

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, February 24, 2020

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

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

John Ruark read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary: None

Student Update: Brooke Caroom gave the following report:

The New Orleans Louisiana trip went well despite a few travel delays. It was a great experience and the group was able to get a lot of work done.

Spring sports registration opened up today.

Crew started today.

The Drama group is heading to the drama festival this weekend.

Academic progress reports were sent to parents today.

Grant Approval

A grant from Harvard Schools Trust to the Robotics Club for \$500 was submitted to the School Committee for approval.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve the grant as submitted.

VOTE 5/0

Pupil Services Program Update

Dr. Marie Harrington presented the Pupil Services program update. The report included the total number of students being serviced by the Pupil Services Department by disability. While numbers have decreased, the level of impairment has increased. In addition, Dr. Harrington reviewed evaluation numbers, student learning goals, staffing, professional practice goals, civil rights review and successes.

Calendar 2020-2021 Proposal

Dr. Dwight presented the proposed calendar for school year 2020/2021. The proposal has the students from Hildreth starting school on August 27th, which is one day earlier than the start date at The Bromfield School. The Hildreth calendar will have students attending school in November and January when The Bromfield School will be off for teacher professional development days. Instead, HES students will be off for three days in May (7th, 10th and 11th). Bromfield students will attend school during the May dates. This plan is to accommodate the move to the new building. The dates will be adjusted based on completion of the project.

Another proposed change is to increase the number of early release days by six and eliminate one half day. The Committee proposed taking out two of the additional early release days, one in September and one in March, making early release days on September 1st and 23rd , and on March 3rd and 24th.

John Ruark made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move that we approve the calendar as modified by decreasing one early release day in September and one early release day in March.

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent Update

See attached.

Budget Discussion

Dr. Dwight presented potential items to cut from the FY21 budget in order to meet the request from the Finance Committee to cut the school budget by \$274K. The thought was that none of the items are ideal to cut and it might be better to take the deficit from the Devens account or a partial amount from Devens and only some of the cuts (which were identified). The Committee will submit the list of cut options with a narrative of the impact to the Finance Committee. Options include cutting the entire \$274,000, Cut \$108,500 and use \$161,500 from the Devens fund or use entire \$270,000 from Devens. The Committee will submit the list to the Finance Committee and let them know that they will fund items outside of the \$108,500 in cuts with Devens funds.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to present to the Finance Committee the spreadsheet as presented tonight with the x's and the teacher positions included, as well as the draw down from Devens, and to direct the superintendent to craft a narrative around it with input from John Ruark as his availability allows.

VOTE 5/0

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the school building project is on budget but behind schedule by about three weeks. The current completion date is May 17th. Reasons for the project delay are primarily due to boulder removal, delayed response from National Grid for power supply, and the weather.

Agenda Items

Goals

Dashboard

Policy

Student Opportunity Act

School Choice

Approval of Meeting Minutes

With no objection John Ruark declared the minutes of the meeting of February 10th approved as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Subcommittee

Shannon Molloy submitted the following signed warrants for School Committee review

Warrant #	Date	Amount
20-16	January 31, 2020	\$1,144,043.88
20-17	February 4, 2020	\$ 162,013.32

Shannon Molloy reported that HES School Council will meet this week.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Civics Cup will be held this Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. If anyone would like to serve as a liaison, let Shannon know.

Suzanne Allen reported that the SEPAC Board met and continue to work on bylaws and mission statements. SEPAC is hoping to have two events open to the public before the end of the school year.

Maureen Babcock reported that there continue to be closings on homes in the Emerald Green housing development. DEAC is in the process of scheduling a meeting. The business community is beginning to have discussions around the development of Vicksburg Square.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Science Fair is scheduled for March 6th for grades 9 through 12. Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen and SusanMary Redinger will serve as judges for the event and issue awards to two projects. Shannon Molloy and SusanMary Redinger will serve as judges for the Middle School Science Fair later in March.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Fields Subcommittee is meeting to discuss closing fields, spring versus fall, planning and the communication plan.

John Ruark reported that HEAC is meeting this Wednesday and will have a vendor at the meeting who may be providing solar energy to HES.

Public Commentary – None

School Committee Commentary –

John Ruark thanked everyone involved in the budget and for taking the additional time during the meeting to work through some difficult decisions. John Ruark announced the town caucus will be held in March and John announced he will not be running for re-election. We will be looking for someone to run for his seat.

Adjourned

At 9:45 p.m., 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.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga