

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Monday, March 9, 2020

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

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

Maureen Babcock read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary: None

Student Update: Taylor Caroom gave the following report:

The Business Professionals of America conference was held over the weekend and went well. There were over 40 students who attended. Great feedback was received by all who attended. There is a Middle School dance being held this Friday for students in grades 6-8. The Science Fair was held this past Friday with great participation. The Middle School Science Fair will be held next week.

The Chair asked for approval to switch the order of the agenda with Item 6 to be followed by Item 4 and 5.

Innovation Lab

Ms. Beth Graham presented to the Committee how students and teachers use the Innovation Lab. Ms. Graham developed a Hyper dock/slides that were introduced to teachers during the January PD day. The slide decks are meant to be self-paced training materials for teacher to use to explore some of our STEAM innovation lab tools and brainstorm ideas for integrating them into their classroom curriculum. Second and third grade students demonstrated to School Committee members how they use Little Bits, Keva Planks, and Turning Tumble.

Field Trip/Grant Approval

The following grants from the PTO were presented for approval:
Life in the Colonies (Music and Dance) - \$500
Staff Development: Break Out Boxes - \$1,209

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

VOTE 5/0

Dr. Dwight explained that the Washington DC trip is scheduled for March 18th through the 23rd. There was discussion about options regarding the trip due to the Coronavirus. The options are traveling as planned, rescheduling to another time or cancelling the trip. The tour company would be willing to reschedule the trip at no cost with a School Committee vote. SusanMary

Redinger and Maureen Babcock polled parents in the ninth grade to see how parents felt and explained the responses they received. Most parents wanted the trip to continue. Principal, Scott Hoffman felt that erring on the side of caution and rescheduling the trip until fall would be a good option. Due to the seriousness of the risk in sending students the Committee felt that the option to postpone the trip to another date was the best option.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to direct Dr. Dwight to draft a letter to EF Tours indicating that the School Committee has directed the trip to be postponed.
VOTE 5/0

The Committee discussed the upcoming Model UN overnight trip and decided to leave the decision up to the administration as to whether to continue that trip for this coming weekend.

Club Approvals; Vote

Scott Hoffman presented for approval three new club applications.

Project 351 Club – the club provides opportunity for students and teachers to actively participate in Project 351's three main statewide services: the Cradles to Crayons clothing drive, the September 11th Tribute Service, and the Loaves and Fishes food drive.

M3C/Math Modeling Challenge Team – the club prepares for and competes in the Mathworks Math Modelling Challenge competition.

Bromfield Glee Club – the club promotes joy in the musically gifted students of the Bromfield community. It allows diversity in the Bromfield Music Department. The club unifies students who share similar interests in music and performance.

Sharlene Cronin made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve all of the clubs as presented.

VOTE 5/0

Coronavirus Readiness Update

Dr. Dwight reviewed the steps being taken regarding the Coronavirus. There is a planning meeting being held with the Board of Health to plan for a community presentation and panel discussion on Thursday, March 12th. In addition, the school is working with parents to self-quarantine if they have traveled to an effected area. The names of students and staff who are self-quarantined are confidential.

Superintendent Update

See attached.

Goals Discussion; Vote

Sharlene Cronin presented an updated version of a potential additional joint goal/s that would encompass "Fields" and "Title IX" and look at each specifically. The vision of the Fields goal is to have high quality athletic fields that are adequately maintained and meeting the needs of our students and families. The vision of the Title IX goal is to have documented evidence of being Title IX compliant. The Committee discussed changes to scope and dates of completion. The

Committee proposed that the Title IX measure be changed to creating a plan to hire a consultant on how to tackle the Title IX review with a completion date of June 30, 2020.

John Ruark made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to amend the joint goals to add Fields as presented and modified and to add Title IX as presented and modified.

VOTE 5/0

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the school building project is on budget and about three weeks behind schedule. The next School Building Committee meeting is Thursday. The meeting will start with a tour of the building. All members are invited to be at the trailer at 3:30 if interested in taking the tour. The tour will last for approximately 30 minutes.

Budget Discussion

Dr. Dwight presented the FY21 budget book that were modified and updated with changes that identify the potential budget cuts requested by the Finance Committee. Dr. Dwight would still like to vet the cuts with principals and the budget subcommittee before this comes back to the School Committee for a final vote. John Ruark shared information discussed at a recent Board of Selectman's meeting regarding school budgeting. The Selectman suggested budgeting for more retirements based on a historical average for better forecasting and a requested that mid-year changes be one-time expenses and not carried into the next level services budget.

Agenda Items

Title IX

Budget

Technology Plan

Start-time Update

Continuous Improvement Report

Fifth grade Girls Scouts

Coronavirus

SOA plan

Transportation for athletics

Policy

HTA contract

Student Opportunity Act

School Choice

Approval of Meeting Minutes

With no objection John Ruark declared the minutes of the meeting of February 24^h approved as amended.

VOTE 5/0

Liaison/Subcommittee

Shannon Molloy submitted the following signed warrants for School Committee review

Warrant #	Date	Amount
20-18	January 31, 2020	\$1,144,043.88

Shannon Molloy reported that HES School Council is reviewing parent survey results. There has been a high response rate with a lot of feedback. The School Council will process trends by reviewing the comments section of the survey at their next meeting.

Shannon Molloy reported SEPAC is bringing another program to the community called "Understanding the IEP". It will be held at the Bromfield library on March 30th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Policy Subcommittee had to cancel their last meeting. The next meeting needs to be cancelled as well. Will be looking to get on track soon.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Start Time Subcommittee met to follow up after meeting with Dee Bus Company. The Subcommittee is still looking to make a recommendation by the end of this with any change going into effect beginning August 2021.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Continuous Improvement Subcommittee met and considered the feedback from the full committee and picked the recommendations for focus and will bring those back at a future meeting.

SusanMary Redinger –As expressed by Suzanne Allen and Sharlene Cronin the Science Fair was amazing, engaging and the students were extraordinary and passionate. Suzanne Allen and Sharlene Cronin thanked SusanMary Redinger for coordinating the judging.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Council will meet Wednesday and the agenda items that they are working on are the School Improvement Plan and updates from the Subcommittees. The parent survey has gone out.

Suzanne Allen – reported that the Student Advisory meeting was well attended. Discussion was held around gender and culture. Students are enthusiastic about clubs and how they help to make kids feel like they belong.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC is meeting tomorrow night.

Kim Walsh, Director of Recreation is moving on to a new position, she has been a great resource and will be missed.

Sharlene Cronin – reported that as of this week Parks and Rec are closing fields. It is important that coordination be tightened up going forward. There is fields assessment software that will be shared with this group if you have anything you would like to share or need feedback you will be able to do so on this software. The Field Subcommittee will meet again this Friday. A final report from the Field Subcommittee will be ready to be sent out before town meeting in May.

John Ruark – HEAC met last week in order to hear from a vendor who potentially can supply solar panels at HES.

John Ruark -reported that Student Advisory Council met with six students last week. Topics that were discussed were enrollment by gender, culture, feedback and being heard. It was a very productive meeting.

Public Commentary – None

School Committee Commentary –

Suzanne Allen thanked Shannon Molloy for planning the amazing Civics Cup event. Suzanne Allen left the event beaming.

Shannon Molloy – thanked everyone who came to the Civics Cup – 40 students participated. All of the liaisons were used. Great activity.

Linda Dwight reported that Bloomin Art will be held this weekend.

Linda Dwight report that the HES play – Little Mermaid will be held this weekend.

Adjourned

At 9:45 p.m., John Ruark made 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