

**Harvard Public Schools**  
39 Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451

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**School Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, March 8, 2021**  
**6:15 PM**

**Harvard Public Schools is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

<https://psharvard-org.zoom.us/j/89837111033?pwd=LzhxZXhKay9rTDdvWW1XNmtaYU1DQT09>

- I. Call to Order and Read the Vision Statement (6:15)**
- II. Public Commentary (6:18)**
- III. Student Report (6:23)**
- IV. Student Advisory Committee Discussion Topics (6:28)**
- V. Superintendent Update (6:33)**
- VI. Learning Model Plan Update (6:43)**
- VII. Start Time Advisory Update (7:03)**
- VIII. Policy Review (Model) (7:08)**
- IX. Grade Comparison Summary Presentation (7:23)**
- X. Choice Student Slot Allocations (VOTE) (7:33)**
- XI. Disposition Preference for Bromfield House (VOTE) (7:43)**
- XII. COVID Screening Fundraising Report (7:53)**
- XIII. Grant Approval (8:03)**
- XIV. Future Meeting Dates (8:08)**
- XV. Agenda Items (8:10)**
- XVI. Minutes (8:15)**
- XVII. Liaison/Sub-Committee Reports (8:20)**
- XVIII. Public Commentary (8:35)**
- XIX. School Committee Commentary (8:40)**
- XX. Executive Session (8:45)**
- XXI. Executive Session; pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 2 for the following purposes:**
  - (a) To discuss strategy with respect to an in preparation for collection bargaining with Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.**

**Documents: Superintendent Report, Policies, Grants, Bromfield House Disposition Update, School Choice Recommendation, Start Time Update**

**Vision Statement:** The Harvard Public Schools Community, dedicated to educational excellence guides all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national, and global communities.

**Superintendent L. Dwight's Update**  
**February 22, 2021**

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**IV. Remote Teaching and Learning Improvements**

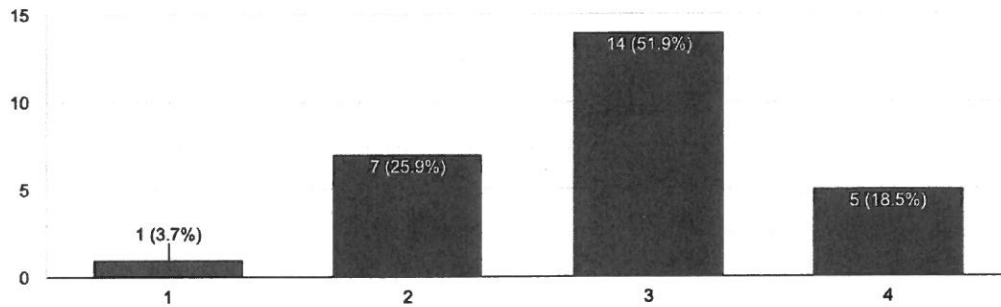
*Standard III: Family Engagement*

*Standard II: Management and Operations*

We sent out a survey to families of the remote Bromfield students to learn more about their experiences in classes regarding the video and audio quality. There were 28 responses. We asked the respondents to rate their overall classroom experience and then asked them to describe the most successful settings and the least successful settings. Scott, Robin, and Chris are using the collected data to problem solve issues. They have visited classes remotely to gain first-hand knowledge of the problems. Improvements are under way including a change to the microphone systems from lapel mics to omni-directional speaker/microphones. I have a follow up meeting with the advisory on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Survey Data: (1 = poor quality, 4 = excellent quality)

Please rate the overall experience of hearing and seeing lessons in most of your classes?  
27 responses



**V. DEI Work Continues**

*Standard III: Family Engagement*

*Standard I: Instructional Leadership*

Dori and Josh invited parents/guardians to attend a two-part interactive viewing of the Dr. Beverly Tatum video on the topic of talking with young people about race. The discussion topics are outlined below:

**Talking Points**

- Dr. Tatum talks about listening to stories and having hard complex conversations that are honest and authentic. **How can we as parents and educators create an environment to facilitate these types of conversations?**
- **If there is one thing that we can change in our own lives of how to better deal with or stand up to racism what would it be?**

**Superintendent L. Dwight's Update**  
**February 22, 2021**

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**I. Learning Model Changes**

*Standard I: Instructional Leadership*

*Standard II: Management and Operations*

*Standard III: Family Engagement*

*Standard IV: Professional Culture*

The past two weeks have been filled with directives from DESE, gathering and analyzing feedback from parents/guardians, TBS students, and teachers and developing a Harvard specific plan for changes to our learning model. I am pleased to represent the recommendation of the Leadership Team and HTA as follows:

**Changes on April 5<sup>th</sup>**

Hildreth Elementary students will return to a full-day schedule for 5 days a week.

The Bromfield middle school and high school students will attend 5 mornings a week with both cohorts and then attend afternoon remote classes. Office hours will continue 4 days a week.

Consideration for another phase for Bromfield will be under consideration when we receive further guidance from Commissioner Riley. We are looking at all options including whether we can separate middle school students from the high school students despite the combined bussing and some combined specialists and classes.

**II. Vaccine Availability**

*Standard II: Management and Operations*

Teachers received the welcome news that they are now prioritized for the vaccine. Since the announcement, several school employees have successfully secured future appointments or have already received the first or only dose needed. We are working with the local Board of Health to see whether the entire district can receive the vaccine on-site. The Board Chair, Sharon McCarthy is exploring this possibility for us.

**III. Seeking Permission to Return the Tents**

*Standard II: Management and Operations*

In order to serve lunch outside consistently, four tents are needed for use by the Hildreth Elementary students. In the fall, I asked permission of the Library Board and Trustees to put tents on the field in front of the library. I have asked to put them back up and to add to the quantity. Since the front of the school will be fenced off in May, all four tents will need to be installed across the street. The DPW Director, Tim Kilhart shared some concerns about mowing the field with the tents there and students present. We will work to solve this problem with the help of Pat and his crew.

**Superintendent L. Dwight's Update**  
**February 22, 2021**

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- We are in a less diverse school district, **what would you like the school to do differently to help start the conversation?**
- **In what ways can we empower our children to be good citizens and good friends?** Talking to kids about what we can do to make things better if we see something that's unfair, what can we do to make it better, can we write a letter to someone? Can we take some action that's going to help?
- **Why is it difficult to bring up these topics?** We don't have to have all the questions answered to begin the work. It's okay to say, I don't know. Let's find that out together, let's explore that.
- **What are some ways to guide the conversation?** While young children should be shielded from violent images like what happened to George Floyd, with older kids we might engage them in a conversation. Questions: What is the history? Why is it that more black men and women are targets?
- Having our students listen to stories that are hard to hear means that we, the adults have to be willing to listen to the story that's hard to hear, and sometimes adults are not ready. The first thing we need to do is start practicing having difficult conversations, so we know how to respond. [Let's Talk Facilitating Critical Conversations](#)
- Other Resources: [Facing History and Ourselves](#)
- [Teaching for Change Book List](#)
- [Author Jennifer Eberhardt, Ph.D TED Talk](#)

Rebecca Rehm will be working with the middle school students on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to hold a similar DEI workshop as she shared with the high school students last week. The content includes data collected from students in October about their experiences with racism and bias in the schools. The workshop will be interactive with two break-out group discussions.

Arm in Arm co-hosted several events with the Warner Free Lecture committee. The latest one was the work of historian, Larry Tye, on the life and work of pullman porters. The porters were black men who were paid a living wage to serve wealthy travelers on luxury train cars in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The respected positions created an opportunity for some black families to become part of the middle class in America.

The next DEI committee meeting has been rescheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM.



# HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.psharvard.org

39 Massachusetts Avenue • Harvard, Massachusetts • 01451  
(978) 456-4140 • FAX (978) 456-8592

Linda G. Dwight  
Superintendent

Memo: Start Time Adjustments for 2021-22  
Date: March 8, 2021  
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

We propose adjusting the start time at Bromfield from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM with an ending time of 2:50 PM to provide our middle and high school students with a .5 hour longer in the morning to sleep and prepare for their school day. This adjustment to the Bromfield schedule will require a slight shift of 10 minutes for the elementary students from a school start time of 8:50 AM to 9:10 AM and an ending time of 3:28 PM. The new schedule of one school impacts the other because we share the busses and consultation with Dee Bus Company, 40 – 45 minutes are needed between the two bus runs.

The shift would be a one-year pilot so that we could evaluate the impact and either continue with the change or shift back to the original times depending on the feedback. This evaluation would be done in the spring of 2022.

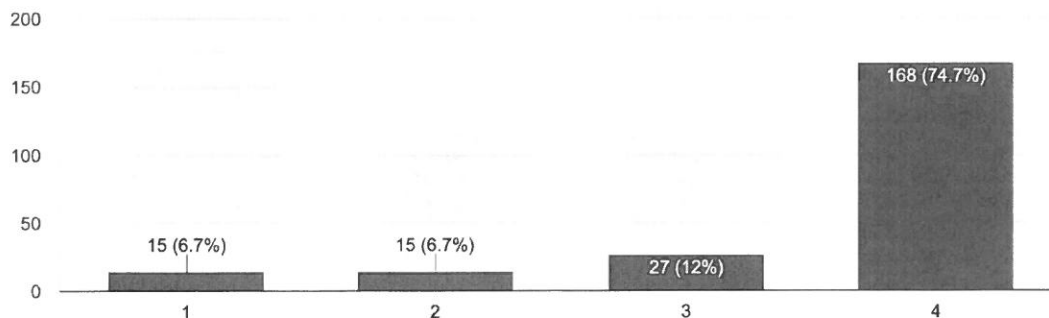
When we originally collected feedback from Bromfield families, there was support for the time adjustment. Recently, we polled parents/guardians and students and the results again support this shift. We also polled the TBS staff and while they were less supportive, 62% of the teachers support the change. (1 = not supportive, 4 = very supportive)

## Parent/Guardian Responses:

One of the benefits of this past year has been the increased amount of sleep for our students.

Please share your level of support for a .5 hour (8:15 start time for next year as a one year pilot program?)

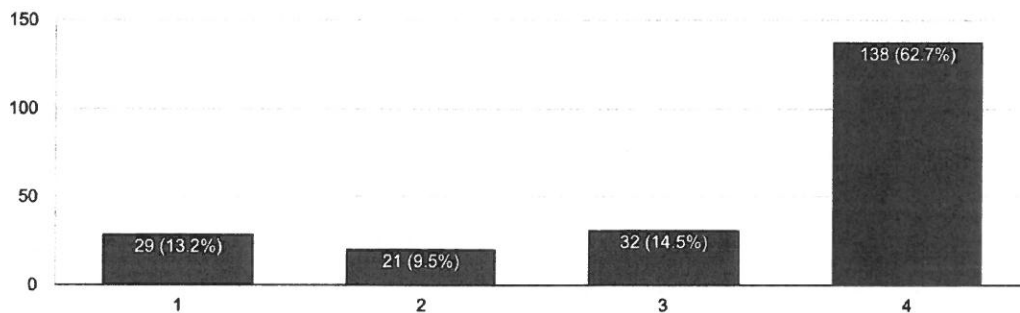
225 responses





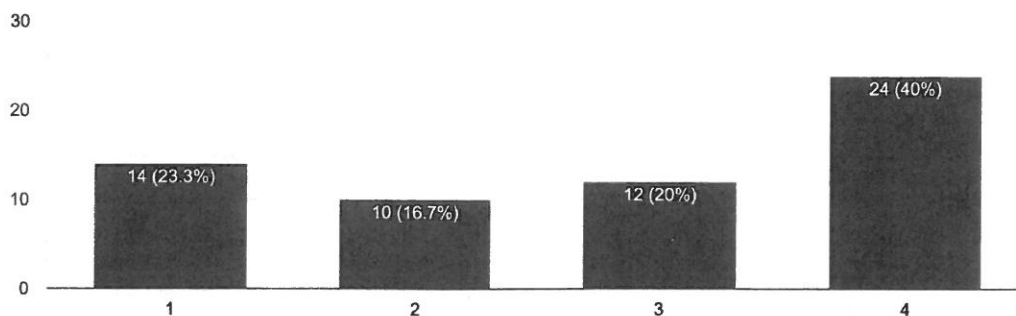
### Student Responses:

One of the benefits of this past year has been the increased amount of sleep for our students.  
Please share your level of support for a .5 hour (8:....tart time for next year as a one year pilot program?  
220 responses



### TBS Teacher/Staff Responses:

One of the benefits of this past year has been the increased amount of sleep for our students.  
Please share your level of support for a .5 hour (8:....tart time for next year as a one year pilot program?  
60 responses



## Grade Evaluation Findings

Submitted by: Linda G. Dwight

Date: March 2021

The Bromfield Principals and the counselors have been tracking the engagement of students during this COVID impacted year. The G+ team meets every week to discuss student specific issues and follow-up. Every at-risk student is brought before the team of counselors, nurses, administrators, and teachers to track progress and plan interventions. Counselors have also instituted a collaboration time with teachers. Parent communication is also part of the process.

One of the new developments has been the addition of M (medical) and N (not enough evidence) grading categories this year. These distinctions capture evidence of medical or mental health issues. We also have a program for students receiving special services where they attend a supported study hall and their services on their asynchronous days. Based on the 2nd marking period grades, nine more students were invited to attend school 4 mornings a week. This additional structure and availability enables more non-special education interventions for students. The change to 5 mornings a week on April 5th will also help these students and the students overall.

	1st Marking Period	2nd Marking Period
# of Failing Grades	36	36
# of M and N Grades	0	36
# of Students with Failing, M/N Grades	25	33
% of Total Students with Failing, M/N Grades	4%	5%





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Linda G. Dwight  
Superintendent

Memo: Choice Recommendations  
Date: March 8, 2021  
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

The leadership team agrees with the following recommendations for School Choice openings for the 2021-22 school year:

5<sup>th</sup> grade – 5 openings  
6<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 openings  
7<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 openings  
9<sup>th</sup> grade – 1 opening

This recommendation is based on the following information:

School Year	Number of choice students	Budgeted Off-Set	Revenue	Difference*
2020-21	54 X \$5,000+	\$310,000	\$284,478	-\$25,522
2021-22	52 (2 graduates) X \$5,000	\$310,000	\$260,000	-\$50,000
Recommended	52 + 10 X \$5,000	\$310,000	\$310,000	0

\* there is a carry forward of \$94,775 in the account

## Harvard Public Schools 2020/21 Enrollment 01/25/2021

Grade	Harvard Residents	Choice Students	Devens Students	Total Students
Pre-K	25			25
K	43		5	48
1	58		4	62
2	50		5	55
3	66		11	77
4	58	2	8	68
5	72		7	79
<b>HES Totals</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>414</b>
6	63	10	5	78
7	74	7	6	87
8	66	9	9	84
9	66	10	9	85
10	57	11	6	74
11	84	3	5	92
12	89	2	6	97
<b>Bromfield Totals</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>597</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1011</b>

## 2021-22 Recommendations

5<sup>th</sup> grade  $68 + 5 = 73$

6<sup>th</sup> grade  $79 + 2 = 81$

7<sup>th</sup> grade  $78 + 2 = 80$

9<sup>th</sup> grade  $84 + 1 = 85$



Bromfield House Committee Progress Report for School Committee  
March 5, 2021

Committee Members: Rich Maiore (Chair, member of the Select Board), Steven Ford, Pam Marston (Chair of the Historical Commission), Pat Jennings, Bill Ference, Susan Mary Redinger.

