Bromfield School Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 30, 2020, 2:00pm  
Via Zoom

Vision Statement:

The Harvard Public Schools community, dedicated to educational excellence, guides all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national and global communities.

Attendees: Laura Thomas, Scott Hoffman, Ben Myers, Colleen Nigzus, Pat Nilan, Abby Besse, Erin Baker, Cricket Segaloff, Imogen Slavin, Tiana Jiang, Vivian Liu, Ellen Sachs Leicher

Opening: OK to Record?

The council approved the July 15 meeting minutes unanimously.

Principal’s Report - Important Events, Past & Present

- School opened on September 9
- No positive COVID tests thus far
- Hybrid model, in school and remote learning
- Continued progress and improvement with remote learning
  - Separate sections for Grade 6 and 7
  - Two separate sections for Grade 8
  - Cameras in use in all other areas
  - VHS and other on-line courses
- Masks – Used well by all with occasional mask breaks
- Physical distancing OK overall, but needs some improvement.
- Arrival and dismissal have been without incident
- The school will continue to stay in this model through October
  - Safe
  - Just finding some rhythm
  - Planning for full remote, if necessary
  - Also investigating ways to increase in-person time
- Extra-curricular activities
  - Fall sports have begun per MIAA requirements and Mid-Wach guidelines.
  - Clubs are meeting remotely.
  - Work to produce a virtual club fair is in progress.
- Working on virtual open house with recorded messages
- Planning for parent-teacher conferences will start shortly.
Overall assessment is that this term is going well.
We are all in the first year following this learning model.
Investigate ways to have more students present in schools, including lunch.
Plan for full remote if necessary.
Conduct Zoom sessions with parents.
Additional equipment ordered to expand internet access, including outdoor classes.
Improve consistency of Google classroom assignments across classes.
School budget to be made available to school council for evaluation and tie-in with SIP, other needs.

School Committee Update (Abby Besse)

A reduced Bromfield ramp project is on town meeting agenda, estimated at $514,000 and no debt.
Bromfield locker replacement is also a town meeting agenda item.
2021-2022 school budget in process, based on a level funding assumption.
Bus fees to be reduced to $125, because students are using bus transportation less.

School Council Membership

Welcome new members Laura Thomas (parent) and Cricket Seagloff (school faculty).
Two student terms (Vivian Liu and Tiana Jiang) terms are up, so they need to run again.
The council also has an opening for a ninth grade representative and an additional community member.

School goals for the year

Remote learning - Continued refinements and improvement.

DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) - Social justice is an important educational component. It needs to be addressed in a way that assures students learn.

Subcommittee Updates

Arm-in-Arm update (Ellen Sachs Leicher) - Oct 8, 7pm – A pastor, a muslim, and a rabbi consider the intersection of religion and environment. Reach out thru teachers to publicize events.

Careers (Ben Myers) – Reality Fair and other potential projects are currently on hold.

Colleen Nigzus (Keeper of subcommittee info) - Will send out subcommittee, past assignments and solicit new assignments. The council needs to make additional consideration of sports, an important component of wellness and possibly a part of the Wellness Subcommittee.
Future Meetings

Wednesdays 3:00pm, via Zoom until further notice.

October 28, 2020
November 18 2020
December 16, 2020
January 20, 2021
February 24, 2021
March 24, 2021
April 14, 2021
May 12, 2021
June 9, 2021

Ben Myers
Secretary, Bromfield School Council