Committee (DEAC) for the past 18 years.

District Improvement Plan

Dr. Dwight presented the changes made to the District Improvement Plan as discussed in the previous meeting.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the District Improvement Plan as amended.

Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

20/21 School Committee/ Superintendent Goals Review

SusanMary Redinger presented the School Committee/Superintendent Goals for the 20/21 school year as amended from the previous meeting.

Abby Besse made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the School Committee Goals/Superintendent Goals as amended.

Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

Policy Review

Suzanne Allen reviewed three policies from Section H – Negotiations.

File HA – Negotiations Goals – MASC Policy and new policy for HPS– Read by Suzanne Allen (will be brought back for adoption).

File HB – Negotiations Legal Status – was presented with minor amendments.

File HF – School Committee Negotiating Agents - was presented with minor amendments.

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved Policy HB and HF as amended.

File JBB – Educational Equity is currently an MASC Policy and will be a new policy for HPS, Read by Suzanne Allen.

(will be brought back for adoption).

File JEB – Entrance Age –was presented with minor amendment.

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved Policy JEB approved as amended.

Abby Besse presented for review the following policies from Section J.

JF – School Admission – MASC Policy – new policy for HPS – read by Abby Besse.

(will be brought back for adoption).

JFABD – Rights of Homeless Students –HPS Policy was amended to follow MASC Policy.

(will be brought back for approval at the next meeting).

JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care – MASC Policy – new policy for HPS – read by Abby Besse (will be brought back for adoption)

JFA – Residency –was presented with minor amendments.

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved Policy JFA was approved as amended.

JF – School Choice Policy –

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved Policy JFBB as amended.

YTD Financial Review

Aziz Aghayev gave an update on the status of expenditures in the FY21 budget as of November 3, 2020.

Screening Plan Initiative Plan Update

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee that the COVID Screening RFP received two responses. The responses were evaluated and then the cost proposal of the favored vendor was opened. The cost estimates came in much higher than expected. Based on the pricing the planning group will need to look to see what will happen moving forward. The planning group will meet this week to come up with a plan and bring back the information to the School Committee at the next meeting.

Harvard PTO Officer Introductions

SusanMary Redinger introduced new PTO Officers, Dana Oliver, Lauren Derse and James O’Leary. The PTO Officers highlighted their plans for the year and shared their excitement with their new roles. SusanMary Redinger and members of the Committee thanked them for stepping up as the organizers of the established PTO and look forward to working together.

HES Building Project Update

SusanMary Redinger shared mural art that is being created to be on the walls of various part of the new school building. Much of the art work created was nature based and also included various local architecture, orchards, plants, insects, fruit trees, birds, reptiles, fish and animals.

Curriculum Review Calendar

SusanMary Redinger presented the Curriculum Calendar proposed for the 2020-2021 school year. Dr. Dwight explained that the curriculum review will start with the items from February through May of last year that were not held due to COVID closing.

September	TBS English Department; The Art of Being and other Mindfulness Initiatives
October	HES Health; Social Emotional Learning
November	TBS Science; Engineering
January	HES Cross Curricular; Maker Space
February	TBS Cross Curricular; AP Courses Pupil Services
March	HES/TBS Wellness
April	TBS World Language; Sign Language
May	TBS Social Studies; Global Competency Program

September	
October	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
November	
December	ELA Elementary
January	TBS Cross Curricular; AP Courses
February	SAIL (Students Achieving Independent Learning) Program HES
March	Wellness HES/TBS
April	World Language; Sign Language TBS
May	Social Studies; Global Competency Program TBS

Grant Approval

The following gifts were presented for approval:

Harvard Schools Trust - Apple Pen – submitted by Peggy Zimmer - \$94.88

The Harvard PTO -speaker for Modern American History class – submitted by Kristin McManus - \$100.

Abby Besse made the motion and Sharleen Cronin seconded to approve the grants as presented.

VOTE

Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

Future Meeting Dates

December 2nd – Student Advisory Meeting

December 28th – recommend cancelling this meeting

Agenda Items

Budget

Policy

Screening Initiative Updates

Minutes

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

Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

Liaison/Subcommittee

Shannon Molloy – presented the following warrant for review.

Warrant 21-10 -\$172,403.55

Shannon Molloy reported that negotiations are ready to get underway. Thanked Sharlene Cronin for taking the lead on the negotiation subcommittee.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the negotiation committee is working to schedule meetings to get things started.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Budget Subcommittee is looking forward to getting to work on the FY22 budget. Presentations by cost centers are planned for the coming week but have not seen any firm dates yet.

Maureen Babcock – reported that DEAC met. Abby Besse joined the meeting. Yearly goals were established. Jessica Stunken, Executive Vice President of Mass Development attended the meeting and reported on some exciting updates that will be going on at Devens.

Abby Besse– The Bromfield School Council met again. The community member wanted to suggest being careful and cautious around energy consumption since we will be leaving windows open to circulate air over the colder months ahead. In addition, the Council discussed the work being done around diversity, equity and inclusion.

SusanMary Redinger – HEAC will be meeting next week. SusanMary gave them the HVAC report and shared with them that windows will be left open to allow for fresh air circulation. **SusanMary Redinger** reported that CPIC met and reviewed the fire and school requests. They sent out questions and are looking for answers to be submitted back by November 16th. The School can expect to meet with CPIC at the beginning of December.

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger will be the School Committee representative on the Committee for the disposition of the Bromfield House.

Suzanne Allen and SusanMary Redinger agreed to work on the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee for the coming year.

Public Comment – Marty Green – thank the School Building Committee for allowing her to tour the HES building. It was inspiring, impressive and amazing. Marty also asked if it would be possible to reproduce the maps that SusanMary shared this evening so that people could see art work. Marty loves the idea of using the walls for an educational purpose.

School Committee Commentary

Suzanne Allen – it would be helpful to have a shared calendar to post subcommittee meetings and to be able to eliminate double booking dates and attending a meeting of another group when available. SusanMary Redinger will work with Linda and Mary on getting that up and running.

Adjourn - With no objection SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

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