

School Committee Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2021
6:15 PM

Harvard Public Schools is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
<https://psharvard-org.zoom.us/j/82972025610?pwd=SEZTVE5QU1Rxdy84a2p2b3ZLTlJjQT09>

- I. Call to Order and Read the Vision Statement (6:15)
- II. Public Commentary (6:18)
- III. Student Report (6:23)
- IV. Superintendent Update (6:28)
- V. Policy Review (VOTE) (6:38)
- VI. Start time Proposal (VOTE) (6:58)
- VII. Calendar Review (7:13)
- VIII. Choice Student Slot Allocation (VOTE) (7:33)
- IX. District Van Purchase (VOTE) (7:53)
- X. Capital Projects Update (8:03)
- XI. Grant Approval (VOTE) (8:13)
- XII. Future Meeting Dates (8:18)
- XIII. Agenda Items (8:20)
- XIV. Minutes (8:25)
- XV. School Committee Liaison and Subcommittee Reports (8:30)
- XVI. Public Commentary (8:40)
- XVII. School Committee Commentary (8:45)
- XVIII. Adjourn (8:50)

**Attachments: Superintendent Report, Policies, Grants, School Choice Memo,
District Van Info, Calendar**

Vision Statement: The Harvard Public Schools Community, dedicated to educational excellence guides all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national, and global communities.

COVID-19 Travel Policy

Employees and students in the Harvard Public Schools are required to comply with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Travel Order issued by Governor Baker. This policy outlines requirements in the Travel Order and applies to all employees and students at Harvard Public Schools who travel to a state identified as a non-lower-risk by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The most recent travel orders may be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states->.

If a student in or employee of the Harvard public schools travels to a state identified as non-lower-risk, the student/employee is required to quarantine for 14 days prior to entering the schools or produce a negative COVID-19 test administered no sooner than 96 hours after returning to Massachusetts. This policy is more conservative than the state requirement. To avoid the need for two tests, a family may return from a non lower-risk state and quarantine until the district's 96 hour requirement is met. Proof of quarantine or evidence of a negative test must be emailed to the school nurse prior to entering the schools. The MA travel form must also be submitted to the nurse. Any employee or student who has been fully vaccinated including the recommended wait period is exempt from this returning quarantine requirement.

An employee will not be subject to the mandatory quarantine or testing if the employee lives outside of Massachusetts and must regularly commute to the District, provided that this exception shall only apply to travel between the employee's residence and the District for work.

Simultaneous with any personal leave, bereavement leave or vacation request, all employees must provide their supervisor with information on the state to which they are travelling and the dates of travel, to determine if the employee's personal plans will require a 14-day quarantine prior to return to work. The District may deny requests for vacation leave due to staffing levels if the District is unable to accommodate the employee's leave request coupled with the 14-day quarantine requirement. Employees will be required to provide documentation of test results to return to work after travel to a non-lower risk state.

This policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect until rescinded or amended by the School Committee.

MASKS

For everyone's safety, masks are required in school and district facilities. All individuals including students, teachers, staff, and non-school personnel entering school buildings will be required to wear an appropriate mask at all times*, even when physical distancing of 6 ft. can be maintained, except during designated mask breaks or designated eating periods.

The designated eating period will be primarily outdoors, however, during severe weather an inside space with maximized ventilation will be used with 6 ft distancing between students. Masks will only be off when eating. Staff will keep their masks on while supervising the students while they are eating.

Masks are also required to be worn by everyone on school transportation including school buses and special education transportation vehicles and while entering and exiting buses/vehicles.

Students, teachers, and staff will be provided with the opportunity for mask breaks throughout the day with distancing of at least 6 feet any time that masks are removed.

Students are expected to bring two (2) masks to school with them daily: one to wear and one as a backup in their backpack. Masks will go home with students each day. Reusable masks should be washed after each wearing. The school will have extra disposable masks available for students who need them during the day.

Appropriate masks:

- Are made of layered, tightly woven material;
- Fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- Fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps.

Masks with exhalation valves are not permitted.

The school will provide a disposable mask for a student who brings a mask that does not meet the requirements for an appropriate mask listed above.

Masks should be clearly identified with the student's name or initials to avoid confusion or swapping. Masks may also be labeled to indicate top/bottom and front/back.

Staff and students will be educated on the safe wearing and use of masks. This will include instruction on safe removal and storage of masks during breaks and safe re-application of the mask after a break.

Exemptions to this policy can be made under certain circumstances, such as for students for whom it is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety concerns. Parents may not excuse their child from the mask

requirement by signing a waiver. A written note from a physician or health care provider is required to initiate the exemption process and must be received by the Superintendent of Schools at least two weeks prior to the student's planned attendance at school. Requests for an exemption with the supporting medical note should be sent to Harvard Public Schools, Office of the Superintendent, 39 Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard, MA 01451. Requests for exemptions are subject to review and approval by the Superintendent who may consult with the district nurse, district physician or local Board of Health. If an exemption to this policy is granted, the Superintendent/designee will work with the family to consider alternative methods of keeping the student as well as other students and adults around the student safe. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

Staff seeking exemptions to this policy should follow the same process for requesting an exemption as outlined above for students.

The Superintendent/designee will identify the need for and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in addition to masks for certain staff, such as but not limited to school nurses based on job duties and the need to maintain safety for all staff and students. PPE will be made available for use accordingly throughout the school year. Staff will be provided training on the proper use of PPE, including putting on and removing PPE.

Masks must be worn properly at all times. If a student is in violation of this policy, the following steps may be taken:

- Staff will signal to the student to put the student's mask on correctly;
- If a student is not able to immediately comply, staff may take the student outside for a mask break;
- Staff will work with families to discuss challenges and reinforce compliance;
- A student may be required to switch to remote learning if noncompliance is repeated.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee.

*At HES, masks may be removed if a teacher is remote teaching in a classroom that will remain otherwise empty for the day. Masks may be removed if a teacher is in their classroom during a break time (when students will enter the room afterward) as long as there is a plastic study carrel around them and they are within their teaching space. Masks may also be removed in the afternoon after student dismissal, if the teacher is working from their otherwise empty classroom. Meetings should be held in other locations, virtually, or outside.

*At TBS, masks may be removed if a teacher is remote teaching in a classroom (when students will enter the room afterward) as long as there is a plastic study carrel around the computer and their teaching area. Masks may be removed if a teacher is remote teaching in a classroom or space that will remain otherwise empty for the day. Masks may also be removed in the afternoon after student dismissal, if the teacher is working from their otherwise empty classroom. Meetings should be held in other locations, virtually, or outside.

*Students, teachers, and staff may lower their mask for a quick drink of water as long as they are at least 6 ft. away from other people. Ideally these drink breaks will be done in a vacant hallway or outside.

LEGAL REF.: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, COVID-19 Order No. 31 – <https://www.mass.gov/doc/may-1-2020-masks-and-face-coverings/download>

REFS.: Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Considerations for Wearing Masks – <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

Massachusetts Department Elementary and Secondary Education – Reopening Guidelines – <http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/>

Commonwealth of Massachusetts – Mask Up MA! – <https://www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma>

FIRST READ: August 10, 2020

ADOPTED on an emergency basis: August 10, 2020

REVISED: August 17, 2020

REVISED: September 28, 2020

REVISED: TBD



Memo: Calendar Considerations for 2021-22
Date: March 22, 2021
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

There are two different calendars for School Committee consideration. The calendar drafts were created by a committee of teachers and administrators. This year the committee met several times to discuss all aspects of the calendar including the number and placement of .5 days and early releases, professional development days (4), vacation weeks, and the starting and ending dates. Usually this work concludes with a definitive recommendation of a single calendar that is brought before the School Committee. This year the process that included a vote by staff for the preferred calendar resulted in a fairly even split, so the committee decided to move both options forward.

As always, the School Committee has the final approval responsibility, but there is an additional caveat to the decision this year. If the School Committee votes to approve the calendar with an earlier start date, the calendar will return to the Teachers for a necessary vote of the members of the Harvard Teachers' Association. This is necessary because the teachers' contract has the following statement included, "The work year of teachers will begin no earlier than the Monday preceding Labor Day....." A similar vote was needed and resulted in an earlier start for the original 2020-21 calendar.

2021/22 School Calendar (Option A)

August 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
				(21)		

October 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					(20)	

November 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
				(17)		

December 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
				(17)		

January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				(19)	

February 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
				(15)		

March 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
				(23)		

April 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				(15)		

May 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
				(21)		

June 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
				(17)		

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Days of Note:

Professional Development:

First Day of School:

Half Day:

Early Release:

Vacation:

Questions/Follow up:

Check Town election date

Juneteenth, will it have a Monday Holiday?

Graduation likely 6/3 or 6/10

History of ER/Half days

16-17: 13 +5 halves

17-18: 11 + 5 halves

18-19: 9 + 6 halves

19-20: 11 + 5 halves

20-21: 14 + 4 halves

21-22: 12 + 6 halves

2021/22 School Calendar (Option B)

August 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
					(5)	

September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
					(20)	

October 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31					(20)	

November 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
					(17)	

December 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
					(17)	

January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31				(19)	

February 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
					(15)	

March 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
					(23)	

April 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					(15)	

May 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
					(21)	

June 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
					(13)	

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Days of Note:

Professional Development:

First Day of School:

Half Day:

Early Release:

Vacation:

Questions/Follow up:

Check Town election date

Check/set prom dates (May 6th or 13th, Robin to check AP schedule)

Graduation likely 6/3 or 6/10

History of ER/Half days

16-17: 13 + 5 halves

17-18: 11 + 5 halves

18-19: 9 + 6 halves

19-20: 11 + 5 halves

20-21: 14 + 4 halves

21-22: 12 + 6 halves



HARVARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

www.psharvard.org

39 Massachusetts Avenue • Harvard, Massachusetts • 01451
(978) 456-4140 • FAX (978) 456-859

Linda G. Dwight
Superintendent

Memo: Choice Recommendations
Date: March 8, 2021
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

The leadership team agrees with the following recommendations for School Choice openings for the 2021-22 school year:

5th grade – 5 openings
6th grade – 2 openings
7th grade – 2 openings
9th grade – 1 opening

This recommendation is based on the following information:

School Year	Number of choice students	Budgeted Off-Set	Revenue	Difference*
2020-21	54 X \$5,000+	\$310,000	\$284,478	-\$25,522
2021-22	52 (2 graduates) X \$5,000	\$310,000	\$260,000	-\$50,000
Recommended	52 + 10 X \$5,000	\$310,000	\$310,000	0

* there is a carry forward of \$94,775 in the account

Harvard Public Schools 2020/21 Enrollment 01/25/2021

Grade	Harvard Residents	Choice Students	Devens Students	Total Students
Pre-K	25			25
K	43		5	48
1	58		4	62
2	50		5	55
3	66		11	77
4	58	2	8	68
5	72		7	79
HES Totals	372	2	40	414
6	63	10	5	78
7	74	7	6	87
8	66	9	9	84
9	66	10	9	85
10	57	11	6	74
11	84	3	5	92
12	89	2	6	97
Bromfield Totals	499	52	46	597
Totals	871	54	86	1011

2021-22 Recommendations

5th grade $68 + 5 = 73$

6th grade $79 + 2 = 81$

7th grade $78 + 2 = 80$

9th grade $84 + 1 = 85$



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Linda G. Dwight
Superintendent

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Home Schooled Students Expected to Return in Fall 2021

1st grade: 4
2nd grade: 2
3rd grade: 9
4th grade: 4
5th grade: 1
6th grade: 3
7th grade: 1
8th grade: 2

We have at least 3 current 6th graders planning to attend Parker Charter School next year.



Memo: Additional Van Purchase Request
Date: March 22, 2021
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

In the past four years we have had three CASE vans to use for student transportation. Each one of them has been frequently used and resulted in the savings of many dollars that would have otherwise been spent on bussing or van rental costs. (see memo from 2018 below) The vans have reached their end of life usefulness and have been or are in the process of being donated to charitable causes.

We have the opportunity to buy at least one more from CASE for \$1,000. The 2014 van they have offered to us has 144,730 miles and has been deemed by the transportation director to be in good condition. I am asking for permission to buy up to three vans of similar quality for \$1,000 as they become available from the CASE fleet before they are sent to auction.

Memo: Additional Van Purchase Request
Date: December 7, 2018
From: Linda Dwight, Superintendent

We have the opportunity to buy two CASE vans for \$1,000 each. Both vans are from 2011 and have over 180,000 miles of use. The transportation director has assessed the vans and says they are in good working condition. I would like to recommend that we buy them and park them over at Bromfield behind the school for ease of access. The travel logs and keys would be kept in the Bromfield office.

The athletic advisory committee has discussed the benefits of owning at least one or two additional vans or a larger vehicle to help mitigate the rising costs of transporting students to a variety of events throughout the year. When our teams do well, as they have been, the season extends past the regular number of games/meets/competitions. The Athletic Director, Dave Boisvert, has added \$7,983 to his proposed budget due to these extra travel needs and because we will be bidding out for a new bus contract for the FY20 school year. Currently we pay \$4.50 per mile and \$80 per hour for the wait time for all extracurricular events (see contract information included).

The vans will be used in a variety of ways from club activities, sports participation, homeless family involvement, field trips, and more. We have provided the number of uses (149 trips) to date of the one van that we purchased last year. The van has traveled 3,897 miles. If we used a bus for that number of miles, there would be a charge of \$17,537 without considering the wait time of \$80 per hour.

March 20, 2021

Fanfare
P.O. Box 428
Harvard MA, 01451



To Dr. Linda Dwight
Mr. Scott Hoffman
Mr. Craig Robbins
Mr. Andrew Milne

CC: Ms. Karen Shuttle

At our recent board meeting on March 17th, Fanfare approved a grant request submitted by the Bromfield Music Department.

Grant 2021-01 Chorus Face Masks \$3,317 – Mr. Robbins shared with the board on-going discussions to grow the Bromfield middle and high school chorus programs. Given that Harvard Public Schools continue to observe protocols in response to the Covid pandemic, there is an acute need to outfit each student with appropriate PPE. The chorus face masks are ergonomically designed allowing musicians to perform safely and comfortably. The grant requests 165 chorus face masks suitable for rehearsals and concerts.

We hope that the Administration and School Committee will accept the funding for this gift at your next scheduled meeting so that the funds maybe utilized by the Music Department to purchase the equipment outlined above.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Yoo
On behalf of the Fanfare Board

Harvard Schools Trust

Grant Application – Short Form

NOTE: The standard application must be used if request is

- a) for more than \$300, or**
- b) for “seed money” to start a program that will be ongoing, or**
- c) for purchase of technology which will be integrated with existing technology.**

1. Applicant

- a. Name(s) and relationship to the Harvard Public Schools: *Amy Bassage (third grade teacher)*
- b. Email address: *abassage@psharvard.org*
- c. Phone (day and evening): *978-239-8159*
- d. Application date: *Aug 19, 2020*

2. Project title: *Outdoor Breaks – Movement and Play*

3. Project description:

I was thinking the 3 third grade hybrid classes could have 4 rotating bins for outdoor breaks. None of the activities involve touching each other or each other's equipment.

Each bin could contain 18 like items for outdoor breaks – one item for each students.

There are 4 days at school per week, by the end of the week each 3rd grade class will have experienced all 4 bins.

Bin #1: Swing Ball Sets (\$22 x 3)

https://www.amazon.com/Champion-Sports-Swing-Assorted-Colors/dp/B0013OIHMU/ref=sr_1_6?dchild=1&keywords=swingball+set&qid=1597867636&sr=8-6

Bin #2: Scoop Ball Sets (\$27 x 2)

https://www.amazon.com/Champion-Sports-Scoop-Ball-Set/dp/B000KA2VGQ/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=scoop+ball+set&qid=1597867664&sr=8-3

Bin #3: Catch a Ball Set (\$12 x 3)

https://www.amazon.com/Champion-Sports-Catch-Ball-Set/dp/B000KA4OWU/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=catch+a+ball+set&qid=1597867711&sr=8-3

Bin #4: Jump Rope Bundle (\$17 x 3)

https://www.amazon.com/Garage-Fit-Adjustable-Cardio-Fitness/dp/B01MSLSGTX/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=jump+rope+bundle&qid=1597867739&sr=8-1

4. Which students, and how many, will benefit from this project?

All 45+ third graders will benefit from this equipment.

5. What is the amount of the request?

$\$206.28 + \$12.91 + (\text{free Amazon Prime shipping}) = \219.19

6. How will you evaluate the success of this project?

Are the children enjoying their outdoor breaks with the new equipment - laughing, learning, and challenging themselves with the various activities? Are they able to have better focus when they return to the classroom?

7. Follow-up with parents

The Harvard Schools Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. In order to fulfill grant requests it relies on membership contributions from parents, school personnel, and community members.

As a grant recipient, what will you do to make parents aware of the Trust's support and to encourage them to become Trust members?

The third grade teachers will each add a "thank you to the HST" in our class newsletters or blogs, and we may even include a picture of our students playing safely at appropriate physical distances with the new equipment during our outdoor breaks.

The Trust's check will be written to The Harvard Public Schools Gift Account (managed by personnel in the Superintendent's office).

Please feel free to provide further narrative information. Also, if there are other relevant materials that might be of interest to the Trust, please include them with this application.

The Trust reserves the right to require the standard, full grant application.

