

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2020

Members attending: John Ruark, Sharlene Cronin, SusanMary Redinger, Suzannne Allen, Shannon Molloy, Maureen Babcock, Linda Dwight.

Other: Aziz Aghayev.

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

Sharlene Cronin read the Vision Statement

John Ruark read a statement indicating that the meeting was being held remotely and the meeting was being held via video conferencing. Members in attendance were identified through a role call process.

Student Report

Felicia Jamba – reported there are a lot of end of year activities that have been moved on-line. The talent show has now been moved on-line and students and staff can submit videos that will be put into a talent show presentation. The lip sync as well will be done on-line. Teachers recently sent out a lip sync video production to the song “Old Town Road” that was very fun. **Will Walling-Sotolongo** reported that AP testing began today using on-line material for testing. Students like the roll out of Phase 3 learning because the expectations are clear and the assignments for the week are all sent out in one email.

Vivien Jamba –reported that in Phase 3 all teachers send out the work on the same day and students have a week to complete the work. Students are happy about the clarification on that. Students have been meetings by grade level with administration to talk about how things are going to go with end of year grades and events. The Bromfield staff has done a lot to support the Seniors. There were yard signs put out for graduates, a parade is being planned and although there is a lot of uncertainty about graduation things are being planned.

Senior Class Activities

Dr. Dwight reported that the Bromfield administration held meetings with parents and students to make plans to celebrate the Class of 2020. Graduation is being delayed to July 31st at 5:30 p.m. with a rain date of August 2nd at 1:00 p.m. In the meantime, on June 5th a parade is planned. The decorated cars of 87 graduates will travel a parade route ending at The Bromfield School where students will receive their diplomas with a brief acknowledgement and photo opportunity for each member of the Class of 2020. The community will be invited to cheer on the seniors from their driveways. Harvard Cable TV is going to produce a video yearbook for the Class of 2020. They plan to film the events of June 5th. Each member of the Class of 2020 will also have the opportunity to be filmed individually which will be produced into a video. More details about ways to honor Seniors will be forthcoming.

Title IX Review Planning

Dr. Dwight shared a proposal from Good Sports, Inc. for services that would cover a comprehensive review of Title IX compliance. The cost for the review is based on anticipated hours for professional time. The cost of this proposal is \$17,500 for a full review excluding student questionnaires. John Ruark asked if the review could be done internally to save money. Members thought it would be hard to perform the review internally due to a lack of expertise. The Committee agreed to send out a request on the MASC list serve to gather feedback on what other districts have done regarding Title IX reviews. Dr. Dwight will seek additional proposals. The item will be brought back to the full Committee at a future meeting.

Booster Policy Update

Shannon Molloy presented the Booster Policy as submitted by the Policy Subcommittee. The Policy Subcommittee is looking for feedback from the full Committee and the policy is not ready to be voted on tonight. Sharlene Cronin heard concerns on how the policy will be implemented. SusanMary Redinger heard from parents that this policy will hamper fundraising. In addition, some organizations felt they should be exempt from the policy.

Shannon Molloy reported that overall there has been a lot of feedback with some concerns and some support for equity and compliance. The will of the Committee is to acknowledge with gratitude and partnership all groups that support the schools. Shannon Molloy then reviewed specific pieces of the draft policy where language was changed in response to feedback and due to input from counsel. i.e. alcohol at off site events, mailings, check signatories and school clubs. After discussion the Committee decided not to take action on the new policy at this time. Groups considered for exemption were the Harvard Schools Trust, PTO, Celebration and Fanfare. The policy subcommittee will meet Friday to craft a letter to stakeholders indicating that the draft policy will be tabled pending a future School Committee decision about funding a Title IX review.

Superintendent Update – See Attached

Suzanne Allen agreed to serve as the School Committee liaison on the Re-Entry Planning Committee. The first meeting is Friday, May 15th at 8 a.m.

Grant Approval

The following gifts were presented to the Committee for approval:

PTO - \$500 for Lawn Signs for the Class of 2020

Harvard Schools Trust - \$500 for Lawn Signs for the Class of 2020

John Ruark made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to accept the gifts from the PTO and Harvard Schools Trust as presented.

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

Budget Update

Aziz Aghayev gave an update to the FY20 budget. The FY20 budget surplus is estimated to be \$197,369. This surplus is due in part to a change in service and utility decrease due to COVID-19. The revolving accounts are experiencing a deficit because we are continuing to pay personnel

and not receiving revenue from the programs. The Athletic Revolving account is currently showing a deficit of \$6,177.78. The School Lunch program is showing a deficit of \$39,336.93. The Community Education program is showing a deficit of \$11,692.42.

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that construction is continuing. The exterior is done and window placement will continue through mid to late June. Each day, the school nurses conduct screenings and take temperatures for construction workers in compliance with COVID -19 guidelines. SusanMary Redinger is preparing a letter to send to Governor Baker asking that federal funds be sent to the MSBA to offset the costs to comply with the mandated COVID-19 guidelines. The School Building Committee voted unanimously to keep the baffles in the budget. It is crucial to have the baffles for sound and acoustic value. The next School Building Committee meeting is May 23rd. The project continues to be on budget. The move in date has been changed to the first week of June 2021.

SPED Classroom at HES, Vote

Principal, Josh Myler presented a proposal that would allow out of district students the opportunity to attend an in-district inclusive classroom at HES. Mr. Myler reviewed the costs associated with the proposal and offered ways the change in service would benefit students.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to support the administration's request to add an inclusive support classroom at HES as provided in the presentation.

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

Kindergarten Tuition Refund; Vote

Dr. Dwight reviewed information regarding the kindergarten tuition so that the Committee could decide if full-day kindergarten tuition will be collected during the months of April through June when school has been done virtually. The Committee discussed several options and the impact of each option. After discussion the Committee agreed that it made sense to continue to charge families for kindergarten tuition through the remainder of the school year.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to bill families for the full year while communicating to families that the district would appreciate receiving payment as students are still receiving services and staff and teachers are still being paid but if families are unable to make the payment the district understands.

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

Contract Ratification; Vote

John Ruark presented the one-year HTA/SC contract that has been ratified by the HTA and is being considered for ratification by the School Committee. Members discussed the enormous financial uncertainty upon the state and town and that it may be best to hold off on ratification until solid numbers are in place. The Committee agreed that a one-year contract would create stability for the teachers.

John Ruark made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to ratify the one-year contract with the HTA as presented.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye), Ruark (Aye)
John Ruark – “Heartfelt thanks to Linda, Alice, and Sharlene and all of the HTA members for their work in negotiating this contract”.

Review/Set Summer Meeting Dates

Table till the next meeting.

Agenda Items

Goals

School Improvement Plan

Year-end close out

Superintendent Review

Title IX review (additional quotes)

Start time

Approval of Meeting Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the minutes of the April 27th meeting as amended.

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

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin reported that Bob O’Shea is the new chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee. Field maintenance will be prioritized with the new budget in July. The school will need to be part of the priority discussion.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Dashboard Subcommittee will meet tomorrow.

John Ruark reported that HEAC will not meet this Wednesday as planned.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the TBS School Council will meet next week

SusanMary Redinger attended the HES School Council meeting. The Council talked about the inclusion classroom proposal, feedback from teachers and students regarding remote learning and the School Improvement Plan which is in progress but has been delayed. Council elections are in process.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the budget taskforce meets on Wednesday for the first time.

Suzanne Allen reported that SEPAC meets next week.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Wellness Subcommittee would like to meet before the end of the school year.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Start Time Subcommittee has not met.

Shannon Molloy – thanked everyone for the Booster Policy feedback and thanked SusanMary Redinger for attending the HES School Council meeting.

School Committee Commentary

SusanMary Redinger – commented that she misses seeing everyone in person. The zoom meetings are not much fun anymore. Feels like it's been forever.

SusanMary Redinger - thanked John and Sharlene for their time and effort on the Negotiating Committee. It is commendable and appreciated. SusanMary also thanked all of the Committee members for their level of conversation and the thought and care involved in all decisions made tonight. She is very proud to be a member of this School Committee.

Sharlene Cronin– echoed John's points of appreciation and incredible partnership with the teachers on the IBB process. Looking forward to a continued partnership. Excellent experience.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

VOTE

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

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga

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