

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 Abbie Besse seconded to approved 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 trainings. In addition, work was done so that the social justice standards were woven into the curriculum. Under the goal of **Support Engaged Teaching and Learning. 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 teacher 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 25th 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 in the March 3rd PD and going forward. This tool will allow teachers to constantly review curriculum.

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

Shannon Molloy reported that the test small group continues to meet. Toby, Liz and Shannon also meet with the multi-district group called Safe 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. 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 was 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 10th.

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 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 capital for a potential revote and will definitely go to town meeting for a vote.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the elementary building project coming really close to finish. The dry wall 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 approximate \$100K. At the March meeting they will be reviewing the landscaping. SusanMary Redinger will send the presentation out t

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 annual town meeting.

Abby Besse asked what the next steps are with 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, vit March 7, 1 to 2:30 it will be a virtual event. We already have student teams participating. Adapting it to zoom, \$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.