

School Committee Meeting
Monday, October 25, 2021
6:15 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Scott Hoffman and Robin Benoit

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

Olivia Ren read the vision statement.

Public Commentary: None

Student Report and SAC Introductions

Student Advisory Members in attendance: Olivia Ren, Felicia Jamba and Asha Khurana

Introductions

Olivia Ren the Chair of SAC is a Senior at Bromfield. She has been on the SAC since the 10th grade and has enjoyed her time here conveying the student experience. She enjoys serving as a liaison between the student body and School Committee.

Felicia Jamba is a Senior at Bromfield. She has served on SAC before. She considers student feedback and input extremely important and this position is a great way to share that and get that across.

Asha Khurana is a Junior at Bromfield. This is her first year on SAC but she has previously worked with the School Committee on DEI stuff. She is excited to work closely with the School Committee to convey student feedback.

The School Committee will meet with SAC next Friday at 7:30 a.m. The meeting will be in person for students and hybrid for Committee members.

Student Report:

Olivia Ren reported:

The Administration has been supportive to make this year as normal as possible. Last Friday there was a tail gate breakfast sponsored by the administration as well as an outdoor movie night.

The first round of college applications is due on November 1st. The Senior class has been getting support for post-secondary plans as well as college visits.

Felecia Jamba reported:

The Science National Honor Society is accepting inductees after last year's break. Peer tutoring is now available and is run by the National Honor Society. Students can sign up for the program using an on-line form found on the Bromfield website.

There have been a lot of great volunteering efforts this year. The Flea Market offered volunteer opportunities and last Saturday students worked with Council on Aging to help Senior Citizens with yard work. On Halloween there will be opportunities for students to help out with Trick or Treating.

Asha Khurana reported:

That first quarter is wrapping up, grades close on Monday and teachers are finalizing grades. Picture day was last week. Some students were disappointed that there would be no class pictures this year.

There was a high school concert last Tuesday. The jazz band, wind band and chorus all had great performances.

Introduction of Visioning Consultant

Dr. Dwight introduced Rick Rogers to the School Committee and the public. Mr. Rogers will provide planning and facilitation services to support the district's work to revise and update its Vision, Mission and Core Values statements. The work will occur between November 2021 and June 2022. The next step will be to set up a meeting with Mr. Rogers and work out a timeline. We will then be looking for volunteers to serve and would like to hear from many people. We will collect feedback and lay out our plan.

School Improvement Plan

Scott Hoffman and Robin Benoit presented the Bromfield School Improvement Plan. The goals were presented under the Overarching Objectives to provide a Safe, Secure and Inclusive Learning Environment for all, Support Engaged Teaching and Learning, Activate Community Pride. Goals presented:

- Create a school culture that confronts bias, prejudice, and social inequity, actively addresses aggression and educate all on the harm of silence.
- Support and promote the health and well-being of students and staff.
- Participate in creating the new District Strategic Plan with consideration of the NEASC Accreditation Standards and Vision of the Graduate.

Each goal was presented with a measure, conditions and interfaces.

In addition, they presented their ongoing efforts related to the School Improvement Plan which include; alignment of curriculum, use of data to inform instruction, activating community pride in a COVID time, Digital Citizenship, Teacher Leadership Opportunities, School Start Time, and providing PD Opportunities for Teachers in Key Areas.

Superintendent Update - Attached

Policy Update

Suzanne Allen reviewed changes to Policy JHD – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance.

Abby Besse made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the changes to Policy JHD as presented.

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

Code of Conduct for Boards/Committee Review

The Select Board is seeking feedback from town boards and committees on the Code of Conduct document. SusanMary Redinger asked that all members send comments to her by November 8th so that she can give feedback to the Select Board. SusanMary Redinger agreed to coordinate responses and bring back to the next meeting for review.

Superintendent /School Committees Goals

After review by the full Committee at the last meeting, SusanMary Redinger reviewed the changes made to the document in order to clarify information based on the feedback received. The School Committee approved the goals as finalized.

Review of User Fees (Athletics, Bus, Kindergarten)

As one of the budget priorities SusanMary Redinger and Sharlene Cronin put together information on user fees to see if it would be possible to reduce or eliminate any of our user fees.

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the Bus fee information.

Sharlene Cronin reviewed the Athletic and Kindergarten fees information.

The Cost to eliminate or reduce User Fees

Bus - \$40K

Athletic Fee - \$208K or \$158 and continue to supplement \$50K from Devens

Kindergarten - \$170K

We don't need to make a decision now but we will need to adjust the budget accordingly if a user fee is discontinued.

Grant Approval

SusanMary Redinger presented for approval a generous gift from Betsy Peterson in remembrance of her daughter Jesse. The gift offered to fund the addition of a mural in the learning stair area of the new HES building, as well as the purchase of several outdoor musical instruments to be installed in the area around the HES playground.

Interior Mural Cost \$8,500.00

Garden Bed Ensemble Cost \$9,081.94

Melody 9-Note Xylophone Cost \$2,054.00

Total Gift: \$19,635.94

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to accept the gift from Betsy Peterson as presented.

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

The School Committee will send a letter of appreciation to Betsy Peterson.

Future Meeting Dates

November 5 - SAC

November 8 and 22- Regular Meeting

December 6 and 13

Agenda Items

Budget

HES School Improvement Plan

District Improvement Plan

Student Achievement

Policy

Code of Conduct Feedback

Minutes

With no objection SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes approved as amended.

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

SC Liaison and SubCommittee Reports

Shannon Molloy – No Updates

Suzanne Allen – reported that the Transportation Advisory is having a public forum on November 17th to talk about their work and seek feedback.

Abby Besse – reported that HES School Council worked on the survey, the survey will be given to students and this survey will be compared to prior year surveys taken with students in grades 2-5. Students will take the survey in January and data will be analyzed starting in February. The School Council is also looking at ways to reduce waste and reuse and recycle. They are interested in getting the kids involved through their school recycling groups.

Abby Besse reported that Parks & Rec is still looking forward to a Memorandum of Agreement with the school to take over field maintenance including the basketball and tennis courts. There is a plan to close the Mass Ave field in the spring. Parks and Rec and the Schools are looking at options for another field to be used by displaced lacrosse team.

Sharlene Cronin – No Updates

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building is almost finished. There is still work that needs to be done on the pole in the driveway coming out by Pond Road and some other work that will get done over winter break. The playground is delayed due to shipping issues. Because of the delay, the project may need to wait until spring. The turf will not adhere if the temperature is too low.

Public Commentary –

School Committee Commentary

Shannon Molloy was wondering if there is a way for the School Committee to sign the letter of appreciation for the HES gift. SusanMary Redinger will leave a copy of the letter at the Superintendent's office for members to stop in and sign.

Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

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