

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
September 28, 2020

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

Others in attendance Josh Myler, Scott Hoffman, and Aziz Aghayev.

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

Suzanne Allen 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 Commentary: None

Student Report: None

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Personnel Update

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee an updated Personnel Spreadsheet that showed the personnel changes for the 2020/2021 school year and included information on how the COVID relief funds and the ESSER grant are being applied to offset personnel costs.

Kindergarten Personnel Request (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight presented a request to the Committee to allow her to hire a new Kindergarten teacher if the kindergarten enrollment increases beyond the two additional students that have requested to return from remote to hybrid. The deadline for letting the principal know is October 2nd. For the 2020/2021 school year, Kindergarten teachers/sections were reduced from 4 to 3 based on enrollment and financial savings. Since one of the three classes is remote, there are currently two hybrid classes that are at capacity with 15/16 students. Spacing arrangements are being made to accommodate the 6 ft. distancing requirement for the two additional students

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to direct the superintendent to hire an additional Kindergarten teacher as need based on the increasing numbers.

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

Bus Fee Amount (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight explained that bus fees were budgeted as an off-set to the transportation line at \$40,000 with students in grades 7-12 and grade 6 students that live closer than 2 miles paying \$225 per rider. This year due to the hybrid model, families are only getting two days' worth of service. The number of days that students attend in-person school is also likely to change throughout the year. If the fee is waived, we will potentially need to identify an account for the \$40,000 off-set. If we lowered the fee from \$225 to \$125, we would collect \$9,875 and still potentially need to fill in the remaining off-set. Bus fees are not being charged at HES for the current school year due to the building project.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the collection of \$125 rather than \$225 for Bromfield students taking the bus and open it up to additional ridership for families that might be interested.

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

Policy (ACAB, COVID related policies)

Shannon Molloy presented changes to Policy ACAB – Sexual Harassment. The Policy has been reviewed by legal counsel.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approve Policy ACAB with the amendments made.

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

Suzanne Allen presented changes made to the “Responding to Known or Suspected COVID-19 Cases” sheet and flow chart.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the Policy and Flow chart as amended.

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

Suzanne Allen presented changes to Policy EBCFA- Masks –

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the Mask Policy - EBCFA as amended.

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

Superintendent Evaluation

SusanMary Redinger shared the form and rubric that will be used to evaluate the Superintendent. SusanMary Redinger is proposing that members go through form and use the Superintendent's reports as evidence to evaluate the superintendent on her goals. Members will be given 3 weeks to complete the evaluation and it will then be presented at the October 26th meeting.

Ramp Funding

SusanMary Redinger explained that Dr. Dwight, Shannon Molloy and she met and reviewed the Capital Committee's request to consider the use of School Committee Revolving Funds towards

the Middle School Ramp project so as to avoid incurring any debt. The Budget Subcommittee is suggesting to use \$150,000 towards the Middle School ramp from the Devens Fund, as well as \$50,000 from Shaw Trust for a total of \$200,000. That leaves \$314,000 to be funded out of the Capital Stabilization Fund. The district has applied for a grant from the Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program which offers grants up to \$250,000 for ADA accessible projects. Should the district receive any grant monies, we propose to handle it accordingly: any amount up to \$114,000 is offset against the \$314,000 and any grant amount in excess of \$114,000 would be split evenly between the Devens Fund and the CSF.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded that we use \$150,000 from the Devens Fund and \$50,000 from the Shaw Trust fund to combine with the additional money from the CSF to fund the Middle School Ramp Project.

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

Capital Plan Review

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the list of projects presented in the FY22 Capital Plan that cover Small Capital (less than \$500K) projects from FY22 through FY26. The Committee also added the TBS roof project as a Large Capital project in the next five years.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the plan with the caveat that the \$300,000 HES building debt be corrected to \$200,000 and add allocation amounts for FY23, 24, 25 and 26 for the HES building debt.

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

Request of Tree Warden (VOTE)

The Tree Warden is looking for approval to remove the lone, tall, declining pine tree at the Bromfield School across from the Cronin Auditorium.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the removal of the tree as requested.

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

Testing Initiative Update

Dr. Dwight reported on the results of the survey to hybrid families to determine an initial interest in the saliva based COVID test that is being considered for students and staff. Survey results show 80% of parents are supportive. The teacher's union membership results showed 50% in support, 25% wanted more information and 20% said they were not interested. The group is scheduled to meet next Thursday. What seems to be holding the group back is the State Board of Health epidemiologist is not supportive of the idea and the local Board of Health is following the state's lead. Shannon Molloy replied that the group is moving forward slowly and we are at a good point. The idea of the test is emergent and we want to make sure we create a comfort level and the education necessary so people feel confident with the decision.

Grant Approval (VOTE) - None

Future Meeting Dates

October 7 – Student Advisory Meeting
October 13th Tuesday – School Committee Meeting
October 26th - School Committee Meeting

Agenda Items

Goals
Liaison Assignments
District Improvement Plan
Superintendent Goals
Curriculum Achievement
Open Letter Group
Mass Develop Board of Director update

Minutes

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the September 14th meeting as presented.

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

Liason/Subcommittee Updates

Shannon Molloy – The SEPAC board met last week and shared that they are setting up regular monthly meetings between with administration. They are planning social event, parent education opportunities including links to recorded seminars. They are excited about the coordination of the “Kindness Counts” program. Their main goal for the year is to grow their profile as a resource grow their membership.

Sharlene Cronin – Parks and Rec is looking to prioritize projects. They have a new process set up to put forth requests. They are continuing to broaden their civic recreation.

SusanMary Redinger – HES building project is moving along well. The asphalt sidewalks are going in, the drywall is going up and progress is being made with interior painting. The project is 55% complete, with 75% of the contingency spent. Kudos to NV5, Shawmut and Arrow Street.

Public Commentary

Dan Daley – 15 Littleton Road – Capital Plan – Fields

School Committee Commentary

Sharlene Cronin – asked that we be mindful of not creating division and be mindful of the language we are using so as not to create inequity.

Suzanne Allen – thanked the technology department for their support and hard work over the past months. It is very much appreciated.

Adjourn - With no objection SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

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