

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, December 9, 2019
6:15 p.m.

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

John Ruark called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Sharlene Cronin read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – None

Student Update: Vivien Jamba, Felecia Jamba, and Taylor Caroom attended the meeting and gave the following report:

This past Saturday night the first Homecoming dance was held at Bromfield. There was a good turnout with approximately 200 kids in attendance. People had a lot of fun.

The “No Homework Weekend” went well. The AP teachers tried to reduce workloads as well.

There was concern that tests were being held the day after vacation, but due to the two snow days that concern became irrelevant. The Snow days were appreciated. People were ready to come back and the shortened week was a good transition.

Field Trip Approval

Cynthia Fontaine, Co-Advisor for the Business Professional of America, attended the meeting seeking permission to take students on an overnight trip to attend the State Leadership Conference. The conference is held at the Sheraton in Framingham and at Assabet Valley Vocational Technical High School. The students will leave on Saturday, February 29th and return Monday, March 2, 2020.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the overnight trip as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Grant Approval

Grants presented for approval:

Save a Life Tour – SADD - \$1,600 from the PTO

Preventative maintenance - replacing water pipes and valves – Facilities - \$4,300 from MIIA

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

VOTE 5/0

Achievement Report

Principal Josh Myler, Scott Hoffman and Associate Principal Robin Benoit presented the Student Achievement Report. Information was shared on MCAS results, AP and SAT results, student awards, recognition and extracurricular participation.

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Dr. Dwight asked the Committee to make a change to the capital request for the locker rooms. The request will be for \$20,000 in order to do a renovation study. The \$150,000 for repair will be moved out to the following years.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to change the request to CPIC for the sports locker rooms down to \$20,000 and move out the expense for repair to the following years at \$150,000 per year.

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Dwight is requesting approval to attend a professional learning trip to Helsinki, Finland and Tallinn, Estonia from October 3 – 10, 2020. The request is to take 5 professional days and use professional development money to fund half of the trip's cost of \$4,750.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move to approve the use and allocation of funds to cover half of the trip's cost of \$4,750 as Dr. Dwight has requested.

VOTE 5/0

Brainstorm Student Advisory Committee (SAC) Topics

The Committee brainstormed with students from the SAC to come up with topics to be discussed at the upcoming meeting on December 20th.

1. School Start time
2. MCAS tests – Legacy versus New Generation version of the test
3. Enrollment data – gender divides

Budget, Continuation; Vote

Dr. Dwight and Aziz Aghayev presented budget information to the Committee including revenue and expenses for the Devens Revolving account from FY16 through the current fiscal year.

The FY21 budget was presented with transfers to cover anticipated deficit for school lunch and athletics and increase the Devens offset by \$100K for a total increase of the Devens \$295K.

The Committee discussed ways to decrease the overall budget and ways to fund anticipated deficits to the school lunch and athletic programs. It was decided to make the following changes to the Devens offsets.

Increase to Devens offset:

\$90K School Lunch

\$70K Athletics

\$35K TBS Small capital with the remaining \$35K coming from Shaw Trust

\$100K additional offset to Bromfield salaries

The Proposed FY21 budget was modified to \$14,370,920 for a 4.23% increase.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to present the FY21 budget as presented and modified as it currently stands splitting the capital with \$35K coming from Shaw and \$35K coming from Devens, funding the athletic and school lunch deficit with Devens offset and increasing the Devens offset for TBS salaries by \$100K.

VOTE 5/0

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the steel work is almost complete. There will be short ceremony with students and community members on Thursday, December 12th. The Change Order Working Group will meet again on December 19th. The project is currently on time and on budget.

Agenda Items

Policy

Dashboard

Mid-year goal review

Annual report

Budget follow-up

Curriculum update

Technology

Dashboard

Approval of Meeting Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the minutes of the November 12th meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Shannon Molloy reported that the School Start Time survey showed positive results in changing the start time at TBS. The Subcommittee will meet next week.

Shannon Molloy reported that the HES School Council will meet next week.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Policy Subcommittee will meet on December 16th.

Suzanne Allen reported that SEPAC will be holding a community wide meeting next Monday at the TBS library. There will be an attorney presenting information on Special Education basic right. SEPAC continues to have good participation with parent support groups and playgroups. The SEPAC board will meet next week.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Start Time Subcommittee has started holding parent/public forums in order to get information out about the possibility of changing the start time at The Bromfield School. Suzanne Allen will host a forum at TBS for middle school parents, and Shannon Molloy and Abby Bessie will hold a forum at HES on December 17th.

SusanMary Redinger reported that Capital met today, and members will be rating projects all week. Next Monday they will see where things land. The ramp project will be separated and rated by its individual components.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the TBS School Council meets this week and will hear from the Climate and Balance Subcommittees, discuss the homework free Thanksgiving break, vaping and video games.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Field Subcommittee meets this week. Bob O'Shea is spear heading a project that will be implementing software for Parks and Rec that will try to get a single

calendar function and track who is using the fields and when. It would be compelling for us to look for use in other areas of the school.

Sharlene Cronin reported that at the Athletic Advisory meeting Ben Myers shared a great pyramid/ reflection on what athletic participation gives to students. The Athletic Advisory group agreed that it was true of participation in extracurricular activities as well.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meets tomorrow.

John Ruark reported that he attended the DEAC last week and was happy to meet Jessica Strunkin, the new Senior Vice President for DEAC. The meeting focus was goal setting for the year. The primary activity planned for DEAC this year will be the survey. They reported 3 recent house closings at Emerson Green.

John Ruark reported that HEAC meets Wednesday. The lighting project should be done by December 20th.

Public and School Committee Commentary

Sharlene Cronin – The tree lighting at Devens was an amazing event. Kudos to the team that put that together. There were cookies, hot cocoa and Santa Claus was super nice.

Sharlene Cronin also gave a heads up to members that there is chatter on the Chapter 70 List Serve that districts will be required to submit a three-year forecast budget that will be due in April.

Suzanne Allen – The Middle School concert was packed, and the students were beaming with pride. Looking forward to attending the high school concert at 6:30 on Thursday at the Cronin.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga