

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020

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

Others in attendance Scott Hoffman, Aziz Aghayev, Taylor Caroom, Brooke Caroom, Olivia Ren, Nick Thornton, Linlin Yu.

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

Taylor Caroom 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: Bob O'Shea, Chair of Parks and Recreation Committee– Fields budget
Hannah Chiou, 22 Chance Street, Devens – Anti-Racism
Timur Sahin, 154 Littleton Road, Harvard – Anti-Racism

Student Report:

Taylor Caroom – the Student Council elected officers last week. All spots have been finalized with the exception of the Freshman class who are still looking for a representative. Once all officers are elected the School Council will start meeting. School pictures will be taken this week.

Anti-Racism Open Letter Addendum

Dr. Dwight recognized alumni students Emily Erdos and Elise Bilodeau who read the “Open Letter” as a call to action against anti-racist behavior. The letter contained action items for improvement. Current students, Hannah Chiou, Timur Sahin, Asha Khurana, Sahara Sulliman and Annie Anderson worked on an addendum to the “Open Letter”. They read actions that they would like to see happen to raise awareness and empower students toward change.

Anti-Racism Resolution/Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Initiative Update

Marisa Khurana and Kathleen Doherty shared diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives that the district has been working on. Several teachers participated in workshops over the summer and they plan to have time dedicated to professional development around anti-racism throughout the year. Shannon Molloy shared the School Committee Anti-Racism Resolution and explained how it was adopted and could be amended to incorporate the alumni, faculty, students, and School Committee. The District Improvement Plan will include diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Club Approval (VOTE)

Timur Sahin and Hannah Chiou presented an application for a new club called “Students for Justice”. The club would work to raise awareness about current events, to empower student toward change, action and provide a supportive and safe environment for open discussion and sharing among students.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the club as presented.
Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

COVID Screening Initiative (VOTE)

Liz Ruark and Toby Bazarnick presented a proposal for a saliva based pooled screening initiative for COVID screening. The cost of the screening is approximated to be as low as \$15 per individual and will be paid for through fund raising initiatives. An RFP will be prepared and advertised in order to procure a product for testing. General consensus from the School Committee is to allow Aziz Aghayev and Dr. Dwight to put out the RFP for COVID screening this week, with the understanding that they will come back to the Committee for next steps.

Policy (COVID related policies)

Suzanne Allen explained the need for a change in wording to the COVID-19 Travel Policy in order to make people aware that the policy is not a recommendation but a requirement.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the policy as amended.
Allen (Aye), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye) and Redinger (Aye)

Learning Survey Results

Dr. Dwight shared the results of the student/family survey and the level of approval relative to their hybrid and remote learning experiences. The feedback from this survey will allow teachers and counselors to offer the necessary assistance to students whose responses identified they were having some level of difficulty with respect to hybrid or remote learning.

School Committee Goals Review

The following School Committee /Superintendent Goals for the 2020/2021 school year were introduced based on conversations from the retreat:

Contract Negotiations- by June 1, 2021- establish a contract with the HTA that achieves maximum alignment with district vision and mission, within the financial means of the district and town.

Budget – develop and approve a budget for FY22 that meets the needs of the district and the guidelines provided by the town.

School Committee Best Practices – identify and adopt best practices of the continuous improvement of School Committee function and operation

The Committee will bring the School Committee /Superintendent Goals for the 2020/2021 to its next meeting for adoption.

School Committee Operating Norms

The School Committee presented their “Operating Norms” for adoption. It was suggested that under “Governance and Communications” students be recognized. The document will be changed and brought back to the next meeting for adoption.

FY19 Bus Payment (VOTE)

We received an FY20 bill from Dee Bus in the amount of \$2,400 to cover homeless transportation costs from last year. The bill was received after July 1, 2020 when the books for 2019-2020 closed. We are recommending that we use the Devens revolving account to pay this bill.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the payment of \$2,400 from the Devens fund for payment to Dee Bus.

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

Budget Credit Allocation (VOTE)

At the Special Town Meeting, there was a vote to decrease our budget by \$112,000 instead of \$274,000 that was first proposed.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to accept the final budget as presented.

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

Subcommittee/Liaison Assignments

The Committee reviewed the Subcommittee/Liaison Assignment for 2020/2021

Liaison Assignments	Meeting details	Current Liaison
Board of Selectman	Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday @7 p.m.	SusanMary Redinger
FinCom	Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Wednesday at 7p.m.	Sharlene Cronin
DEAC	Meetings monthly on Wednesday @ 7p.m.	Abby Besse
SEPAC	Meetings monthly on 4 th Wednesday @ 7 p.m.	Shannon Molloy
TBS School Council	Meetings monthly Wednesday @ 2:30	Abby Besse
HES School Council	Meetings monthly on Tuesday @ 3:30	Suzanne Allen
CPIC	Meetings at least monthly on Monday mornings @ 8:15 (meetings increase during fall/winter)	SusanMary Redinger
HEAC	Meetings monthly on Wednesdays @ 8pm	SusanMary Redinger
Park and Recreation Representative	Meetings 1 st and 3 rd Monday @ 7 pm.	Abby Besse
State Representative	As needed	Shannon Molloy
CASE	Meetings monthly @ noon	Linda Dwight

HCTV	Meetings 3 rd Wednesday of the month @7p.m.	Suzanne Allen
Vendor Warrant Signing	Twice per month @ town hall	Sharlene Cronin/ Shannon Molloy
<i>Subcommittee Assignments</i>		
Teacher Contract Negotiations	Meetings likely at 3:30 – 1 time per week from September to May	Shannon Molloy Sharlene Cronin
Budget	Meetings periodically (depending on budget cycle) meetings held during the school day	SusanMary Redinger/ Sharlene Cronin
Policy	Meeting twice a month 9-11 a.m.	Suzanne Allen/ Abby Besse
Superintendent Review	Meets annually.	SusanMary Redinger
Building Committee	Meetings twice a month on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30	SusanMary Redinger Sharlene Cronin
<i>School Committee Advisor</i>		
Athletic Advisor	Meetings monthly @ 8:00a.m. on Tuesday	Sharlene Cronin
Wellness Committee	Meets annually	Suzanne Allen/ Shannon Molloy
Inclusion Committee	Meets monthly at 3:30 p.m.	Sharlene Cronin
School Start Time Advisory	Meets monthly at 3:30 p.m. (on hold at this time)	Suzanne Allen Shannon Molloy

HES Building Project Update

SusanMary Redinger gave the following update to the HES Building Project:

The envelope is done, painting, dry wall, flashing, and sky lights are being worked on. The exterior landscaping and asphalt sidewalks are being worked on. Teachers will be doing walk throughs of the new building and picking their rooms in the coming weeks. The final furniture order is due in December. We are still planning on a mid-May move in date. The next School Building Committee meeting is October 15th.

Future Meeting Dates

Monday, October 26th

All Boards, October 14, 7:00 p.m. – pre-register

Agenda Items

District Improvement Plan
Superintendent Review
School Committee Norms
School Committee/Superintendent Goals
Budget
Anti-Racism Resolution

Minutes

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of September 28th as amended.

Public Commentary

Sharlene Cronin shared that there are great professional development courses being offered to School Committee members as advertised in the most recent MASC bulletin.

Adjourn

At 9:10 p.m. SusanMary Redinger moved and Suzanne Allen seconded to adjourn into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 21 (a) and (3) to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

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