

School Committee Meeting  
December 13, 2021  
6:15 p.m.

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

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

Others in attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Mary Zadroga

**Read Vision Statement** – Shannon Molloy read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary** - None

**Student Report** - None

**Superintendent Update**

\*Title IX training is December 21, 2021, from 1 to 3 p.m. School Committee members are invited to attend.

\*Excellent concerts were held at Bromfield last week for both Band and Chorus.

\*Excited that tomorrow we will be welcoming seven children into our community from Afghanistan.

**CASE Capital request (VOTE)**

Dr. Dwight presented a request to establish a CASE Capital fund with money that would have been returned to districts as a credit from transportation budgets in order to make capital improvements to facilities that serve the students in their programs.

Dr. Dwight will ask CASE to explain how the excess funds (after the deposit to the capital reserve fund) will be distributed back to towns in the future.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move that we approve to establish a capital reserve fund account for the Case Collaborative.

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

Abby Besse made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to approve the 2022 Capital plan.

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

### **Superintendent contract (VOTE)**

SusanMary Redinger asked for an Open Session vote on the 3-year contract for Dr. Linda Dwight that was previously agreed upon in School Committee Executive Session on December 6, 2021. The 3-year contract incorporates a 2% increase in salary and a \$5,000 annuity payment for each of the three years.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded for the School Committee to approve the contract to extend the contract for Dr. Dwight.

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

### **FY23 Budget Review (VOTE)**

SusanMary Redinger explained that the FY23 budget is being built with a COLA of 2%. The Committee is waiting for the HTA members to vote to confirm the one-year contract before this information can become final. Ingrid Nilsson presented to the Committee an update to the FY23 Budget showing line items that had changed since the last presentation. The current draft FY23 budget is proposed at \$14,622,343 which is a 4.41% increase from FY22 and an increase of \$617,420.

Ingrid Nilsson presented information regarding the Devens funds both revenue and expenses. Our reliance on the Devens funds to fund the school budget is not a sustainable model at the amounts we have incorporated into the FY23 budget. The Committee will see how the town would like to proceed.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move to approve the budget as presented.

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

We will get the FY23 budget to members of the Finance Committee and Select Board tomorrow.

### **Grant Approval – None**

### **Future Meeting Dates**

January 10

January 24

Special Town meeting this Friday – Quorum of 50 required.

December 16<sup>th</sup> will provide their ratings on the capital projects.

### **Agenda Items**

SEPAC

Facilities

Food Service

New Clubs

Town Report

### **Subcommittee and Liaison Reports**

**Suzanne Allen** reported that Policy Subcommittee will meet next Monday – and continue to talk about masks – in preparation for the January 15 mask reconsideration date.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met for the first time – it was very inspirational, a lot of big thoughts, big ideas, and looking forward to this work.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee meets tomorrow.

**Shannon Molloy** – reported that SEPAC had its first workshop last Thursday. The topic was transition planning. It was helpful for parents of children of all ages but was more focused on older students. SEPAC was happy to see new faces and hopes to reach more people in the community.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the Best Practices Subcommittee has a meeting tomorrow.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that HEAC met and agreed on the norms for volunteers and supported the school committee feedback to the selectman. HEAC has been reviewing grant work, which is mostly finished, and they are now looking into what is next.

**Public Commentary** – None

**School Committee Commentary** – None

**Dr. Dwight** reported that tomorrow in the cemetery next to the General Store there will be a ceremony to honor a person from Harvard that is buried in the cemetery who was found to be a member of the Boston Tea Party.

**Shannon Molloy** appreciates everyone that has worked on the budget. We still have more work to do but she appreciates the heavy-lift by many to get to this point.

### **Adjourn**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen 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.