

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, March 25, 2019
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Shannon Molloy, Jon Green, John Ruark, Sharlene Cronin, Maureen Babcock, Aziz Aghavev and Linda Dwight. Absent: Chloe Cushing.

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

John Ruark read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary: Paul Green, Littleton Road – stipend pay
Katy Covino, Depot Road – FY20 budget cuts
Jen Manell, Stow Road – Computer brand selection

Student Report: None

D.C. Trip Presentation: Bromfield Freshman Student Government members, Mollie Bodtman, Felicia Jamba, Camille Gomez, Sophia Zhou, and Sophie Thompson shared the experience of the 9th grade class trip to Washington, D.C. through a video presentation.

Youth Risk Survey Presentation and Discussion

Bromfield Guidance Counselor Drew Skrocki presented the results of the Youth Risk Survey. The Youth Risk Survey is administered by Emerson Hospital and given to students in grades 6, 8, and 9 through 12 every two years.

Budget Reduction Recommendation and Vote

The Committee reviewed the 2nd Draft of the budget cut list in order to meet the reduction of \$150,000 to the FY20 budget. Discussion followed regarding the use of the Shaw Trust to fund small capital items and bus survey data relative to user fee reduction or elimination at HES during construction.

John Ruark made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve the budget as presented.

During discussion on the motion, John Ruark made an amendment to the initial motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to vote to approve the budget with a proposal to reduce the bus fees from \$225 to \$100, and put the expected difference back into the budget.

VOTE 1/4

When the motion didn't carry, the Committee voted on the initial motion which was approved unanimously.

John Ruark made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve the budget as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Stipend Request and Vote

Dr. Dwight presented a request for the School Committee to approve up to \$20,000 from the Devens fund to be used this year and next year to pay stipends to contracted employees. The stipend payment process will be in effect for two years, to be reevaluated in 2020.

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to authorize the Superintendent to expend up to \$20,000 to be funded by the Devens account for each of the fiscal years 19 and 20 to provide merit-based stipends to employees of the district subject to School Committee advice and consent.

VOTE 5/0

John Ruark made the motion and Shannon Molloy to move to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to provide suitable advice and consent to the Superintendent on the use of the \$20,000.

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent's Report

Women's Educational Leadership Network – Over 300 women joined together for a conference at Holy Cross in Worcester on March 12th. Dr. Dwight was on the planning committee that selects the theme, plans the speakers, and organizes the activities. The theme, Women Leading for Innovation: What Does It Take? featured several keynote speakers and interactive discussions. Seven leaders from Harvard attended and came away from the experience inspired and motivated.

Teacher Leadership Team Met – We reviewed the budget updates and discussed alternatives to Draft #1. Teachers contributed to our Draft #2 of budget recommendation.

National Honor Society Induction – Bromfield students in grades 10, 11, and 12 were inducted into the National Honor Society following a multi-step application and screening process. Their families joined them for a special ceremony that included candle lighting and pledging. The current leaders gave speeches focused on leadership and service and then welcomed the new members into the NHS.

Successful Trips- Ninth grade students enjoyed the annual tradition of a trip to Washington, D.C. The organizer, Julie Horton, saw to all of the details necessary to travel with approximately 100 students for several overnights. Some of the students will share their highlights with us at our meeting. We thank all of the chaperones who attend this year and kept our students safe.

Harvard Community Conference – One of our students, Kira Houston, hosted the 2nd annual Community Conference on March 16th. This event was sponsored by Arm in Arm and focused on sharing stories related to diversity and inclusion. Several community members shared stories on the topic of change: personal, local, and global. I was honored to share a connection between adoption, family separation at the border, and how we are working to create a more inclusive school environment for all students.

Bloom in Art Display – Teachers in our art department joined with the Harvard Garden Club to provide students with a unique experience. Members of the Garden Club were paired with

students to interpret their piece of artwork through the arrangement of flowers. The community was then invited to a reception to meet the student artist and flower arrangers. The partnership drew crowds of people exclaiming over the displays. This was a wonderful opportunity for cross-generational conversation.

Senior Project Updates- Dr. Dwight met with the faculty advisors who lead the senior student service projects. The 40-hour graduation requirement has been the target of some criticism in the past years. Teachers discussed more time for completion by allowing students to define their projects in their 10th grade year. We discussed follow through for students who do not meet the deadlines. They also reviewed the purpose and its links to the Vision statement. More details and recommended changes will be shared with the School Committee as they continue their review of the process and outcomes.

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building Committee submitted the 90% completion to the MSBA. The submission went in on March 22nd after the Conservation Commission approval. Since then approval has been received by the Department of Transportation and still waiting approval from the State DEP which is anticipated by mid-April. Gave notice to proceed with early bid packages of steel, concrete, electrical enabling, ground improvement and earth works. The Committee value engineered \$1.2 million to come out of the budget, none of which will have an educational impact on the project. Met with the Police and Fire Chiefs to go over safety during and after the project. The next School Building Committee meeting is April 4th. Tomorrow night there will be a public information session on the School Building project in upper Town Hall.

Grant Approval

The following grants were presented from the Harvard Schools Trust for School Committee approval:

Art Display Board – Cindy Harris, Elizabeth Hoorneman & Cynthia Fontaine - \$2,500
Angst – Christine Reale - \$925

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the grants from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Agenda Items:

School Choice
School Committee Self-Evaluation
Last day of School
Budget Hearing
Midyear budget review
HES – Student Leadership

Approval of Meeting Minutes

With no objections, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes which were approved as amended.

Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports

John Ruark reported that the Athletic Advisory and Policy meet tomorrow.

SusanMary Redinger reported that she and John Ruark had the pleasure of judging the sixth and seventh grade Science Fair. It was great. Nice having it done separate from the high school. SusanMary Redinger recognized Ellen Sachs Leicher for coordinating the event.

SusanMary Redinger presented the following paid warrants to the Committee for review:

Warrant 19-16 dated January 18, 2019 - \$227,202.79

Warrant 19-17 dated February 1, 2019 - \$881,116.46

Warrant 19-18 dated February 15, 2019 - \$912,457.01

Warrant 19-19 dated March 1, 2019 - \$91,176.07

Jon Green – no report

Shannon Molloy reported that the TBS and HES School Council met and dedicated a large portion of their meeting to budget. There was good feedback. The balance of the time was spent discussing the surveys at both schools. HES has their survey back and will be looking at data, TBS is sending out their survey.

Public Commentary

Sharlene Cronin– thanked everyone for their comments and work getting through the budget cuts.

SusanMary Redinger thanked the Committee for their due diligence and how important it is to the Community to see the Committee work through decisions.

With no objections, SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga