

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
August 31, 2020

Members attending: Sharlene Cronin, SusanMary Redinger, Suzanne Allen, Shannon Molloy, Abby Besse, Maureen Babcock and Linda Dwight

Others in attendance Scott Hoffman and Josh Myler

SusanMary Redinger called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement

SusanMary Redinger 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 roll call process.

Public Comment:

None

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Dr. Dwight asked permission to hire an additional 4th grade teacher and to have the ability to add additional teachers if the number of remote students in a grade level exceed 24 or 25.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to authorize the superintendent to hire an additional 4th grade teacher to manage the remote class.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to Allow Dr. Dwight to hire an additional teacher if the class size should rise to 24 or 25 in any grade level.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Handbooks (VOTE)

Josh Myler and Scott Hoffman shared changes that have been made to the 2020-2021 handbook for Hildreth Elementary School and The Bromfield School. The School Committee asked for some clarification on pick up and drop off information and updated information on immunization requirements be included in the handbooks.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to approve the HES handbook as amended.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the TBS handbook as amended.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

MS Ramp Project Review

SusanMary Redinger presented the cost estimate prepared by North Bay Construction Consultants for a less costly plan to replace the middle school ramp at Bromfield. The school will submit the proposed plan with a cost of \$514,000 to CPIC for approval.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to support the ramp project as presented and bring to capital with the request to fund the project at \$514,000.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

PreK and K Tuition

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee a proposal to reduce the tuition for full day PreK and K families to half for the 2020/2021 school year. The half payment would allow us to collect from families of hybrid and remote students approximately \$80,625 toward the kindergarten and \$44,250 towards the PreK budgeted offsets. The reserve funds in both accounts could be applied to cover the difference as needed.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to allow the superintendent to charge half tuition for PK and K for the coming school year and for the superintendent to communicate the changes to remote families.

Vote: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Nay), Redinger (Aye)

Devens Revolving Account Update

Dr. Dwight shared the Devens revolving account balances.

Anti-Racism Initiative Update

Following up on the “Open letter” response, Shannon Molloy explained that TBS students are meeting to fine tune the best approach to take in order to achieve their goal. The idea that is being worked out would have the current Bromfield students writing an addendum to the open letter and making a video. In the video the former students would read their letter and current students would read their addendums to share what is being done differently. The School Committee would like to have at a future meeting an update on what the district is doing in commitment to diversity, inclusion equity and anti-racism initiatives.

Future Meeting Dates

September 14th unless we need a meeting prior to the 14th to approve any policies.

Retreat – Saturday September 26th

Agenda Items

Update on Ventilation

SC Retreat

Minutes

Tabled to next meeting.

Liaison/Subcommittee Updates

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC met and talked about ways to further their goals and mission for the coming year. They will continue to meet monthly.

Maureen Babcock –checking in to be sure there are supports in place for transition students.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the school building project is moving along as planned. We are on budget and the expected move in date is May 18th.

Public Commentary - None**SC Commentary**

Suzanne Allen – attended first convocation. The silver lining to the remote presentation was that she was able to attend. Thanked SusanMary for representing the School Committee with her inspirational message. Loved Linda's lesson on team work as it relates to geese and how each one has a job in order to make the team successful. It was really a great message.

Abby Besse – In her experience convocations are not usually as uplifting as was this 2020/201 convocation in Harvard. It was a wonderful message of self-care and gratitude. Thank you to SusanMary for speaking on behalf of the Committee. The convocation is just one of the ways that makes our district special.

Without objection SusanMary Redinger considered the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga