

School Committee Meeting
May 9, 2022

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. with roll call attendance.
In attendance: Abby Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen, Shannon Molloy and SusanMary Redinger.

Others in attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Jennifer Toth, and Olivia Ren

Read Vision Statement

Olivia Ren read the Vision Statement

Public Commentary

Dan Daly – Littleton Road – Title IX compliance and Softball Fields
Toby Burzarnik– Houghton Lane - Softball field needs and equity

Student Report

Olivia Ren reported the following:

- *AP testing is going on now at the high school.
- *Last week the band and chorus concerts for both high school and middle school were held.
- *A Quiz team trivia night was held with 60 teams participating.
- *The Business Professionals of America went to Texas last weekend to attend a national leadership conference.
- *Past and present students of the Personal Safety for Woman course at Bromfield will participate in a Rape Aggression Defense training this week.
- * The Prom will be held next week at Wedgewood Pines.

Superintendent Report

See Attached.

Special Education Services Presentation

Pupil Services Director, Jennifer Toth presented a special education update for the Spring of 2022. The Pupil Services Department manages and directs actions for Special Education services, Pre-school programming, students experiencing homelessness and temporary housing, Section 504 plans and other supports, English Language Learners, Title IX, Home Schooling, Homebound, and summer programs. Ms. Toth reviewed and shared information regarding the percentage of students needing services based on disability type. Ms. Toth reported the total number of evaluations conducted at Hildreth and Bromfield this year. In addition, Ms. Toth shared with the Committee that professional development is being offered to teachers and learning assistants in our district on the topic of Dyslexia.

Start Time Pilot Feedback

Dr. Dwight shared the results of the “Shift in Start Time” survey. The results of the survey indicated that most families and students are happy with the pilot. The survey did indicate

there were some families that thought the later arrival home from school did cause difficulties. Some staff also felt that the later dismissal was difficult for planning after school activities and appointments. The recommendation of the leadership team is to continue with the start times as they were this school year. That said, the leadership team will work on mitigating some of the difficulties described in the narrative to make the process work better. Dr. Dwight recommended returning next year to review the start time topic again.

Policy Review (VOTE)

Suzanne Allen reviewed changes made to the Bullying Prevention Plan. After discussion, the Policy Sub-committee will bring the policy back to a future meeting after making suggested edits.

Title IX Review (VOTE)

The Committee discussed going forward with a Title IX comprehensive full program review.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to allocate up to \$25K from the Devens fund for the purpose of conducting a Title IX review for the district.

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

Dr. Dwight will keep the School Committee up to date on the progress of finding a vendor as well as an expected timeline for the review to be completed.

Field Update/Discussion

Dr. Dwight has been in discussion with landscape architects to get prices on putting a softball field in front of Hildreth Elementary School. The location is tight and would not be a regulation field but would provide a practice field. The Committee would like to get more information and data in order to provide the softball teams with what they need. SusanMary Redinger will ask members what information is needed in order for this body to make a decision because there seems to be some missing pieces. There is a limited time that the school building money will be available to use and this project would take the place of the proposed stone wall project. The Committee realizes this is a town problem and encourages people to show up at town meeting to talk about solving the field issues. SusanMary Redinger asked members to write down their ideas and questions and she will bring them to the School Building Committee meeting next week.

Registration Software Funding Recommendation (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight is recommending the purchase of an additional module to our Powerschool software. This registration software digitizes the enrollment of students from paper to on-line. The origin user will be entering the information themselves. It is a Powerschool product so it allows the data to be submitted and pings necessary users as needed. Parents will also use this program to update health records. The initial cost of the software is \$14,761.50 and then \$6,221.00 annually thereafter

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move that we approve the purchase of the proposed registration software with the initial upfront cost of \$14.7K and \$6.2K annually thereafter.

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

New Member Orientation Section Review - Tabled

Grant Approval (VOTE) – None

Future meeting dates

Student Advisory Meeting, Friday, May 13th

ATM – Saturday, May 14th

School Committee Meeting – May 23rd

Tentative meeting dates

June 13, June 27

July 11, July 25

August 8, August 22

SusanMary Redinger asked members to email her their dates of availability to meet over the summer.

Agenda items

Community Ed Update

Policy

Bus Bid

DEI

SC Self Eval

Superintendent Review

Minutes

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the April 25th meeting as amended.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Shannon Molloy – presented Accounts Payable Warrant #22-23 in the amount of \$286,000.

Shannon Molloy reported that The DEI Committee met. The topic to re-elevate the racism commitment is being looked into. Another meeting will be held before a decision is made.

Shannon Molloy reported that the SEPAC 504 workshop will be held tomorrow from 7 to 9. Reach out to Shannon with any registration questions. On May 20th, SEPAC will be hosting a social event to be held at Friendly CrossWays. At the event there will be an adaptive movement class, arts and crafts, and a horse petting event. Everyone is welcome.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Budget Subcommittee met and discussed the purchase of the registration software, Dee Bus contract, and Middle School Principal interviews.

Abby Besse reported that she has not been able to make it to the Parks and Rec meetings because they are scheduled at the same time as School Committee meetings.

Abby Besse reported that the HES School Council met and are analyzing data from the survey and working on the school improvement plan.

Abby Besse reported that DEAC is discussing that the Emerson Green project will be finished shortly. Increased enrollment numbers due to that project are not expected to hit until the 2023 – 2024 school year. DEAC is putting together information to send out a survey to residents in the coming months.

Suzanne Allen reported that The Bromfield School Council has an upcoming meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building Committee meets next week.

SusanMary Redinger reported the Revenue Ideation Committee discussed was to increase revenue with ideas that included the sale of town land, leasing town property, leasing cell towers, securing corporate and state aid, and a home rule petition to establish a commercial tax rate as ways to generate revenue. The Committee will be creating a list of recommendations to bring back to the Selectboard for consideration.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Devens Jurisdiction Framework Committee wrote a letter to the Board of Mass Development and to the state legislature encouraging them to come back and work with member towns to move the Devens question forward.

Public Commentary

None

School Committee Commentary

Suzanne Allen – We appreciate the massive effort put forth to do the hiring of three new administrators and the ability to bring in some fantastic new people.

Adjourn

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move into executive session 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 position of the school committee. We will not be returning to the public session.

Roll call vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga