

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, January 13, 2020
6:15 p.m.

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

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

Shannon Molloy read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – None

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

This Friday the Student Council ran the Snow Flake dance for grade 7 and 8. Everyone had a great time.

The Bromfield School boys' and girls' basketball teams are doing very well and there is a lot of spirit around that.

Both the boys and girls swim teams are doing well. They continue to win the majority of their meets.

The Robotics team made it to the semi-finals and missed making it to the finals by 1 point.

Field Trip Approval

Cynthia Fontaine and Joanne Williams Co-Chairs for the Debate Team are seeking permission to attend the National Forensics Tournament in Cambridge on Friday, February 14th, through Monday, February 17th. The Committee would like to know how many students will be attending and if the co-chairs/staff chaperones will be compensated for the overnight stipend. There was also a question if the total cost of the trip is \$199 per person.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move to approve per Dr. Dwight signing off on the unknowns (number of students attending, cost per student and how the overnight stipend will be compensated).

VOTE 4/0

Curriculum Update: Engineering

Julie Burton presented a curriculum update on the Engineering course being taught at Bromfield called "Engineering Your World". The course is a collaborative, student directed project-based course. The course pursues engineering disciplines for the betterment of our local and global communities. Students can obtain dual college-credit enrollment through the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Burton shared group projects that the students have worked on. Student Emma Leonard shared with the Committee her pinhole camera project, and explained the work involved in creating it. Emma enjoys the hands-on experience of this class.

Superintendent Update

See attached.

Any CASE Agreement change requires a vote from the School Committee of the member towns. There are three updates proposed by the Executive Director and the CASE Board members; (1) extending the notice of withdrawal, (2) non-discrimination addition, and (3) extending the notice of withdrawal from transportation services.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approved the changes to the CASE agreement as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Side Letter with HTA for Start of Year Change; Vote

Dr. Dwight shared a draft of the 2020/2021 calendar. It is preliminary but the possibility would be to have a separate calendar for HES and TBS, allowing the three teacher professional days to be held on different days at HES and TBS, and using professional days in June at HES to move to the new building. The other change would be to back-up the school start date to August 24th due to the fact that Labor Day is late. This change would be for one year only and would be a side letter of agreement since the HTA/SC contract stipulates school will begin no earlier than the Monday preceding Labor Day.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to authorize the generation of a side letter of agreement that gives the School Committee and the HTA to change the start date of school to the Monday before the Monday before Labor Day should the calendar committee approve to do that.

VOTE 4/0

Ramp Study Final Payment

Due to delays in the middle school ramp project, there is a need to allocate funds from a revolving account to pay the 2nd installment to Abacus, the architects who completed the middle school ramp study for the Harvard Public Schools. The bill for services is \$14,980.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move that we approve the cost of \$14,980 for the middle school ramp to be appropriated out of the Devens fund.

VOTE 4/0

Goals Review

The Committee reviewed the Superintendent and the Joint School Committee/Superintendent Goals for the 2019/2020 school year.

Superintendent goals

Goal #1 Curriculum Development – have collected job descriptions for Curriculum Coordinator positions– 30%.

Goal #2 Feedback Improvement and Calibration – have used an online calibration tool provided by DESE for leadership teams. Completed 4 modules so far and have evidence of improvement– 80%.

Goal #3 Community Involvement – offered special education workshop prior to conferences, met with parents at The General Store, gathered input through conversations and surveys on

conference days, met with the Student Advisory student reps prior to the School Committee meetings – 50%.

Joint goals – Joint School Committee/Superintendent goals

Goal #1 Contract Negotiations – The Committee has met 12 times and updated the School Committee in executive sessions – 50%.

Goal #2 Dashboard Query Definition – The Data Subcommittee has met 3 times – 20%.

Goal #3 Continuous Improvement Analysis – The Continuous Improvement Subcommittee has met 3 times – 30%.

The Committee discussed the possibility of changing the completion date for the Dashboard Query at their next meeting.

SusanMary Redinger agreed to assist Sharlene Cronin to come up with an action plan and an accountability list of outcomes, measures and conditions and decide if the Committee will make the field study work a School Committee goal.

School Building Update

The completion of the permanent power hookup by National Grid has been delayed, but we are on their schedule. We may need to bring in a temporary gas/power source to heat the building. The contractors were able to take advantage of the warmer weather over the last week. The School Building Committee will meet next week and will give an update of the entire project. Contractor parking will be moved Pond Road for the winter.

Town and Annual Report Assignment

John Ruark agreed to write the Annual Report and bring it back to the next meeting for approval.

Science Fair

The Science Fair will be held on March 6th from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be high school projects only. The School Committee will award be awarding a prize. Ellen Leicher is looking for judges and will need to know by next Monday who can participate in judging. Shannon Molloy, SusanMary Redinger and Sharlene Cronin agreed to judge. SusanMary Redinger will be the point person and get back to Ellen Leicher.

SusanMary Redinger asked the Committee to consider acknowledging Ellen Leicher for the work she does for the district. She is a huge gift and resource to our community and we should recognize her. John Ruark and SusanMary Redinger will take the details off line and expand on the idea.

Agenda Items

Policy

Dashboard

Fields

Annual report

Budget follow-up

Curriculum update

District improvement plans

The Committee is invited to the Finance Committee/BOS meeting January 29th at 7:10 p.m. to go over the FY21 budget and budget questions.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the minutes of the December 9th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Shannon Molloy reported that the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee met – they are in the process of generating a list of possible items to focus on that will be presented to the full Committee at a future meeting.

Shannon Molloy reported that the HES Council did not meet in December. They are scheduled to meet next Tuesday.

Shannon Molloy members of the Start Time Advisory Subcommittee, Abby Bessie, Mr. Myler and Shannon Molloy held an informational parent meeting. Five parents attended and were very supportive of the potential change. Good feedback was given that will be brought back to the next Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee is working on putting together information and following up with an evening informational event for parents.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Policy Subcommittee has been focusing on the Booster policy and considering input from the public and circumstances around Ann Lee field. The Subcommittee has paused on their regular review schedule and have been digging into policies, practices and guidelines surrounding this topic. They hope to bring recommendations back to the full committee once that work is complete.

Shannon Molloy reported that the December SEPAC board meeting was cancelled. The parent support group is working on programming, and are getting the communication out there about available programs.

Shannon Molloy reported as the State Representative liaison that she read an article that will be of potential interest to discuss with the Committee. New health education legislation and a recess bill, which aims to take recess minutes and count them as learning minutes.

Linda Dwight reported that Athletic Advisory has a meeting next week.

Linda Dwight reported that the Garden Club is interested in being involved in the ramp project. John Ruark and Linda Dwight attended the Garden Club meeting and talked through possible partnering ideas. If the project is approved at town meeting they will meet again in the spring. The Garden Club is also interested to see if they could be of help with the new school project.

Maureen Babcock reported that the Emerson Green building project is under way with houses going up and six families have moved in. She will give a more in-depth report at a future meeting. Jessica Strunkin, the new senior vice president for Devens Operations, has confirmed that the development of Vicksburg Square will be taken up again in the spring.

SusanMary Redinger – reported that the TBS School Council will meet this week to discuss Subcommittee reports of school climate, balance and careers. They will be discussing the change in start time and the School Improvement Plan.

SusanMary Redinger – reported on CIPIC updates – all school projects were all approved which include air conditioning, the locker room study, the Cronin auditorium phase 3 and the ramp. The ramp project was approved, which will include the ramp, the stairs and the bathroom, and landscaping at \$20,000. They will recommend funding the ramp with debt and the stairs, bathroom and landscaping with capital funds.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that Bob O’Shea from Parks and Rec is taking the lead on implementing a scheduling software that will be used to schedule all of the fields in Harvard. Parks and Rec has set up a new fee schedule for field use. There are on-going conversations with Devens to use their fields while maintenance is being done on our fields.

John Ruark – reported that the HEAC lighting project at Bromfield has not started yet. Work is still being done at the town library. HEAC is looking for grant ideas for projects to be submitted for funding by the Green Community Grant.

John Ruark - reported that six students from the Student Advisory Council met with three School Committee members on December 20th. Topics discussed included the change in school start times and the new MCAS test. The discussion on enrollment data/gender divides was tabled to the next meeting.

Public Commentary None

School Committee Commentary

Shannon Molloy – reported that the League of Women voters will be putting on the Civics Cup March 1st from 1 to 3. Snow date March 8th. All volunteers on town boards will be invited to participate as team liaisons.

Linda Dwight reported that the Select board has created an Open Space Committee with a number of charges. Dr. Dwight appointed herself to serve on the Committee. It is a 2-year commitment.

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.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga