

School Committee Meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021  
6:15 p.m.

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

Others in Attendance: Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Josh Myler and Melissa Niland, Olivia Ren and Asha Khurana.

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

Olivia Ren read the vision statement.

**Public Commentary:**

Jennifer Finch, Codman Hill Road – recess issue

**Student Report**

**Olivia Ren** reported that for the Seniors the first round of college applications is over. Quarter 1 ended last Friday and students will receive report cards this week.

Model UN attended a virtual conference hosted by UC San Diego; Bromfield did very well.

Ms. Nilan under Bromfield Cares is organizing a community service project for this Saturday.

Next week Drama will be presenting their fall performance in person. The performance is “Murder on the Orient Express”. It will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

**Asha Khurana** reported that the Bromfield Review, and the Coffee House are back, it has been two years since they have been active so it is a big deal. Student computers at Bromfield were having a lot of slowdown issues but the software that was causing the problem was deleted and students are very happy with the results. Sports is on everyone’s mind. Boys and Girls Soccer won their first district game this weekend. The Cross-Country team has state finals this weekend. Other Fall sports have wrapped up for the year and Winter sports will start after Thanksgiving.

**HES School Improvement Plan**

Josh Myler and Melissa Niland reported out on the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Myler thanked the School Council members who worked with School Administration to develop the plan. The following School Improvement items were presented:

Student Achievement: Strategic Plan work and HES Master Schedule

Personal Growth: Social Emotional Learning and Parent DEI Partnership

School Climate: Classroom Library Resources and Pandemic Reflections

Ongoing Initiatives: Physical Activity and Mindfulness, Teacher and Student Leadership Opportunities, Culture of Inclusion, Building Project.

### **District Improvement Plan**

Dr. Dwight explained that while we are in the process of updating our District Improvement Plan in the next few months, we will continue to use our current District Improvement plan with the following goals.

**Student Achievement:** Antiracism – To create a district culture that confronts racism, actively addresses aggression and educates all on the harm of silence.

**Partnership:** Inclusive practices for the hiring and retention of District Leader- New leaders will add their strengths to the district through their perspective roles and make improvements for students and the whole school community.

Abby Besse made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve the District Improvement Plan as presented.

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

### **Superintendent Update**

Attached

### **Policy Review (VOTE)**

The Policy Subcommittee reviewed the mask policy and recommended changes based on local and state vaccination rates by DESE guidelines, pooled testing results and participation rates with a goal of 80% and local and state wide COVID positivity rate of less than 3%. Any change would be initiated after January 15<sup>th</sup> in accordance with DESE guidelines. Teachers and staff of students not eligible for vaccination will remain masked regardless of vaccination status while working with those grade levels. Teachers and staff who are unvaccinated by exemption will need to continue wearing masks according to the Memorandum of Agreement.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the mask policy as amended.

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

With no objection SusanMary Redinger declared Policy JICG Substance Abuse Policy eliminated.

The Policy Subcommittee amended Policy JICH - Student Substance Abuse by amending language to include a broader list of drugs as well as a definition of possession, distribution use, under the influence, administrative responsibilities and responses.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve Policy JICH as amended.

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

### **Review of User Fees (Athletics, Bus, Kindergarten)**

The Committee reviewed the cost to reduce user fees in the FY23 budget. At this point it would be good to keep the idea of reducing user fees open as an option but the priority this year will be

a curriculum director and that leaves little room for any other additions. User fee reductions will be considered if the budget allows.

### **Code of Conduct for Boards/Committees Review (VOTE)**

SusanMary Redinger shared feedback from the School Committee on the Draft Code of Conduct. The letter will be submitted to the Select board. The Committee thanked SusanMary Redinger for putting the letter together.

SusanMary Redinger proposed that we send off the Code of Conduct to the Select board prior to their deadline.

With no objection SusanMary Redinger consider the letter approved as presented.

### **Grant Approval**

Dr. Dwight presented a gift from the Harvard PTO as Appleseed money for the Hildreth Elementary School in the amount of \$3,500 to be used to provide each teacher a small amount of money to purchase any materials for their classroom that falls outside of the scope of the OMNIBUS budget.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to approve the grant from the PTO as presented.

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

### **Future Meeting Dates**

November 22- Regular Meeting

Budget reviews November 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

December 6 and 13

December 10 or 17 for SAC

### **Agenda Items**

Budget

Student Achievement

Policy

### **Minutes**

With no objection SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes of the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting approved as amended.

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

### **SC Liaison and Sub-Committee Reports**

*Shannon Molloy* – reported at the SAC meeting students talked about having to face in the same direction at lunch and how they didn't really like that. The rest of the meeting was focused on mask wearing, DESE guidelines and enforcement.

*Suzanne Allen* – reported that School Council will meet this week.

*Suzanne Allen* – reported that the Transportation Advisory has not met – a public forum will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Suzanne Allen* – reported that Wellness will hopefully be up and running soon.

*Sharlene Cronin* – reported that budget meetings will be held in the coming week. The meeting will be held publicly on zoom with the Budget Subcommittee, Cost Center Managers, Dr. Dwight and Ingrid Nilsson.

*Sharlene Cronin* – reported that the Best Practice Subcommittee is overdue for meeting and will hopefully get together soon.

*Abby Besse* – reported that Parks and Rec want to take over jurisdiction of the Bromfield field in the Spring. It looks like the Bromfield field will not be worked on due to water issues. The work may be moved to the fall.

*Abby Besse* - reported that DEAC met and there were lots of updates on new building projects at Devens. There is a proposal for 40 new rental unit 1-, 2- and 3-bedroom units that will most likely bring more students to our district. There are concerns about the Devens Bromfield bus coming too early so that students at Devens are not benefitting from the late start time. DEAC is looking for help on this. DEAC is looking for new members to serve on DEAC and for someone to replace Maureen Babcock as the Devens representative on the School Committee.

Dr. Dwight will work with Ingrid Nilsson and MassDevelopment to discuss the option of adding another bus to service Devens students.

**SusanMary Redinger** – reported that CIPC met last week and began the process of reviewing capital requests. CPIC will meet with the schools on December 9<sup>th</sup> and then rate and vote requests moving forward on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SusanMary Redinger** - reported that HEAC will be meeting on Wednesday night to discuss Bromfield projects transformer, weatherization, tennis court lighting. The town received a rebate check for around \$40K for the HES building project due to the installation of lighting in compliance with a National Grid rebate program. The solar installation is complete. The EB charger will be completed this week.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported updates to the building project that the playground installation started this week, the road is opening up and striping is going in and they are working on readjusting the curbing. There are a few outstanding items that are being tracked. The dedication ceremony will be held this weekend.

### **School Committee Commentary**

Shannon Molloy – SEPAC had a great adaptative soccer program was very successful. There was lot of supports and the kids had a great time. There was a total of 13 kids with a great ratio of volunteers. The program was so successful that a basketball program is being considered next.

### **Public Commentary**

None

**School Committee Commentary**

Sharlene Cronin: A big shoutout to Kevin Mitrano for rolling out the virtual test kitchen program, the kids are excited and we are happy to see that programs are back running again.

**Adjourn at 8:45 p.m.**

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Bessie 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