The Committee has been tasked with presenting options to the SB for the disposition of the Bromfield House and property. It has used the following guidelines to determine the suitability of the options:

- Aesthetic impact
- Fiscally responsible (less than \$1M total cost)
- Functionality for town residents
- Durability and sustainability
- Taking into account the conditions of the Bromfield Trust will.
- Recognition of the proximity of the lot to the schools

A survey was sent out to residents asking for input on ideas to consider. From the 200 responses received the committee distilled the ideas into the following categories:

Ideas that were deemed viable for further consideration were:

- Sell as a private residence
- Dog park/garden/outdoor space
- Athletic fields/Softball field
- Sell house to a buyer who will move it
- Landback (Nipmuc Nation)
- Senior Housing/Affordable Housing

Ideas that were deemed not viable due to either zoning restrictions, cost, usage:

- Food Garden
- Community Center/Rec Center
- Fire Station
- Rehab the building using student and resident help, as a learning opportunity
- Commercial offices for lease
- Restaurant/ Bed & Breakfast
- Parking Lot
- Artist Studio/Group Home/Wellness Center
- Harvard Historical Society
- Still River Post Office
- Cyclist center/Snack Shop
- Leave the lot empty/undeveloped for future school use

Overall the ideas fall into one of three buckets:

- All ideas based on selling the house and keeping the land

- All ideas based on selling the house and the land
- Donate the land

A second survey was sent out to gather feedback on the above. There were 262 responses.

1: Sell both land and house: Responses were largely split between strong for (34%) or strongly against (30%). Most people responded that the best option in this category is to sell the house as a residential property (55%).

2. Sell the house and keep the land: Responses were mostly split between strongly agree (35%) and strongly disagree (24%) with the rest of the responses split across the middle. The most picked options for this category were to create a community park and leaving the land open.

3. There was very little support for gifting the land to the Nipmuck Nation (10% strongly in favor; 46% strongly disagree).

Committee members are gathering data regarding costs and timeframes.

- Estimated value of selling land/house together
- Cost of filling in the foundation and remediating the property if the house is sold and the land is kept.
- Feasibility/desirability of a developer coming in to rehab the house and turn it into senior housing.
- Costs of developing the land for use as an athletic field.
- Value of selling off components of the house should we be unable to find a buyer.

The legal representatives of the town and the Bromfield Trustees are in dispute about the use of any proceeds from the sale of the house and the use of the land should it be retained by the town. The Trustees assert that proceeds are returned to the Trust for scholarships; town counsel's review of the documents has resulted in the opinion that the proceeds fall under the direction of the school committee and must be used for one of the uses defined in Margaret Blanchard Bromfield's will, which includes scholarships, but also includes capital projects for the school.

I am asking for the School Committee to consider their preference for the use of the lot. Given it's proximity to the school and the many demands on town lands I believe the stance of the School Committee would be taken into account in the decision process of the committee and the Select Board. Ultimately the disposition of the lot will rest in the voters hands at ATM this spring.

# COVID-Safe Schools

COVID Screening in the Harvard Public Schools

## FUNDING

- Fully funded through remainder of school year
- Individual donations, grants (PTO, HTA), DESE program
- Thank you to Harvard Schools Trust!

## ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Offering testing to remote students
- Increased Trust membership
- Mentoring other Mass. Districts
- A model for the nation

# COVID-Safe Schools

COVID Screening in the Harvard Public Schools

## OVERVIEW

- Seven weeks of screening
- 91% of eligible educators/staff, 83% of eligible students screened at least 1x
- Avg. 70% staff/week
- Avg. 74% in-person students/week

## RESULTS

- Last four weeks: 0 positives
- Highest # of positives in a week: 3 (week of 1/25)
- COVID-mitigation strategies are working

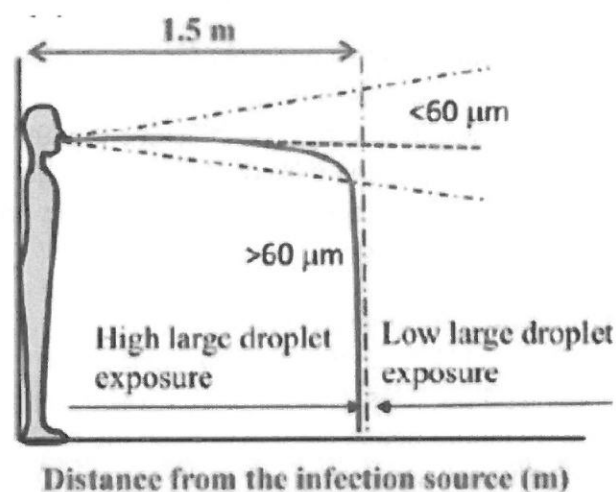
### Six Is Not a Magic Number

Three feet of distance is probably fine as long as plenty of other anti-COVID safety measures are in place. Here's why.

In order to return all Bromfield and HES students to in-person learning five days a week, kids will have to be spaced closer than six feet apart from one another. There simply isn't room for them otherwise. Fortunately, the Harvard Public School system has anti-COVID safety measures in place that will keep kids, educators, and staff safe even at three to six feet of distance.

### Where did the six-foot rule come from?

Let's start with a reminder: the six-foot rule was developed *without taking masks into account*. It's based on the idea that the coronavirus is transmitted primarily by what scientists call "large droplets": heavier bits of moisture that fall to the ground right away and don't tend to travel farther than six feet from unmasked people. But over the last year it's become clear that large droplets aren't the only way that COVID-19 is transmitted.



Exposure from droplets

### What are aerosols, and why do they matter?

Unlike large droplets, which fall quickly, aerosols are extremely small, light micro-droplets that can float in the air for a long time. We know that the coronavirus can be transmitted by aerosols because of evidence from superspreader events such as the famous Skagit Valley Chorale rehearsal in March 2020.

If COVID-19 could only be transmitted by droplets, we would expect that only people sitting within six feet of the infected singer would have gotten the virus. But people throughout the room got sick, even those who never got close to that unfortunate person and never touched anything they touched. Those folks got sick because they breathed in aerosols carrying SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. *None of them were wearing masks.*

### Good masks can block lots of aerosols as well as large droplets.

Recent CDC research has shown that if two people are wearing knotted and tucked surgical masks, or surgical masks under three-layer cloth masks, transmission of aerosols by breathing from one to the other is reduced by about 96%. Against particles transmitted by coughs, the knotted-and-tucked mask reduced transmission by 77% and the surgical/cloth mask combination reduced transmission by about 85%.



We also have real-world evidence that when both parties are wearing masks, COVID-19 transmission can be prevented. In July 2020, the CDC reported on a [Missouri hair salon](#) in which two hair stylists who were wearing masks cut 139 people's hair while they had COVID-19. None of their clients tested positive.

#### HPS Mitigation Strategy: Masks

- Masks are mandatory for everyone who enters any school building.
- District survey data indicates that 96% of parents and 94% of students find good to excellent compliance with masking and distancing.

#### Ventilation dilutes aerosols.

You can't get COVID-19 from inhaling just one or two aerosolized particles. It takes a lot. So one critical way to make an indoor space safer is to push the potentially infected air out and pull some clean air in. In other words, ventilate the room.

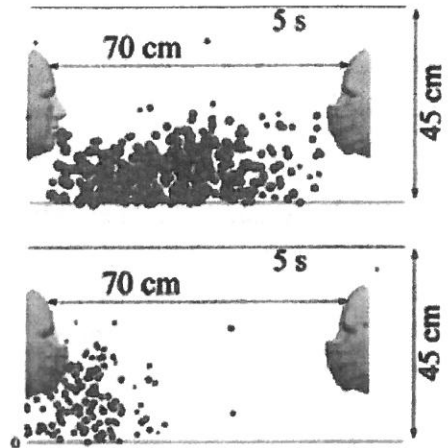
The ventilation doesn't need to be high-tech; installing an outward-facing window fan can make a big difference. In one study of schools in New York City, the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission was lower in older school buildings – some of them over 100 years old – than it was in newer ones, simply because the elderly buildings were drafty. According to Ian Colbeck of England's University of Essex, just opening the windows can "reduce the risk of infection from particles by more than 70%."

#### HPS Mitigation Strategy: Ventilation

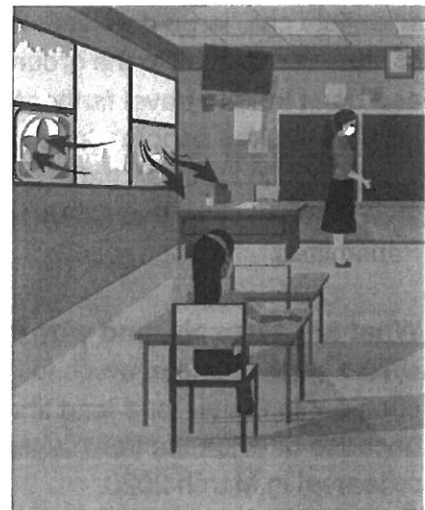
- Bromfield's HVAC systems have been updated and all filters replaced.
- Classroom windows remain open throughout the school day.
- Air purifying systems are in place in classrooms without windows.
- All eating and drinking up to this point has been done outdoors.
- Tents will be reinstalled this spring for outdoor eating and learning.

#### Screening is source control

The very best way to keep infectious droplets and aerosols out of a room is to not let contagious folks into the room to begin with. That's called source control. In the school setting, source control can be provided by screening in-person students, educators, and staff for COVID-19.



Even a single untucked surgical mask can block a large percentage of droplets.



## HPS Mitigation Strategy: Screening

- Voluntary no-cost weekly coronavirus screening via pooled PCR testing has been available to all in-person students, educators, and staff in HPS since January 5. This weekly testing will continue for the remainder of the school year.
- On average, 74% of students and 70% of educators and staff members are screened each week.
- In seven weeks of testing, over 5,000 tests have been administered and 7 positive cases have been detected: a 1.39% test positivity rate.
- No cases of in-school spread have been detected through contact tracing and repeat testing.
- No cases have been detected during the most recent four weeks of screening.

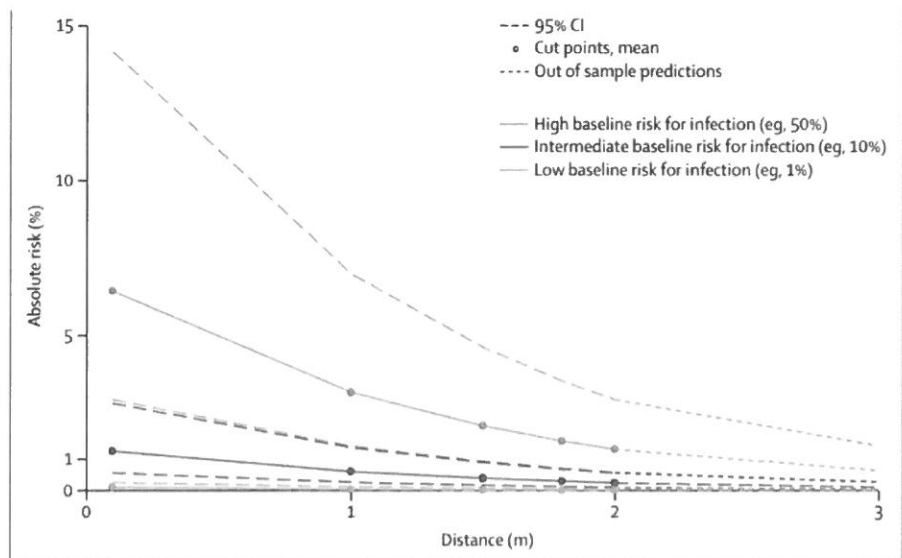
**Once you've lowered your overall risk, the difference between three and six feet is negligible.**

As we discussed above, wearing masks, ventilating rooms, and screening people all lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Physical distancing decreases the risk even further. But with all those other safety measures in place, the distance between people doesn't have to be as wide.

The graph shown here comes from a large meta-analysis from *The Lancet*, Britain's premier medical journal. The researchers looked at 172

different studies, which together provided results from over 25,000 people around the world. The X axis is distance in meters. The Y axis is your risk of getting COVID-19. The lines on the graph show that the greater the distance between people, the lower the risk of getting the coronavirus.

But take a look at the red and green lines on the graph, which show what happens to your risk of infection once your baseline risk is either intermediate (red) or low (green). In either situation, moving from 1m of distancing (about 3 feet) to 2m of distancing (about 6 feet) barely changes your risk at all.



**Figure 3: Change in relative risk with increasing distance and absolute risk with increasing distance**  
Meta-regression of change in relative risk with increasing distance from an infected individual (A). Absolute risk of transmission from an individual infected with SARS-CoV-2, SARS-CoV, or MERS-CoV with varying baseline risk and increasing distance (B). SARS-CoV-2=severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. SARS-CoV=severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. MERS-CoV=Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus.



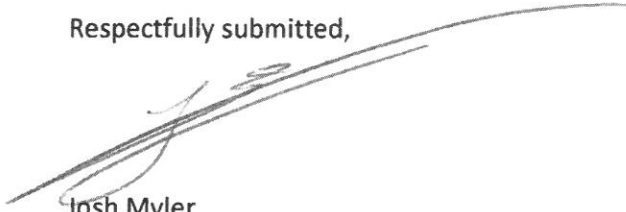
Notice of Gift

3/1/21

Hildreth Elementary School has received a gift from the Harvard PTO in the amount of \$600.00 to fund a virtual field trip put on by Round House Theatre for the first grade. The Round House Theatre uses stories and poems to teach children about diversity, equity and inclusion.

Hildreth Elementary School requests that the School Committee accept the gift to be placed into the HES Gift Account to be used to pay for the virtual field trip.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Josh Myler', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Josh' being more prominent.

Josh Myler

Principal

# HES PTO CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT REQUEST FORM

The PTO asks to please be recognized on all permission slips & email communications sent to parents regarding the enrichment programs we support.

**PLEASE NOTE: All checks will be made payable to Hildreth Elementary School.**  
**Contact the school business office to request your approved funds for vendor payment.**

Date of Request: 2/9/2021 Amount Requested: \$ \$600.00

Submitted By: Kristina Lazaro Email: klazaro@psharvard.org

Program/Project Title: Roundhouse Theater

Description: (please provide as much detail as possible including whether this program is new, modified or has been funded in the past): The first grade team would like to welcome Round House Theatre to do an interactive virtual field trip. The use of poetry, read aloud, and theater will be used to inspire creativity. This includes a mix of acting, movement, design, and play creation.

The stories and poems will be centered around DEI. The theater, along with the Harvard community, holds a strong commitment to Anti-Racism. You can read more about their pledge at Roundhousetheatre.org.

In December, my class did a virtual field trip with Round House, which was sponsored by a parent. The parents, kids and I gave glowing reviews. I'm excited to bring it to my team and possibly beyond.

Approximate number of students impacted: 65

Program/Project Start Date & End Date: March 11-12, 2021

\*\*\*\*\*

Signature of Applicant:  Date: 2/9/2021

Signature of Principle:  Date: 2/9/21

Email a copy of this completed grant request form to [info@harvardpto.org](mailto:info@harvardpto.org)  
or put a paper copy in an envelope marked "PTO" and return to the school front desk.

