

School Committee Meeting
January 24, 2022
6:15 p.m.

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

Other members: Felicia Jamba, Henry Wacek, Jen Toth and Linda Dwight

Vision Statement: Abby Besse read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary:

Nate Finch, Codman Hill Road – masking

Keli Callaghan, 268 Old Littleton Road - discriminatory policies

Student Report

Felicia Jamba reported:

*Second quarter will end this week.

*BMUN attended the Columbia University virtual Model UN conference and did very well.

*The National Honor Society will be holding two service days. On Wednesday they will be making cards for hospitalized children. On the service day next Friday, they will be making blankets.

Student Club Approval

Bromfield Reading and Writing Club

Sophie Thompson and Jacqueline Walker presented a request to start The Bromfield Reading and Writing Club which will dedicate time specifically towards publishing club members' work on school-wide, local, state, and national platforms. The available competitions include the Scholastic Art and Writing contest, Bennington Writing contest, and Write the World contest. In addition, the club will be reading and sharing books via a "Book Club" format.

Abby Besse made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the Bromfield Reading and Writing Club as presented.

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

Harry Potter Club

Lana Ostaszewski presented a request to start the Harry Potter Club. This club offers Harry Potter fans a place to share, have fun and reduce stress.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the Harry Potter Club as presented.

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

Dungeons and Dragons Club

Sophia Marder presented a request to start a Dungeons and Dragons Club. The club will help people understand how to play Dungeons and Dragons which is an interactive and imaginative fantasy role play game popular around the world.

Abby Besse made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the Dungeons and Dragons Club as presented.

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

Investment Club

Scott Hoffman presented a request on behalf of Luke MacLean, Christopher Demetros, and Nick Russo to start an Investment Club. The goal of the club is to learn about investments and become smarter about how we spend our money in the future and learn about the risks that come with investing. The main point of this club is to learn things we wouldn't otherwise learn at school.

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

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

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Wellness Program Presentation

Dr. Dwight introduced the STAAR (Student Transitional Assistance & Academic Reengagement Program). This is a new program at Bromfield that will provide short-term intensive support for students returning to Bromfield after an extended absence due to illness, hospitalization, or school avoidance. The program supports students in a clinically-informed, trauma-sensitive environment.

The program was further explained by members of the Bromfield School Guidance Department; Sara Lamere, Christine Reale, and Christina Petkus. The goal of the program is to provide students with a supportive environment that will also create a seamless and manageable transition back to school while minimizing stress. Referrals to the STARR Program can be made by the student's counselor, teacher, or school administrator. Once students are admitted into the program there will be a meeting with the student and their parent(s)/guardian, the student's counselor, and the STAAR coordinator. When students are ready to leave the program, it will include a step-down plan and students will become alumni of the program with the hope of returning to talk about its success.

SEPAC Annual Update

Dr. Dwight introduced Jennifer Toth, Aspen Ference, and Jenny Gillard to review feedback from the SEPAC Survey that was completed in the Spring of 2021. The survey had 122 responses. The School Committee was appreciative of the time and effort it took to tease out the information collected and generate conclusions. Clarifying and refining the process will help the district

continue its plans to enhance communication opportunities to families. The survey results will be on the SEPAC and school websites. SEPAC is recommending that a future survey be provided to families, later in the school year to gain insight into the success of the district’s work.

COVID Policies Review (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight shared how the district has changed the COVID-related policies as a result of the latest DESE guidelines related to the provision of at-home tests for students and staff. In order to participate in the at-home testing program, we will need to discontinue the test and stay protocol. Students would continue with pooled testing and then do at-home testing on another day during the week. In support of our current school protections, we will participate in the at-home testing program, purchase and send home KN95 masks, encourage testing participation, remind families to monitor for symptoms. The change to the policy from 1/10 is in that high-risk close contacts would not need to quarantine and adhere to stricter mask wearing throughout the day.

Individual	DESE Guidelines	Previous Harvard Policy	Policy after 1/10	New Harvard Policy (recommended by the leadership team)	New Harvard Policy (recommended by policy sub-committee)
If an individual is a high risk* close contact	Nurse may contact trace when necessary.	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.	Adhere to stricter mask wearing** through day 7. Test at school on day 5 and day 7, and monitor for symptoms. Isolate the positive household member at home. If not isolating, quarantine for 5 days and test on day 6.	Adhere to stricter mask wearing** through day 7. Participate in pooled testing and at-home testing program or test on day 5 and day 7 after exposure, and monitor for symptoms.
If an individual is a low risk* close contact		Participate in Test and Stay	Nurses’ discretion		

If an individual tests positive for Covid 19	Isolate for 5 days. May return to school on day 6 with stricter mask-wearing.	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 rapid test is negative at school. If test is positive on day 6, may continue to test daily and return when test is negative or on day 11.	Isolate for 5 days. May return to school with on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours, experiencing improvement in other symptoms and rapid test is negative at school. * If test is positive on day 6, may continue to test daily and return when test is negative or on day 11.	Isolate for 5 days. May return to school on day 6 if fever free for 24 hours, experiencing improvement in other symptoms and rapid test is negative. *** If test is positive on day 6, may continue to test daily and return when test is negative or on day 11.
---	---	-----------------------------------	---	---	--

- * Risk of exposure is determined by school nurses.
- ** 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.
- ***Families may test at home or at school.

Abby Besse made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to adopt the policy as presented by the Policy Subcommittee.

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

Dr. Dwight will communicate the policy changes to parents and will send out an online form in order for families to sign up for the rapid antigen at-home tests.

HTA Contract Approval (VOTE)

SusanMary Redinger presented the Memorandum of Agreement between the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Teachers’ Association dated September 1, 2022, through August 31,

2023. This agreement adds a 2% salary increase over the FY22 collective bargaining agreement for teacher salaries as well as stipend salaries for coaches and advisors.

The HTA voted to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement on January 14, 2022. The School Committee will meet over the next year in order to negotiate and deliver a three-year contract beginning in September 2023.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to accept the Memorandum of Agreement to include a 2% COLA for salaries and stipends as listed in the contract and will be in effect for one year with no changes to health care or other changes.

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

Town report review

Abby Besse wrote a summary of what the School Committee has done throughout the year. She asked for input from other members. She will get budget info from Sharlene Cronin and Building Committee information from SusanMary Redinger. The report needs to be turned in by January 31st. Members will look at the draft where Abby has identified more information is needed. Once that information is received the document will be revised and sent back out for final review.

Grant Approval (VOTE) - None

Future meeting dates

February 14

Student Advisory – Hybrid - February 4th -

February 9th – Finance Committee/School Committee joint meeting

February 28

Agenda items

District Improvement Plan

Goals update

Dude Solutions

Calendar

Director of Instructional Design job description

Minutes

With no objection, the minutes of the meeting on the morning of January 10th were approved as amended.

With no objection, the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of January 10th were approved as amended.

SC Liaison and Sub-Committee Reports

Suzanne Allen reported that Transportation Advisory has a meeting coming up in the next month.

Abby Besse reported that the – HES School Council met and submitted their survey to students. They will analyze the data in the coming months. The Council is looking at the supply list and seeking input from staff and parents. Hildreth has reinstated sending food scraps to a local farmer.

Abby Besse reported that DEAC met last week. There was a question about busing to Devens and a concern that Devens students are not able to take advantage of the late start due to bus schedules. It has gotten better but will need to be looked at this with the new bus contract coming up. There is a lot of development going on at Devens. Emerson Green has 40 units which will most likely be approved for construction that could begin as early as this spring. The School Committee will need to follow the potential for an increase in student population if the Vicksburg Square project comes under the jurisdiction of the Harvard Public Schools.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Best Practices Subcommittee met and prepared a draft of Best Practices. The Subcommittee is collecting information to store in the new member drive. The Best Practice Subcommittee will meet again on the 8th and will be ready to bring back a report to the full Committee in May.

Shannon Molloy – nothing to report.

SusanMary Redinger reported HEAC asked that we write electric busses into our bus contract RFP that would allow bidders to give prices on bringing electric busses in as an option.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Revenue Ideation Committee met. There is more work to be done. SusanMary Redinger is tasked with looking at similar towns to see what they are doing and if we are missing any opportunities.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building Committee met. They approved the final change order for a parking lot curbing upgrade that will prevent ice build-up from run-off. The wall work may need to come from a capital project.

Public Commentary

Danyl Johnson, Stow Road– COVID policy update

Kerra Huchowski, Shaker Road – COVID policy changes

Michaela Taranto 56 Woodside Road - COVID policy update

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

