

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: John Ruark, Shannon Molloy, Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen, SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight and Aziz Aghayev.

John Ruark called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – None

Student Update: Felicia Jamba gave the following report:

Winter sports registration is now open.

The Swim team is getting big enough to possibly field a JV and Varsity team.

Both the Girls' and Boys' Soccer teams are playing in the districts this week.

The Girl's Cross-Country team qualified for the state meet.

The Math team competed in the prestigious Harvard MIT math tournament and did very well.

The Drama Club presented "School of Rock" this past weekend. It was a great show.

Students are passionate about having a homework free weekend over Thanksgiving.

Grant Approval

Dr. Dwight presented the following gifts for approval:

Engineering Week Projects - \$580 – Lauren Crittendon – Science Leader – gift provided from the PTO.

Appleseed Money - \$3,500 – Josh Myler – Principal - to be used for classroom materials, special projects, funding for scholarships – gift provided from the PTO.

Appleseed Money - \$3,500 – Scott Hoffman – Principal - to be used for financial assistance for field trips and club costs – gift provided from the PTO.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the gifts from the PTO as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Requested Budget Transfer; Vote

Dr. Dwight requested that the School Committee transfer \$100K into the lunch account and \$50K into the athletic account temporarily to be repaid as revenues enter the accounts throughout the year. These two cost centers struggle with deficits due to the delayed payments into their areas of the budget. The lunch account and athletic account count on collected revenues, and in the case of the lunch program, federal and state reimbursements.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move that we transfer \$100K from Devens account into the lunch account and \$50K into the athletic account for the purposes of cash flow.

VOTE 5/0

Class Enrollment Information

Aziz Aghayev presented an interactive worksheet showing class enrollment by course at The Bromfield School. School Committee members were able to see enrollment numbers by course and by gender. The tool was great and easy to use and provided great information. The information will be looked at in depth by the administrative leadership team.

Budget Introduction

Aziz Aghayev presented the draft FY21 Budget. The budget is being presented with a 0% salary increase figured in for teachers and a 2% increase figured in for non-teacher salary lines. The total increase at this juncture is projected to be 4.30%. The salary portion of the budget makes up 78.7% of the budget. Dr. Dwight and Mr. Aghayev explained lines that had a larger than expected increase. Dr. Marie Harrington was present at the meeting to provide information on Out of District tuitions and the Circuit Breaker offset. Dr. Dwight was asked by the School Committee why Apple products are used versus another technology platform in the 1 to World program.

Dashboard Sub-Committee Discussion - tabled

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported there was a beam signing ceremony at Hildreth Elementary this past week. Sharlene Cronin attended and spoke of the excitement from the kids. Sharlene explained that Mr. Myler talked to the kids about the welding being done and how long you are able to look at the welding flame before it becomes unsafe. It was a really special time for the school community. School Committee members are welcome to sign the beam by coordinating a time with Dr. Dwight. In other updates, the weather has not been cooperating with the project. There is no date for the topping off ceremony. Dr. Dwight and SusanMary Redinger were able to attend a seminar related to the purchasing of furniture in mass quantity. School administration is in the process of working with 7 other districts to select a manufacturer. This type of procurement will bring down the cost of the FF&E budget line item.

Policy Review

Shannon Molloy presented two policies for adoption after a first read from a prior meeting:

Policy AE – Commitment to Accomplishment

Policy JB – Equal Educational Opportunities

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to adopt Policy AE and Policy JB as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Agenda Items

Title IX

Policy

Budget

MCAS Review

Approval of Meeting Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Bromfield School Council met- they incorporated comments from the School Committee back into the School Improvement plan. They are waiting for reports from the Wellness Subcommittee and the Balance Subcommittee. Next meeting is December 11th.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Capital Planning and Investment Committee continues to meet with the various departments. They will be meeting with the schools in early December.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC met and there were four Devens representatives in attendance. They discussed their goals for the year. They scheduled another meeting for early December. Their main focus this year will be sending out the survey which is on a two-year cycle.

Suzanne Allen reported that SEPAC continues to move along. They are excited to be offering a speaker to come in to speak to the public about Special Education policy and law.

Shannon Molloy – Policy Subcommittee, HES School Council and Start-time Advisory will all be meeting next week. The Wellness Subcommittee has not met.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that the Parks & Recreation Department rolled back their vote to use their funds for a study and are coming up with a plan to use the final Field Subcommittee report to craft work around that and fill in any gaps that may exist. There is an interest in putting forth a request to purchase a tractor that could do field maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Department are going to ask for \$46,000 from CPIC for that purpose. School Committee will need to discuss if we will publicly support this article.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that the Negotiation Subcommittee has scheduled additional dates for the Negotiating Subcommittee meetings.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that the Dashboard Subcommittee has not met but will be planning a meeting soon.

John Ruark - reported that HEAC will meet next week.

Public and School Committee Commentary

Suzanne Allen was thankful for the opportunity to go the MASC conference. It was really good to be around people that do what we do. Felt really grateful for what we are doing and for the nice systems we have in place. The highlight was Tracy Novak's presentation on Chapter 70 and the new legislation that will allow more funding for Special Education.

Sharlene Cronin – thanked the Budget Subcommittee for all of their work. I have learned so much and was happy to be able to participate.

Shannon Molloy – Harvard School's Trust celebrated their 30th anniversary today in the Old Library. The original founders of the Trust were in attendance. It was great to see so many faculty and staff there.

SusanMary Redinger thanked Aziz Aghayev for his enthusiasm and amazing work to give us the information we need.

Executive Session

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to convene into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, sections 18-25 for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with the Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. We will not enter back into open session.

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga