

School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022
6:15 p.m.

Attendance: Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Shannon Molloy, SusanMary Redinger,

Others in Attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Josh Myler, Melissa Niland, Olivia Ren, Asha Khurana, Nina Iverson

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

Olivia Ren read the Vision Statement.

Public Comment: None

Student Report:

Olivia Ren reported the Bromfield School Science Fair will be held this Friday. It is not open to the public but students will show their projects to judges and will be able to have an awards ceremony that evening in the auditorium with families invited.

Olivia Ren reported that the Business Professionals of America competed in an in-person conference and have qualified for Nationals.

Olivia Ren reported that the Bromfield Drama Club will be performing “The Sound of Music” on stage March 25 through 27- tickets are on sale now.

SusanMary Redinger congratulated Olivia Ren for her appearance on the High School Quiz Show. We are sorry you didn’t advance to the next round but thank you for representing our school so well. Sharlene Cronin said that her family enjoyed watching it and her children were super enthusiastic.

Asha Khurana reported that mask optional practice will start on Wednesday which has students excited. Everyone is talking about it and hopefully it will go smoothly.

Asha Khurana reported that the Youth Risk survey is being administered tomorrow everyone is looking forward to it.

Asha Khurana reported that winter sports wrapped up last week. The girls’ basketball team went into the playoffs and were very exciting to watch. Their games were well attended.

Asha Khurana reported that the announcement of the new principal is the talk of the town. Students are excited.

Superintendent Update

See Attached

District Improvement Plan (DIP) Review

Dr. Dwight shared the progress made on the District Improvement Goals for the 2021-2022 school year. The focus goals of “Antiracism” and “Inclusive Practices for Hiring and Retention of District Leaders” was discussed and updated by the Superintendent.

HES School Improvement Plan (SIP) Review

Josh Myler and Melissa Niland shared progress made to the current HES School Improvement Plan. The topics of focus are a new District Strategic Plan, the HES Master Schedule, Social Emotional Learning, Parent DEI Partnership and Library Resources. In addition, Hildreth Elementary is providing focus on the indicatives of Physical Activity and Mindfulness, Leadership opportunities for teachers and students and developing a culture of inclusion.

COVID Policy Review

Abby Besse reviewed the COVID masking updates to allow the district to option masking to begin on March 9th.

Individual choice about mask wearing will be supported and respected. Masks will be required in all school health offices

The district leadership team in collaboration with the lead nurse will determine when masks are necessary within the district. A meeting will be convened if two or more of the following criteria are met or at any point at the discretion of the school nurse or leadership team.

- * CDC Covid 19 community risk level in either Middlesex or Worcester County elevates into the high-level category
- * Statewide 7-day positivity rate rapidly increasing and/or over 5%
- * Town wide Covid cases increasing week over week
- * District wide positivity rate of 2% in either of the district schools

Re-masking could be considered at the following levels: class, grade, school, district level or extracurricular activity. The superintendent will communicate the need for a meeting and the outcome of the discussion if one has been convened.

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

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

Suzanne Allen reviewed the Volunteer Policy as it relates to COVID-19. The policy was amended as follows:

Volunteers and outside presenters who wish to be in the school buildings or on field trips while students are present during the school day must test negative with a rapid test the day of volunteering and wear a mask while with students or staff indoors or on transportation. These individuals are also invited to participate in weekly pooled testing. Any individual experiencing COVID symptoms or who is known to be a close contact of a positive individual may not come into the school buildings.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the policy as amended.

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

MBTA Multi-Family Legislation and Planning Board Response

SusanMary Redinger presented the MBTA Community Multifamily Guidelines and asked for input from the School Committee to give to the Planning Board in order for them to draft a letter for consideration by the Select Board. It was suggested that members send a list of questions to Justin Brown to get feedback and insight before responding.

Grant Approval (VOTE)

The Harvard Schools Trust presented for approval a grant for Life Science Week - books and supplies. The total amount of the gift was \$226.

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

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

Future Meeting Dates

March 21st

March 11th – Executive Session

March 15th – BOS with School Committee

Agenda Items

TBS Improvement Plan

Food Service

Climate Action Plan

Proposed 2022/2023 Calendar

School Choice Allocation

School Committee Goals

Superintendent Goals

Best Practices

Minutes

With no objection the minutes of the February 14th meeting were approved as amended.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin – reported that at the BOS meeting there some questions regarding addressing the use of Devens funds and also how additional positions will be funded in the future. At Budget Subcommittee it was discussed to create 2 scenarios projecting out a conservative and liberal look at the number of new Devens students and tuition dollars we can expect in the coming year.

Sharlene Cronin Reported the Best Practices Subcommittee is meeting this week to finalize the handbook to present to School Committee at a future meeting.

Shannon Molloy presented Warrant 22-18 in the amount of \$345,787.50 for review.

Shannon Molloy reported that the COVID Advisory met over February break. Discussed thing around our new normal

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC met and will be having their next workshop on May 7th. The topic will be 504 plans. SEPAC reviewed the adaptive basketball program and although there were a few more hiccups than experienced with the soccer program but students and coaches had good reviews.

Shannon Molloy reported the principal search continued but now the search is over as the news of the new principal has been announced.

Abby Besse reported that the Strategic Plan Visioning committee continues to meet. It is a great group and they are getting ready to delegate small groups to write a draft “Vision Statement”. The group has looked at “Vision Statements” from all over of the world to see what people like and don’t like.

Abby Besse reported that the Hildreth School Council met and talked about the student survey which showed good improvement.

Suzanne Allen reported that Bromfield School Council met and the Balance Committee are happy that homework is being reduced or eliminated over the vacation, it is good to hear from a wellness perspective

Suzanne Allen reported the Transportation Advisory held a public forum. They talked about multiple uses for Old Mill Road but not vehicular. The project also supports a bike use that would connect Harvard and Devens. That group meets again this week.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee held a forum with Jamie Eldridge and Dan Senior and they are planning to prepare a paper to list the pros and cons of resuming jurisdiction of Devens. SusanMary Redinger will bring the letter back at a future meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building Committee are in general consensus due to get together to visit the options available to building a wall in front of Hildreth Elementary School with remaining building funds.

SusanMary Redinger reported that HTA negotiations will start on March 15th.

Pubic Commentary

Amy Bassage – 224 Littleton County Road – Masking

Ken Shalke 221 Littleton County Road – COVID Protocols

The Committee adjourned into executive session under MGL Ch. 30A, Sec 21 (a) #3: To discuss strategy with respect to threatened litigation because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the school committee.\

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