

School Committee Meeting
April 25, 2022

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order with roll call attendance.

In attendance: Abby Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen, Shannon Molloy and SusanMary Redinger.

Others in attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson and Henry Wacek

Read Vision Statement

SusanMary Redinger read the Resources Core Value Statement

FY23 Budget Public Hearing

SusanMary Redinger opened the Public Budget Hearing and turned it over to the School Business, Ingrid Nilsson to present the FY23 Budget. Ms. Nilsson shared the percentage increase to the omnibus budget over time, the major budget drivers, and offsets including grants that help fund the budget. The proposed budget is a 4.41% increase from FY22 budget. The total budget including omnibus, grants and offsets is \$18,884,164.

Public Commentary: None

Student Report

Henry Wacek reported the following:

- Students in Grade 9 will be going on a field trip to Fruitlands Museum on May 13th.
- Approval for the very first dance since the start of the pandemic is very exciting.

Asha Khurana reported the following:

- Spring sports are in full swing, teams are doing well.
- The Green Team has planted new non-invasive plants in front of the Bromfield School that look really good.
- Band and Choral concerts are coming up next week.
- AP season is on everyone's mind.
- The Quiz Team is hosting a Trivia night.

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

The School Committee discussed a request from parents of current softball players that we consider modifying the Hildreth Elementary site to include a softball field that will best serve the town of Harvard's softball program. The rectangular field at the front of the site would have to be transformed with fencing, clay, leveling and bases. It won't be regulation size but can be used as a practice field. Dr. Dwight is looking for feedback from the School Building Committee and in the meantime will meet with Abby Besse to gather information. The topic will be brought back to a future meeting. If anyone has any ideas send them to Dr. Dwight.

Trip Requests (Nature's Classroom, New Orleans Service)

Trish Nilan attended the meeting in order to request approval from the School Committee for students to attend an out of state, overnight Community Service trip to New Orleans from February 15, 2023 through February 25, 2023.

It was suggested that the trip could move forward with initial arrangements being made, with final approval being made when it is closer to the date of the trip.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the New Orleans trip as presented with an expectation for an update ahead of the trip around safety protocols and COVID related things.

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

Dr. Dwight presented a request for Grade 5 students to attend Nature's Classroom as an out of state/overnight trip for 5th grade students from October 3, 2022 through October 7, 2022.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the Nature's Classroom trip so that it can move forward for planning purposes in October 22 provided we hear back from the Superintendent regarding COVID safety measures beforehand.

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

YTD FY22 Financial Review, Including Devens Fund

Ingrid Nilsson presented the FY22 end of year projections with a projected balance of \$191,008. With two months left in the school year, there may be additional spending that has not been captured. If the current overage remains at the end of the year a decision of what excess funds may be returned to the funding source will need to be made. Ms. Nilsson explained that many of the accounts that were overspent were the result of additional hours being allocated to learning assistants, classroom aides, reading and math tutors in order to provide necessary academic and adjustment support to our younger students. Fortunately, there is unexpended money on the non-salary side to balance some of the salary pressures experienced this year.

The Committee reviewed the FY23 Devens projection worksheet. The Committee discussed expected revenue and expenses. The FY23 end of year net position is expected to be \$865,255.

New Member Orientation Section Review

Sharlene Cronin walked through two sections of the New Member Orientation Handbook that is being developed by the Best Practices Subcommittee. Topics included member onboarding, oath of office requirements and the orientation process. Dr. Dwight and School Committee members provided input and feedback. Another section of the "New Member Orientation Handbook" will be introduced at a future meeting.

Grant Approval

The following grants were submitted for approval from the Harvard Schools Trust:

- Julia Cook (Children’s Author) - \$2,182.
- Business Professional of America - \$2,125
- Underground Railroad Quilt - \$569.43
- Freshman Field Trip to Fruitland’s Museum - \$1,886
- Business Professional of America scholarship - \$550.08

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

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

Agenda Items

DEI Update
 Community Education and Recreation presentation
 Title IX review
 Shift in Start time feedback and Pilot review
 Annual Town Meeting
 Circuit Breaker Relief
 Strategic Plan Presentation
 Transportation contract

Minutes

With no objection, the Chair approved the minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting as amended.

Future Meeting Dates

May 9
 May 14 – Town Meeting
 May 23

SC Liaison and Subcommittee

Shannon Molloy presented Accounts Payable Warrant #22-22 in the amount of \$627,000.

Shannon Molloy reported that Negotiations will be meeting on Wednesday.

Shannon Molloy reported that DEI will be rescheduled in favor of getting the principal interviews moving forward.

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC had to make a date change for the 504 Workshop. It is rescheduled to May 10 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Advisory for the HES Principal search committee will be holding their 3rd day of interviews this week.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Bromfield School Council talked about the Bromfield Alumni forum that highlighted an alumni from 2010 who is now an employee and someone who hires people. The chatter at the Council was very positive. There will be more career forums to come.

Suzanne Allen reported that Policy meets next week.

Abby Besse -reported that the Middle School principal search committee is busy with interviews. Second round interviews continued on Friday.

SusanMary Redinger reported that she was in a meeting with the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee and they are planning to cast a wider net to other committees to get buy in on the Climate Action plan. One measure they were kicking around was the idea of less waste and how would that be tracked and measured. They are also interested in combining purchases across town.

Public Commentary

None

School Committee Commentary

None

Adjourn

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move into executive session 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 into public session.

Roll call vote:

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga