

School Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021  
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.

Ingrid Nilsson read the vision statement.

**Public Commentary:** None

**Climate Change Resiliency Resolution (VOTE)**

The Climate Change Resiliency Resolution was introduced at our last meeting as a means to address climate change in the Town of Harvard. The resolution topic is being brought back tonight for a vote.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move to support the Climate Change Resiliency Resolution as presented.

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

**Policy Review**

Suzanne Allen reported that Policy Subcommittee prepared a Policy Review Schedule. They plan to finish Policy Section J this year and then start Policy Section F and Section I.

Suzanne Allen shared changes to Policy IJOC – School Volunteers. The changes require volunteers to provide proof of vaccine and also invites them to participate in the weekly pooled testing.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move that we approve Policy IJOC – School Volunteers as presented and amended.

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

**Review of metrics for optional masking**

In the spirit of off ramping from the masking policy the Policy Subcommittee reviewed some of the parameters that would be necessary to move toward optional masking wearing.

- Local and state-wide vaccination rates; school vaccination rate at 80% for both students and teachers as individual groups.

- Pooled testing results and participation rates; Continued pooled testing of at least 85% over a two week span.
- Local and state-wide COVID cases; Less than 3% COVID positivity rate and not increasing over a two week span.
- Guidance from MASS DPH, CDC, DESE, AAP and other organizations
- Teachers and staff of students who are not eligible for vaccination would remain masked regardless of vaccination status while working with those grade levels.

### **Policy Review (Dress Code)**

On behalf of the Policy Subcommittee Suzanne Allen presented changes to Policy JICA – Student Dress Code for the Committee to discuss. After a lengthy discussion:

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the policy as presented.

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

### **Superintendent Update**

See Attached.

Dr. Dwight and Ingrid Nilsson presented a request to move our district from NutriKids to Mosaic. Mosaic is a cloud-based program that integrates with Powerschool, automates district information, provides faster transactions, and provides accurate counting for claims and reports for state and national compliance. It is recommended that funding will be taken from the Devens account.

Suzanne Allen made the motion Sharlene Cronin seconded to approved up to \$15,000 to move our district from NutriKids to Mosaic as presented.

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

### **School Enrollment Numbers as of 10/1/21 Results**

SusanMary Redinger shared with the Committee the enrollment projections and the October 1, 2021 numbers. At first glance the information shows that we have fewer student attending The Bromfield School and more students attending Hildreth. Please inform SusanMary Redinger if you have any questions or would like more detail.

### **Review of letter to Select Board Supporting Educational Use of Bromfield House Lot**

SusanMary Redinger shared a letter prepared on behalf of the Committee that supports partnering with the Parks and Recreation Committee to keep the Bromfield House lot as municipal land and hope the Select Board understand the long-term value this land represents for Harvard. The Committee agreed to have SusanMary Redinger send the letter to the Select Board on behalf of the Committee as amended.

### **Superintendent/School Committee Goals (VOTE)**

Abby Besse presented the vision, outcome, measure, conditions and interfaces for the Strategic Plan goal.

Sharlene Cronin presented the vision, outcome, measure, conditions and interfaces for the Budget goal.

SusanMary Redinger presented the vision, outcomes, measure, conditions and interfaces for the School Committee Best Practices goal.

The Committee discussed each goal in depth while SusanMary Redinger made modification to the goals document throughout the discussion. SusanMary Redinger will clean up the document and make clarifications where necessary. All goals are measurable at this point and Subcommittees can begin their work.

### **Curriculum Presentation Schedule/Topic Review**

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the Curriculum Presentation topics that have been presented in the past years as well as a list of topics that Committee members would like to see presented in the future. We would start with presentation that have not yet been done, and we can put together material for previous presented topics if members are interested. Dr. Dwight will create a curriculum presentation schedule.

### **Grant Approval - None**

### **Future Meeting Dates**

All Town Meeting on October 16

November 8, 22<sup>nd</sup>

December 6, 13

### **SAC Topics and Meeting Time Review**

The Student Advisory Council will hold their first meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. SAC will review topics for discussion when the School Committee meets with them on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am.

### **Agenda Items**

Enrollment projections

Food Service Update

Tour of Bromfield

School Improvement Plans

HEAC update

### **Minutes**

With no objection SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting approved as amended.

### **SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports**

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the Transportation Committee met with the schools to prioritize projects and make sure that the schools are well represented with sidewalks and safe street crossings.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the TBS School Council is working on their School Improvement plan with the focus on the goals of providing a safe, secure and inclusive environment for all working in the DEI, supporting engaged teaching and learning with a focus on the health and well-being of students and staff, and finally the strategic plan.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the Wellness Subcommittee will hopefully get up and running soon.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the Budget Subcommittee will be meeting with the Superintendent and Cost Center Managers for budget planning meeting from November 9<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Subcommittee will plan to discuss budget priorities for the FY23 budget with the full committee by the end of October.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that the Safe Teacher Safer Students state wide group met and provided information regarding testing results and the decline in positive rates that will result in unmasking. The Testing Advisory has met and worked through survey results; it was great to hear from students. The survey will be used to help to encourage testing participation.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that SEPAC held an apple picking and pumpkin decorating event. There were 15 to 20 children that participated. SEPAC has instituted an adaptive soccer team which has started and is a big success.

**Abby Besse** reported that Parks and Recreation met and talked about the vandalism that took place on the Pond Road field. Bob O'Shea has been out to the fields to close off or put gates up to block off entrances to fields. Parks & Rec would like to know if the schools have a way to block off the new fields at HES to prevent a car from gaining access to the field.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that the school building project is so close to the end.

\*National Grid took out the pole.

\*Installation of the playground should be happening in the next few weeks,

\*The solar panel installation is almost done

\* There is new drainage as well as plantings at the end of the bus entrance that will mitigate running water.

\*The date for the dedication ceremony is on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that CPIC met and approved the fire truck funding request which was funded in part by a large grant. CPIC voted to support the climate resiliency work and want to be involved in the development and implementation of it. CPIC approved the recommendation for the Council on Aging building for \$3.2 million that will be brought to the town meeting and ballot in the spring because it is a debt exclusion.

**Public Commentary** - None

**School Committee Commentary - None**

**Adjourn**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move to adjourn into executive session; pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 2 for the following purpose:

- (1)** To discuss strategy with respect to an in preparation for collection bargaining with Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga