

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

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

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

Suzanne Allen read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary – None**

**Student Update**

Taylor Caroom and Brook Caroom, The Bromfield School student representatives, reported students had questions and concerns on the following topics:

- Showing of the movie Angst - will there be a follow-up.
- Middle School Audience - concern they may be too young to understand the concept.
- Distinguishing the different types of depression and anxiety.
- A shift to reduce homework load on weekends.
- Attendance policy – stressful.
- Boys bathroom vandalized – need more awareness to the problem.

Move Agenda Item 13 after Item 3

**Student Advisory Council Agenda**

Attendance policy  
Capital projects  
Anxiety/Angst Movie

**Middle School Ramp Estimates**

David Pollak and Austin Ludwig from Abacus Architects presented in detail their draft specification and options to address the deteriorated existing elevated walkway at The Bromfield School. The scope of work includes reconstruction of the bridge, with two unconditioned storage rooms for a total of \$544,362. The addition of the stair from the landing to the landscape below adds \$64,550. The fit-out and design modifications required to add the 2 single use bathrooms adds \$101,374. And the improvement to the surrounding landscape as laid out by the landscape architect adds \$162,877 Alice VonLoescke from the Board of Selectmen spoke about the cost of the bathrooms being of value as a portable toilet rental would exceed the cost of the new bathroom in two years. Don Ludwig from Finance Committee asked if the project could be done over the summer? The architect said that it may not be critical to have the work done over the summer as it won't interfere much when school is in session. The project could be done in phases but would not be ideal. Stu Sklar – Board of Selectmen – was told by David Pollak that the steel beams are failing. John Seeley, who chairs CPIC, said his committee would want a rationale for the project from the School Committee, along with its funding request by the end of October. After discussion, the Committee decided to send the entire Abacus report to CPIC for consideration.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Principal Scott Hoffman and Associated Principal Robin Benoit presented the TBS School Improvement Plan. They explained strategy used, time-line, resources used and measurement for each goal.

The overarching goals include: to provide a safe, secure and inclusive learning environment for all, and to support engaged teaching and learning and to activate community pride. Their main focus is reducing absenteeism, vaping and lessening disrespectful behavior. Mr. Hoffman also updated the Committee by recognizing several other ongoing efforts in progress. The Committee will vote on the approval of the School Improvement Plan at a future meeting.

### **Club Approval**

Politics Club – Mrs. Keane – Grade 9-12 - create a student driven publication on current world and US politics - \$500 stipend.

Global Health Society – Kate Russell - Grades 9-12 – implement projects within the school community related to public health, raise money to fund such projects, raise money to donate materials essential for public health to communities in need locally and globally - \$800 stipend.

The Bromfield Garden Club – Erin DeCoste – Grade 6-12 – to manage the garden behind the middle school wing and provide fresh produce for the community - \$800 stipend.

Bromfield Wrestling Club – Amanda Welch - Grade 6-12 – to teach youth who want to learn how to wrestle - \$500 stipend.

American Sign Language Club – Mike Poe - Grades 6-12 – support students interested to learning the basics of ASL grammar and every day signs to use at home and school - \$800 stipend.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the clubs as presented.  
VOTE 5/0

### **Establishing an Interim SEPAC**

Shannon Molloy introduced Jenny Gillard and Aspen Ference, two parents who have come forward to co-chair SEPAC on an interim basis. Jenny and Aspen introduced themselves and shared their goals for SEPAC and its commitment to advocacy, inclusion and community building in order to promote an environment in our schools that helps all students reach their individual potential. All community members are invited to a meeting on Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, to explore what SEPAC can do to benefit all young people and their families in our community. The first official event will likely be a basic rights presentation. A letter has been prepared to go out in The Harvard Press. The letter will be signed by the full Committee and the Co-Chairs.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to establish an interim SEPAC appointing Jenny Gillard and Aspen Ference as co-chairs. Signaling our approval by submitting this letter with our signatures to The Harvard Press. Recognizing Jenny Gillard and Aspen Ference as Interim Co-Chairs of the SEPAC asking that they report back on their interim status before the end for the 2019-2020 school year.  
VOTE 5/0

### **Budget Timeline and Process**

School Business Manager, Aziz Aghayev presented the time line for budget development and presentations. The dates of October 31 as well as November 1, 4 and 12 will be set aside for the budget, to be presented to the Budget Subcommittee. On November 12 and 25, the budget will be presented to the full School Committee and on November 26<sup>th</sup> the budget will be presented to the town.

Dr. Dwight presented a list of priorities for the upcoming budget. Items listed in no particular order include:

- Wellness teacher
- Full time Athletic Director
- Tuition Free Kindergarten
- Move athletic cost or other costs into the budget
- Move the food service director's salary into the budget
- Music teacher
- Busing considerations

Shannon Molloy asked if a Curriculum Coordinator should be considered and if we should reconsider our choice of technology platform being used. Sharlene Cronin suggested adding a district data analyst position. Suzanne Allen would like Wellness to be a priority. John Ruark would like to see something done to reduce user fees.

The direction from the Finance Committee is to present a level service budget. SusanMary Redinger recommended that the technology department prepare a presentation as to why Apple has been selected as the technology platform.

### **Superintendent Update**

See attached

**Enrollment Numbers** – Tabled to the next meeting

### **Grant Approval; Vote**

The following gifts were presented for approval:

PTO Curriculum enrichment

Traveling Science Workshop – Acton Discovery Museum - Marie Phillips - \$540.

Harvard Schools Trust

Bromfield Model UN (BMUN) – Bryce Mattie & Lisa Terrio - \$4555.

Bromfield Political Pulse – Meena Ramakrishnan & Kate Keane - \$500.

Math Club Experience Kit – Mike Morton, Sarah Salch, Kate Guthro, Margaret Murphy - \$276.

An additional \$590 was allocated for the Nature's Classroom grant at the request of Rob Cullinane.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the grants as presented.

VOTE 5/0

## **School Building Update**

SusanMary Redinger reported that the new building foundation is completely installed and the steel is going up. The next School Building Committee meeting is Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Committee will be doing a walk-through of the site. School Committee members are invited to join at 3:30 p.m. At the next School Building Committee meeting the Committee will be looking to select colors for the stone and brick. Steel is still on target to be finished in November. A time lapse video and live cam of the work site are available to watch on the HES website.

## **Agenda Items**

Enrollment Numbers

HEAC

Negotiation Update

Population of the sections

Enrollment projections

Title IX follow up

Policy

Executive Session

Dashboard subcommittee report

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

With no objection, the Chair approved the minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

## **Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

**Shannon Molloy** – thanked everyone for being excited about SEPAC.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that the Policy will be presenting some updates soon.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that HES Council met earlier today and worked on how to formulate the parent survey.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the Field Subcommittee will present their interim report to the Select Board next week. Parks and Recreation approved Baseball funds for field maintenance. Member will be going to Devens on Thursday to assess the fields available and get some information on the cost of renting fields.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the Dashboard Query Committee met – the subcommittee will be seeking School Committee input as to what information should be on our dash board. A full report on what we want to query will follow.

**Maureen Babcock** reported to the Mass Development Board of Directors in her role DEAC Chair. Her report included student numbers, the US News and World reported stats on Bromfield, contract information, the Vision statement and pictures. Maureen thanked Mass Development for their support of DEAC for 17 years. DEAC has no meeting planned.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that CPIC met and the one item they are rating for Special Town meeting is the repair to the library roof. There is hope that if the larger roof needs repair it may qualify for a grant. TBS School Council meets tomorrow and will wait for final approval on the School Improvement plan and then form Subcommittees.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that School Start Time Committee is focusing on gathering information. The main focus is what could go well, exploring all ideas, engaging community members and collecting information.

**John Ruark** reported that HEAC is looking at charging station options around town which could be HES and or TBS. The lighting project paperwork is underway with the hope to have it done by the end of the year this project would change over the remaining lights at Bromfield to LED. Aiming for a “Silver LEED” rating at the new school.

**John Ruark** reported that the Negotiation Subcommittee met with teachers - will update at the next meeting.

*Dr. Dwight* reminded members to communicate their attendance and plans for the upcoming MASC/MASS conference in Cape Cod.

**Public and School Committee Commentary**

Maureen Babcock was happy to see student representatives at the meeting tonight. They are a great addition and their contribution to the meeting is wonderful.

Linda Dwight was happy to see members from other town boards present tonight to hear the architect's presentation on the middle school ramp.

**Adjourn**

With no objection, John Ruark moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

VOTE 5/0