

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, January 27, 2020
6:15 p.m.

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

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

Suzanne Allen read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – None

Student Update: Students Brooke Caroom, Taylor Caroom and Olivia Ren gave the following report:

The Bromfield School is starting a new recycling program.

The Junior class is planning for the semi-formal Snowball dance coming up in a few weeks.

On February 5th, Bromfield will be holding a Refresh Day for the third year in a row. The sign-ups are going very smoothly.

Next Thursday the Drama Society will be performing a town production of the show they will be performing at the upcoming Drama Festival.

Bromfield Central District music students performed at the Annual Senior High School Music Festival held at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

The Bromfield Math team finished first in a recent meet.

Field Trip Approval

Matt Lynde, the Youth and Government advisor, attended the meeting, seeking permission to take students on an overnight field trip to Boston, MA. Students will attend the State Conference for Youth in Government. At the conference, students will simulate MA state government, playing the role of various governmental bodies, including: legislative, executive, judicial, lobbyists, and the press corp. Students will stay at the Hyatt Regency in Boston. They will leave Wednesday, March 18th, and return Friday, March 20th. Parents will provide transportation to and from the event. The cost of the trip including the registration fee and advisor costs is just over \$500.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the field trip as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Harvard Schools Trust Gifts

Gifts presented from the Harvard Schools Trust for approval by the School Committee:

Save a Life Tour - \$1,600

Bromfield Speech and Debate Club - \$1,000

Annual 9th Grade DC Trip - \$2,445

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Agenda items 5 and 6 were reversed to accommodate the time scheduled for the Field Improvement speaker.

District Improvement Plan Update

Dr. Dwight shared the progress made as of June 2019 on the District Improvement Plan in Year 2 of a 3 year plan.

Core Value: Student Achievement	Technology Integration – Completion – 100%
	Data Informed Instruction – Completion – 100%
	Differentiated Instruction – Completion – 100%
Core Value: Personal Growth	Health/Wellness Focus – Completion – 100%
	Attendance – Completion -100%
Core Value: Partnership	College and Universities – Completion -100%
	Local Connection – Completion – 90%
Core Value: Resources	Elementary Building Project – Completion 100%
	Bromfield Renovations – Completion 100%
Core Value: School Climate	Inclusion – Completion 80%
	Digital Citizenship – Completion 100%

Field Improvements

Larry Feinberg attended the meeting to update the Committee on the progress being made at Ann Lee Field. He presented a list of additional needs and broke them into categories by “must have”, “want” and “wish list” items. He asked the Committee to consider how they could help with some items on the must have list. The Committee is interested in supporting the plan but needs to know the governance and process before deciding to provide resources. Mr. Feinberg would like to partner and roll out a plan. The field group would like the “must have” and “want” list to be funded before April. The Committee would like a list of the “must haves” broken down by what is flexible and what needs to happen now. The Committee wondered if Harvard Schools Trust or the PTO might be willing to fund any of these items through a grant. Also, the town’s small money warrant articles may be another funding source. Everyone agreed that safety would be the first priority. Dr. Dwight will talk to Tim Bragan to see what next steps are required. The Committee will discuss further and decide at their next meeting. It is important that we are in alignment with all stakeholders.

Superintendent Update

See attached.

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the winter conditions and National Grid has caused the HES building project to be a little behind schedule. The expected move in is now scheduled for May 2021. National Grid has hooked up the gas, and expects to have the electricity install completed by the end of the week. Moving forward, the crew will be pouring concrete, when the weather allows, and working on closing in the building.

Town Annual Report Review; Vote

The School Committee read through the annual report draft submitted by Chair, John Ruark. After some edits and revisions, the Committee voted to approve the report for publication in the Town's Annual Report book.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the annual report submission as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Continuous Improvement Discussion

The Committee reviewed a list of ideas that came from a brainstorming session of the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee. A list of 12 ideas was compiled. (1) Visibility to the Policy Subcommittee, (2) Improving budget process, (3) Financial update improvements, (4) Publicizing School Committee agenda, (5) School Committee newsletter, (6) Continuing state-level legislative advocacy, (7) Use MASC resources more consistently, (8) More detailed SOP, (9) New member manual/guide-book, (10) Publish in advance year-long agenda, (11) Environment impact assessment process, (12) Create document library of past presentations, curriculum, tech teacher evaluation. The Committee reviewed the list with the hope to refine down to 5 topics to work on at a future meeting.

Agenda Items

Title IX Review

Dashboard

Goals Update

Fields Update

Policy

School Improvement Plan

SAC Topics

Calendar

Advocacy Around State Legislature

Approval of Minutes

John Ruark with no objection approved the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Field Subcommittee is looking to fill at least one vacancy left by Joe Reynolds stepping down and the unfortunate passing of Ed Frackewicz. At a recent meeting Parks and Rec voted to increase beach prices, and enforce the existing fee schedule for field use. They are beginning to track and schedule field use with a new software called CivicRec.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Athletic Advisory meets tomorrow. On the agenda is fields budgeting and booster club finance tracking.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Negotiation Subcommittee meets again this week.

Suzanne Allen reported the SEPAC is working on foundations of the organization. Specifically working on by-laws and a mission statement. They are nailing down survey questions to get good information. They will meet in a month.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Policy Subcommittee is working on the Booster Policy. They are comparing what other districts do, and are trying to find middle ground that will work for our district that is equitable and on how much to increase our governance role.

John Ruark reported that HEAC or DEAC have not met.

John Ruark reported that the Finance Committee has invited School Administration and School Committee members to a meeting this Wednesday at 7p.m.

Shannon Molloy reported regarding the Policy Subcommittee, that Linda has agreed to start to have initial discussion with stakeholders regarding the booster policy.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Start time Subcommittee met and is planning an informational session that will include a panel discussion with representatives from various interest groups (students, teachers, scientist). The program will be planned as an evening event so that it is accessible to parents who are not available during the day.

Shannon Molloy reported that the HES Council met and are ready to launch the parent survey. They also started to look at this year School Improvement Plan to see what they may want to change for next year's School Improvement Plan.

Shannon Molloy presented the following signed warrants for School Committee review:

Warrant #	Date	Amount
20-11SCH	November 22, 2019	\$ 197,286.82
20-12SCH	December 6, 2019	\$2,138,206.68
20-13SCH	December 20, 2019	\$ 266,062.22
20-14SCH	January 3, 2020	\$1,562,418.72
20-15SCH	January 17, 2020	\$ 147,515.36

SusanMary Redinger reported that CIPIC hasn't met. Now waiting to see what FinCom and BOS are going to do with the CPIC recommendations.

SusanMary Redinger reported that there will be a Middle School Science Fair on March 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Shannon Molloy agreed to be a judge.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the TBS School Council met and made a final review of the parent survey. The Balance Subcommittee is looking for data around the homework survey, should the number of AP classes be limited, should there be valedictorian and salutatorian or a different ranking model, and continuing the conversation of finding balance. There was a suggestion that teachers read the book "At What Cost". Additionally, Ben Myers is heading up a careers/internship program so that kids can get work experience. His vision is to be able to partner with the community on this. Still a work in progress. The Council is reviewing and updating the School Improvement Plan. The next meeting is February 12th.

SusanMary Redinger, Sharlene Cronin and Linda Dwight will set up a meeting to come up with the field action plan.

SusanMary Redinger agreed to write a letter of appreciation to Ellen Leicher for all she does for the schools.

Public and School Committee Commentary

Sharlene Cronin shared her feeling about the impact that Robin DiAngelo's program highlighting her book, "White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" had on her. We need to remind ourselves of the Elie Wiesel quote "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormenter, never the tormented".

John Ruark – thanked the leadership team and teachers for their work to bring Challenge Day to the eighth-grade students at Bromfield. Everyone is emotionally committed, and it is a fantastic day. It will be interesting to observe how long the impact lasts.

Linda Dwight reported that Challenge Day is emotionally draining and everyone is wiped out at the end. Linda will send out last year's presentation of Challenge Day for members to view.

Executive Session

John Ruark made the motion and SusanMary Redinger 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.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga