

School Committee Meeting
Monday, January 10, 2022
6:15 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight and Ingrid Nilsson

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

Public Commentary:

Nate Finch – Codman Hill Road – Asking for Masking and strong safety measures

Keli Callaghan –268 Old Littleton Road– wants teachers to be in school as much as possible

Jennifer Finch – Codman Hill Road – COVID is still spreading.

Student Report

Olivia Ren, Asha Khurana, and Nina Iverson presented the student report.

Nina Iverson reported that Bromfield has been doing good work for charity through the Bromfield Cares and the 351 Project clubs. Food and gifts were delivered

Asha Khurana reported that the school newspaper has moved to a website that is awesome and everyone can read it whenever they want. The Personal Safety class went over to HES and worked with kindergarten and first grade students to talk about consent.

Olivia Ren – reported that in response to COVID there has been increased anxiety among students. It was not ideal that test results came out on Tuesday during the school day and students were called out of classes to be retested. Students went home because they were nervous. Feedback on calendar changes is that students like testing days but did not want the school year extended one more day. Many students were in favor of having a day off in February for testing. It makes sense to have a day off during this highly stressed time. Some students were concerned that changing the 4 day weekend on such short notice would not be ideal.

Superintendent's Reports

Attached

COVID Policies Review (VOTE)

The Committee met earlier today and compared Harvard’s current policy with the CDC and DESE guidelines. Dr. Dwight shared the work from this morning regarding Harvard versus CDC/DESE regarding close contact - low risk versus high risk, vaccinated and unvaccinated and the number of days to quarantine. The policy was amended as follows:

| Individual | Previous Harvard Policy | New Harvard Policy |
|---|---|---|
| If an individual is a high risk* close contact | 8 days out of school (quarantine) Or test and stay | Quarantine for 5 days from last exposure. Test at school on day 6, if negative, return to school and test and stay with stricter mask-wearing through day 10. The quarantine requirement for close contacts will be reevaluated on 1/24/22. |
| If an individual is a low risk* close contact | Participate in Test and Stay | The School nurses will determine whether an individual needs to participate in “test and stay.” |
| If an individual tests positive for Covid 19 | 10 days out of school (isolation) | Isolate for 5 days. May return to school with stricter mask-wearing on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours, experiencing improvement in other symptoms and the rapid test is negative at school. If the test is positive on day 6, may continue to test daily and return when the test is negative or on day 11. |

* Risk of exposure is determined by school nurses.

*If unwilling to test, individuals would be required to quarantine for 10 days from Covid 19 diagnosis or 7 days from Covid 19 exposure.

*Stricter mask-wearing requires individuals to wear a mask at all times except for when actively eating or when outdoors and maintaining a six-foot distance.

The Policy will be enforced for a period of 2 weeks and reviewed again on January 24, 2022.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve a policy that when an individual is determined to be a high risk, close contact by the nurse the policy will be to quarantine for 5 days. May return to school with stricter mask-wearing on day 6 rapid test is negative at school. If a test is positive on day 6, may continue to test daily and return when a test is negative or on day 11.

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

Dr. Dwight will work on implementing ways to try to mitigate learning loss.

Calendar Change Proposal (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight shared a proposed change to the school calendar that would make January 18th a day of school instead of a PD and use the day for testing after February break. It will require ratification from the teacher's union. After discussion, it was determined that it was best not to make the change at this time.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move that we keep January 18 a non-school day as scheduled.

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

Town report assigned

Abby Besse agreed to write the town report. Members should notify Abby of any particular topics they would like to have included.

Student Advisory Topics

The Committee will send topics to SusanMary Redinger so that the agenda can be created for the upcoming meeting that has yet to be scheduled.

Club Approval (VOTE) – Tabled to next meeting.

Grant Approval (VOTE)

A gift in the amount of \$750 from the PTO to the SWAT team was presented for approval.

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

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

Future Meeting dates

January 24th,

February 14th

February 9 – Meeting with BOS and FinCom at 7 p.m.

Agenda Items

COVID policy

Mask Policy

District Improvement Plan

School Improvement Plan

SEPAC

Budget Question

Club Approval

Minutes

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the December 13th meeting as presented.

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the December 22nd meeting as presented.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin – No Report.

Suzanne Allen – reported that the Strategic Advisory Committee will be meeting this week.

Abby Besse – reported that the HES School Council meets tomorrow

SusanMary Redinger reported that the playground is in. The contractors will be working on a drainage issue in the spring but the school project is all but finished. Kids are thrilled to have the playground open.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Revenue Ideation Committee met to explore ways to raise revenue besides taxes.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee met and finalized their position on the development of Vicksburg Square which includes the recommendation that the question of jurisdiction be settled first. The impact on the schools is a critical point as it could mean a significant increase in enrollment.

SusanMary Redinger wants to get the word out that DEAC is looking for a replacement for Maureen Babcock.

Public Commentary

Sue Voute – 94 Bolton Road - children are making up a lot of cases recommends masking at recess, distancing at lunch, and postponing sports for a few weeks.

Jen Manell - 273 Stow Road - thank you to the nurses. – good masking is necessary– stop the spread.

Lauren Kelly Joseph – 14 Deerfoot Trail – In-school learning – quarantining and school loss.

Rachel Kopay 221 Littleton County Road - thank you for all of the hard work -

School Committee Commentary

Sharlene Cronin – Echoed the appreciation to our nursing staff for getting us through this past week. Appreciate the collaboration and acknowledgment of the surge.

Such a wonderful thing to have the playground as a community asset. It continues to be a normal community thing to do and a point of normalcy for kids and families. Huge gratitude to the team behind it, it is a wonderful asset.

Adjournment

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move that we adjourn into executive session for the purpose of: MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(a), #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HTA because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or position of the school committee.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga