

School Committee Meeting  
March 21, 2022  
Minutes

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

In Attendance: Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Shannon Molloy, SusanMary Redinger.

District: Linda Dwight, Scott Hoffman, Robin Benoit, Ingrid Nilsson, Felicia Jamba

Felicia Jamba read the Vision Statement

Public Comment: None

**Student Report:**

Felicia Jamba reported the following:

- The Science Fair was held last Friday. It went very well and there were some really great projects. There were a few Middle School participants. Each project was set up in rooms with a 15-minute time frame given for presenters to explain their projects.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA MCAS are being held tomorrow
- Spring sports are starting
- Spring Musical starts this Friday, March 25th
- Students are being respectful about the student choice regarding masking

**Superintendent Update**

Dr. Dwight presented to the School Committee a request from the Business Professionals of America to travel to Dallas Texas from May 4-8<sup>th</sup> for the National conference. Kristin McManus and Cynthia Fontaine explained the COVID-19 safety protocols that will be implemented for the trip.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the overnight trip as presented.

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

See Attached Report

**TBS School Improvement Plan (SIP) Review**

Scott Hoffman and Robin Benoit reviewed the progress made to date on the School Improvement Plan. Progress was made on the goal “to provide a safe, secure and inclusive learning environment for all”, “support engaged teaching and learning”, and “the Strategic Plan”.

- The DEI Committee completed, administered and analyzed a survey.
- The DEI Committee is working on planning a PD session for staff to learn about restorative justice practices.
- A Middle school health teacher was hired as a long-term substitute with a permanent hire coming soon.
- Working to develop long range plan for older students to model, share and lead younger students in confronting bias and prejudice.
- The STAAR Program was started and will continue for future years.

Mr. Hoffman also discussed ongoing work being done with curriculum alignment, use of data informed instruction, activating community pride, digital citizenship, teacher leadership opportunities, school start time and providing PD opportunities for teachers in key areas.

### **TBS Fire Panel Funding Request**

Patrick Harrigan presented a quote from R.B. Allen Co., Inc. for \$49,499 for the Bromfield School fire panel. The quote includes labor, permitting with the Town of Harvard Fire Department, removal of existing FACP remote panels, installation of all new equipment provided, program, 10% test, equipment warranty and all NFPA 72 paperwork.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve an additional \$25,000 out of the Devens funds to cover the fire panel as presented.

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

### **COVID Related Policy Review**

Suzanne Allen reviewed the Policy Subcommittee recommendations to move the COVID related information in Policy IJOC "School Volunteers" over to Policy EBCFA "Mask Wearing". The Policy invites volunteers to participate in weekly pooled testing. Individuals experiencing COVID symptoms or are close contacts are not allowed in the school buildings. The mask requirement for visitors and volunteers would be rescinded on April 4, 2022 provided that masks are still optional for students and employees.

The Committee discussed removing the date for which the mask requirements will be rescinded with a review

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move that we approve policy EPCFA - Face Coverings as amended with the date of April 4<sup>th</sup> to rescind the mask requirement removed.

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

The Committee discussed moving the COVID related information in Policy IJOC – School Volunteers over to Policy EBCFA – Mask Wearing with a notation to see to look at policy EBCFA for specific COVID related applications and requirements.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the changes to Policy IJOC as presented with the inclusion of a notation to see other policy for specific COVID applications.

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

### **Calendar Review (VOTE)**

Dr. Dwight reviewed the recommendation of the Calendar Committee for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 school calendars. The calendars are color coded to show non-school days and they are delineated as professional development, half day, early release or vacation days.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the calendars for both school years as presented.

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

### **School Choice Slots**

Dr. Dwight recommended that the School Committee consider adding no school choice students for the upcoming FY23 school year. The recommendation was made based on the fact that enrollment at both schools is on the increase due to people moving to Harvard and Devens, there are only 3 choice students graduating, and the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades already have over 10% of the grade level as choice students. We anticipate having a \$205,000 reserve in the school choice revolving account at the end of FY22 to cover the budgeted offset.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to accept the proposal by Dr. Dwight for no school choice slots opening for the 2022/2023 school year.

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

### **Climate Action Plan Review (VOTE)**

Ellen Leicher and Brian Smith attended the meeting on behalf of the Climate Committee to seek input from the schools on projects that they may have that could be written into the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Committee is trying to get the action plan done by June. It is a living document and will be updated as things change. Brian Smith reported that the benefits they are looking at are long-term goals to reduce energy costs and emissions. The project/plan would be to replace fossil fuel with electric for heating sources. In addition, they would welcome any other school projects that would reduce emissions. The schools are working on a

purchase plan that would reduce waste. The Climate Committee would like support for the action items they have listed that relate to the schools and to have the School Committee add action steps for the Climate Committee to review. Next step is that Ellen Leicher will write something up for the Committee to review, add feedback and add any action items to be passed on to other boards.

### **Bromfield House Official Turnover to Town (VOTE)**

The School Committee was notified by the Select Board that they needed to officially declare they no longer need the land or the use of the Bromfield House.

The Committee discussed their hesitation in voting to relinquish the land and property in case it is needed for future school expansion, but are not in a position to maintain the land or property at this time.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move that the school no longer needs the building and land at 39 Mass Avenue and relinquishes control of the land and property to the Town of Harvard.

Stu Sklar joined the meeting and his understanding is that a delay to relinquish the property by the schools and would not have any immediate impact. The School Committee determined that it was best to take no action until they can look into their future options.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to withdraw her motion and recommend to take no action on the motion tonight.

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

Will bring back to a future meeting to begin to identify options.

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

The Harvard PTO presented the following gifts for approval:

Osmo Learning Systems for iPads Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Beth Graham- \$5,640.

Two Nashua River Water Association programs for Grade 1- Lisa Hopkins - \$960.

Invasive Species Removal and Native Species Replacement Project - Josh Clark -\$1,000

Laminator TBS- Gayle Bruning - \$1,953.48

Supplies for the Social Emotion Learning Space – Rachel Graham and Susan Chlapowski - \$460.79

### **The Harvard Schools Trust presented the following gifts for approval:**

Species Removal and Native Species Replacement Project – Josh Clark - \$1500.

Natures Classroom on Wheels – Rob Cullinane - \$1,050

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the grants as presented.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

April 11

April 25

### **Agenda Items**

Food Service  
SC and Supt Goals  
DEI Resolution  
Devens Enrollment  
Facilities Program  
Community Education

### **Minutes**

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

### **SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports**

**Sharlene Cronin** – The Best Practices Sub-Committee has been meeting and putting together a new members handbook that is almost ready to release. Sharlene will send out the link for members to review and the plan is to and carve out 10 to 15 minutes at each future meeting to review the information. This is a great product that will help new members set out on a great path.

**Sharlene Cronin** – reported that the Select Board voted to make no changes to the school budget as presented. It will now fall to the Finance Committee to review and notify us of any changes. There is no new yet.

**Suzanne Allen** – reported that the Policy Subcommittee continues to work through Policy J and the COVID policies.

**Suzanne Allen** – reported that the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee continues to be inspiring work.

**Suzanne Allen** – reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee talked about replacing the town's vehicle fleet with EV if possible. Nothing is set in stone but they are trying to put goals in place. They discussed making Old Mill Road a non-vehicular path more to follow on that. There is a Mass DOT forum to be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Ayer Road project. The Transportation Advisory Committee is looking for feedback from the forum.

Abby **Besse** – no report

**Shannon Molloy** – will discuss updates to HTA negotiation in Executive Session.

**Shannon Molloy** – submitted for review Warrant 22-19 in the amount of \$255,444.44.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee is finalizing a document for the town to consider regarding the benefits and challenges of resuming jurisdiction over Devens. The Committee continues to gather information.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that the School Building Committee met to review options for a wall on the front of HES. Members walked the property. They will work on getting estimates to put in a stone wall that would mirror the stone wall across Mass Ave.

**SusanMary Redinger** reported that CIPIC met and approved adding the mower with bagger for the field and a portable speed sign as a capital request to go forward to a town meeting vote.

Shannon Molloy reported that in 2018 the School Committee voted to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day and as of today there is a Citizens Petition requesting for the town to follow suite.

**Public Commentary**

None

**School Committee Commentary**

None

**Executive Session**

SusanMary Adjourn into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HTA because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the school committee. We will not be returning to public session.

VOTE: Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye).

The Committee adjourned into executive session at 9:00 p.m.