Please contact [info@harvardpto.org](mailto:info@harvardpto.org) with any questions

TOWN OF HARVARD PTO  
P.O. BOX 488  
HARVARD, MA 01451

2418

53-7122/2113

2/22/21

Date

CHECK ARMOR  
TRADE PROTECTION

Pay to the  
Order of

Hilbreth Elementary School

\$ 600.00

SIX hundred dollars and xx/100

Dollars



Photo  
Safe  
Deposit  
Details on back



Middlesex  
Savings Bank

18253

BOXBOROUGH, MA 01719

For

Roundhouse Theatre Grant

D. K. Olin

MP

⑆ 2213712271⑆ 1617124791⑆ 2418

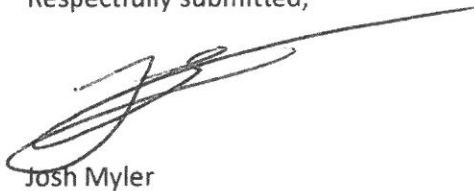
Notice of Gift

3/3/21

Hildreth Elementary School has received a gift from the PTO in the amount of \$1,125.00 to fund a Traveling Science Workshop presented by the Acton Discovery Museum for the entire 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Hildreth Elementary School requests that the School Committee accept the gift to be placed into the HES Gift Account to be used to pay for the virtual workshops.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Myler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Josh Myler

Principal

## HARVARD PTO GRANT REQUEST FORM

The Harvard PTO Grant Program is designed to support curriculum enrichment as well as programs and projects that enhance the educational experience of HPS students. Teachers and staff are encouraged to apply for grants to fund enrichment programs, performances and other opportunities as well as to fund supplies, equipment, and other programs or projects which have a direct and beneficial impact on the quality of student education and experience.

Date of Request: 2/26/21 Total Amount Requested: \$ 1,125  
Submitted By: Amy Bassage Email: abassage@ps.harvard.org  
Program/Project Title: Traveling Science Workshop Force + Magnetism  
Description: (please provide as much detail about your request as possible including whether it is a new, modified or previously funded program or request):

Students explore how magnets can be used as a force to move objects and consider the effects of balanced forces. Applying what they learn, students construct an original moving toy of their own design that uses magnetic force to operate

Approximate number of students impacted: 75

April 2021 5, 45 min virtual workshops w/ provided materials Program/Project Start Date & End Date:

Please itemize expenses: \$250 per class = \$1250 { 2 remote + 3 in person classes

10% discount for small class sizes

= \$1,125

Signature of Applicant: Amy Bassage Date: 2/26/21  
Signature of Principal: [Signature] Date: 3/1/21

Please email a copy of this completed form to [info@harvardpto.org](mailto:info@harvardpto.org) or return to the main office in an envelope marked "PTO". Grants will be board reviewed for approval weekly.

Paid 3/2/21  
check # 2719

TOWN OF HARVARD PTO  
P.O. BOX 488  
HARVARD, MA 01451

2419

53-7122/2113

3/2/21

Date

CHECK ARMOR  
FRAUD PROTECTION

Pay to the  
Order of

Hildreth Elementary School

\$ 1125.00

one thousand one hundred twenty five <sup>xx</sup>/100 Dollars



Photo  
Safe  
Deposit  
Details on back



Middlesex  
Savings Bank

18353

BOXBOROUGH, MA 01710

For CE-Travelling Science

Dan Quinn

RP

⑆ 211376227⑆ 161712479⑆ 2419

School Committee Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
Monday, February 22, 2021

Members attending: SusanMary Redinger, Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Shannon Molloy. Absent: Maureen Babcock

Others in attendance: Linda Dwight, Scott Hoffman, Robin Benoit, Josh Myler, Nick Thornton, Brooke Caroom, and Taylor Caroom.

**Call to Order and Read the Vision Statement**

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

Nick Thornton read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary – None**

Student Report – Taylor Caroom reported that all students were happy to have February break and a light homework load over break. Today the athletic information for the Fall 2 and Spring sports season went out. Parent teachers conference will be held on Wednesday. Also, on Wednesday high school students will participate in a DEI initiative and middle school students will participate in a “refresh day”/mental health break. Later in the coming weeks students will swap events.

**Superintendent Report Update – Attached**

**Athletic User Fee Reduction (VOTE)**

Dr. Dwight asked the Committee to consider a request to change the user fee amount for Indoor Track from \$280 to \$200 because the season will be significantly different from a usual indoor track experience. The Committee wanted to be sure there would be no cap on participation. Considering the mental health benefit and to encourage more participation the Committee agreed to decrease the user fee to \$165.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to move we accept the proposal to reduce the user fee for indoor track as presented using the user fee of \$165 per participant rather than the \$200 that was presented.

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

**COVID Closure Policy Review (VOTE)**

Suzanne Allen reported that the Policy Subcommittee reviewed the COVID-19 policies and updated and clarified information based on current practices and protocols. Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse and Dr. Dwight reviewed and explained the changes.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the policy changes as presented.



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

### **Immunization Policy Review (VOTE)**

Due to the fact that the state has removed the flu vaccine mandate as a required vaccine in Massachusetts public schools, the Policy Subcommittee is removing the reference from Policy JLCB "Immunization of Students"

SusanMary Redinger with no objection approved Policy JLCB as amended.

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

### **Bromfield School Improvement Plan Review**

Scott Hoffman and Robin Benoit presented a review of the Bromfield School Improvement Plan. Progress was made under the overarching objective to **provide a safe, secure and inclusive learning environment for all. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** by having students participate in surveys and training. In addition, work was done so that the social justice standards were woven into the curriculum. The second goal to **Support Engaged Teaching and Learning with Remote and Hybrid Learning** progress was made through two surveys done to collect feedback from parents/guardians and students. Changes include having all students attend afternoon remote classes, testing for COVID, streaming more classes, greater consistency in the use of remote tools and Google Classroom. Teachers have participated in 12 professional development days. Administration is conducting observation of teachers during their remote classes and providing feedback. Administration and members of IT will visit remote classes, investigate technology that will benefit remote students and get technology in the classrooms.

### **Student Survey Results**

Dr. Dwight reviewed the open-ended responses from students regarding their remote and hybrid learning model. Students expressed ideas on how to reduce stress levels for both hybrid and remote students.

### **Grant Approval (VOTE)**

A grant from the Harvard PTO in the amount of \$233.82 was present for approval to purchase 18 copies of the Insanely Awesome Pandemic Playbook.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the grant as presented.

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

### **Future Meeting Dates**

March 8

March 22

### **Agenda Items**

Calendar discussion

Student Advisory discussion topics

Start time recommendations

## **Minutes**

Without objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting as amended.

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

Shannon Molloy presented for review the following warrants:

Warrant 21-15SCH - \$183,366.38

Warrant 21-17SCH - \$63,203.59

## **School Committee Liaison/Subcommittee Reports**

**Shannon Molloy reported:** SEPAC ran a program called “Understanding the IEP”, it was the next level program from “Basic Rights”. This program has not been made available to parents in the past. It went well. SEPAC is finishing development of a survey. This week on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. SEPAC is holding a Board meeting. SEPAC expects to hold a DESE presentation at the beginning of the meeting. DESE representatives will report on the recent Special Education audit and interview the co-chairs.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that at the most recent DEI meeting there was discussion about the school plans for an upcoming launch of a new curriculum tool that will be used for curriculum review. Teachers will use this tool on the March 3<sup>rd</sup> PD and going forward. This tool will allow teachers to constantly review the curriculum.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that negotiations with the teacher’s union are ongoing.

**Shannon Molloy** reported that the testing group continues to meet. Toby, Liz and Shannon also meet with the multi-district group called Safer teacher, Safer student. There has been some initial discussion on the new CDC guidelines that just came out before February vacation. This Thursday night from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. there will be further discussion on the guidelines. All are welcome to attend the call. Liz is developing a buddy program to make it easier and more accessible for testing to get into more districts in Massachusetts. Linda and her team submitted feedback to CIC that was very positive. Before break the district launched a new reporting interface on the district home page for weekly reporting information.

**Abby Besse** reported that the Bromfield School Council met and has been working on the School Improvement plan that was presented tonight.

**Abby Besse** reported that Parks and Rec is working on finalizing their agreement to maintain the Ann Lees field so that the girls will have a place to play that is well maintained. The two studies looking at additional playing fields were rejected by CIPC. We are on hold for now for any athletic field expansion.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee met. Suzanne Allen and SusanMary Redinger spoke about putting together a good table of contents for a new members manual that hits on many things. They are also reviewing what other communities have for their new member orientation manual. It seems as though the manuals can be as big and lengthy as you want. It will be a useful document.

**Suzanne Allen** reported that she is currently the liaison to the Harvard Cable Television (HCTV) and has not been able to attend the meetings due to a work conflict. Currently she is able to get information by following the minutes, but would like to know if there is someone that would be willing to serve in her place. HCTV has plans for a Bromfield news program and a middle

school video production club that are currently on hold due to COVID restrictions. They are working with students at HES learning about the green screen technology and making video productions of their historical characters. Lots of good stuff going on there.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the School Committee presented the FY22 budget to Fin Com last week. The next Budget Subcommittee is meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharlene Cronin** reported that the teacher contract negotiations are ongoing.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that HEAC met and discussed a number of things. They are looking to add additional car charging ports in town. They want them to be available to town people. Maybe at the General Store, the town hall or the library. The car charging ports and LED lighting around town would be submitted for grant funding. SusanMary Redinger sent a letter to Ellen Leicher thanking her for the work she did to get solar added to the new elementary school.

**SusanMary Redinger** asked Sharlene Cronin to attend the Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday night at 7 p.m. Sharlene Cronin is able to attend.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that CPIC finalized the town meeting requests. The old library roof project will be coming back to CPIC for a potential revote and will definitely go to town meeting for a vote.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that the elementary building project is coming really close to finish. The drywall is up, the lighting is on, and the baffles are up. The final door will be closed up now that everything has been moved in. The move will take place the weekend of town meeting. Were able to save some money between technology and furniture and are hoping to purchase decorative canopy screening that would wrap around the porches. They are being designed and will be brought back to the SBC for approval. They cost approximately \$100K. At the March meeting they will be reviewing the landscaping plans. SusanMary Redinger will send the presentation out to School Committee members.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that the Bromfield House Committee meets on Wednesday. They are reviewing the survey results to determine which options are most viable. The Committee will work on the correct article wording for the BOS to present at the annual town meeting.

Abby Besse asked what the next steps are for the FY22 budget. SusanMary Redinger explained that the Town Administrator did a full review of the budget. There are overages in some departments. The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday to give their recommendation will then the All boards will meet to review again.

### **Public Commentary - None**

### **School Committee Commentary**

Shannon Molloy reported that the League of Woman Voters, will be hosting the Bromfield Civics Cup on March 7, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. It will be a virtual event. We already have a number of student teams participating. There will be over \$500 in prizes, T-shirts and goody bags. Bill Barton will MC. Other surprises are in store. If you would like to serve as a liaison we will try to work you in.

### **Adjourn**

SusanMary Redinger without objection adjourned at 8:30 p.m.