March 10, 2021

Dr. Linda Dwight
Harvard Public Schools
16 Massachusetts Avenue
Harvard, MA 01451

Dear Dr. Dwight,

The Harvard Schools Trust approved the following grant this month:

Submit Date	Reques t	Title	Submitter	Amoun t
2/26/21	21-11	Outdoor Mask Breaks – Safe Movement and Play	Amy Bassage	\$244.25

Very truly yours,

Terry Symula & Lindsay Burke
Harvard Schools Trust

Cc.
Scott Hoffman
Josh Myler
Karen Shuttle
Rolf VandeVaart

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, March 8, 2021

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

Others in attendance: Linda Dwight, 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.

Taylor Caroom read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary

Jen Manell, Stow Road, Harvard – Dress Code

Student Report – Nick Thornton reported that a few weeks ago, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop was held. The workshop brought to students all of the work that the administration is doing against racism. Taylor Caroom explained that the workshop for high school students was held on the first parent teacher conference day and during the second parent teacher conference day the workshop will be held for middle school students. Taylor Caroom reported that the Civic Cup was held this weekend. There were thirteen student teams and it was super fun and everyone had a great time together.

Brooke Caroom reported that the Junior Class held a community service event on Saturday allowed for class bonding and contributed to community service hours.

The School Committee will be meeting with the Student Advisory Council on Wednesday, April 7th at 1:00 p.m. Topics for discussion included:

- *How do students feel about the possibility of having student representatives to the School Committee as voting members?

- *Spend time getting to know our student representatives and why they wanted this role, how it might help them in the future, and how we can help them get the most out of it.

- *Student check in about coming back to in-person school for 5 days a week.

- *Student check in on the remote students to see how things are going and check in on the latest round of survey feedback.

- *Student thoughts about spacing and lunch

- *Student feedback on how the DEI day went and the take away from it.

Superintendent Report Update – Attached

Learning Model Plan Update

Dr. Dwight presented the Learning Model Changes for HES and TBS that will happen on April 5th.

*Hildreth Elementary students will return to a full-day schedule for 5 days a week.

*The Bromfield middle school and high school student will attend 5 mornings a week with both cohorts and then attend afternoon remote classes. Office hours will continue 4 days a week.

*Consideration for another phase for Bromfield will be under consideration when we receive further guidance from Commission Riley. We are looking at all options including whether we can separate middle school students from the high school students despite the combined busing and some combined specialist and classes.

Start Time Advisory Update

Dr. Dwight proposed adjusting the start time at The Bromfield school from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. with an ending time of 2:50 p.m. to provide our middle and high school students with a half hour longer in the morning to sleep and prepare for their school day. This adjustment to the Bromfield schedule will require a slight shift for the elementary students from a school start time of 8:50 a.m. to 9:10 a.m. and an ending time of 3:28 p.m. The new schedule of one school impacts the other because we share the busses and consultation with Dee Bus Company, 40 – 45 minutes are needed between the two bus runs. The shift would be a one-year pilot so that we could evaluate the impact and either continue with the change or shift back to the original times depending on the feedback. This evaluation would be done in the spring of 2022. Dr. Dwight will bring back information on how this change will impact sports and time frames to get teams to away games. The Committee will vote on this change at their next meeting.

Policy Review (Model)

*Suzanne Allen did the first read of policy “Spacing Between Students and Teachers and Staff – COVID 19 Policy”. The policy will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

*Abby Besse did the first read of policy “Mask Policy ” – File EBDFA. The policy will be brought back at the next meeting for approval.

*Abby Besse reviewed the changes to the “Learning Model Decision Points” Policy. The change was made to accommodate class size and will require families to request a change in learning model. The principal will then make the decision based on class size. The April re-entry date was changed from April 12th to April 5th.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the changes to the Learning Model Decision Points policy as presented.

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

Grade Comparison Summary Presentation

Dr. Dwight shared with the Committee the grade evaluation findings. The Bromfield Principals and the counselors have been tracking the engagement of students during this COVID impacted year. Every at-risk student is brought before the team of counselors, nurses, administrators, and teachers to track progress and plan interventions. Counselors have also instituted a collaboration time with teachers. Parent communication is also part of the process. One of the new developments has been the addition of M(medical) and N (not enough evidence) grading

categories this year. These distinctions capture evidence of medical or mental health issues. Based on the 2nd marking period grades, nine more students were invited to attend school 4 mornings a week. This additional structure and availability enable more non-special education interventions for students. The change to 5 mornings a week on April 5th will also help these students and the students overall.

Choice Student Slot Allocations (VOTE)

Dr. Dwight presented the leadership teams recommendation for School Choice openings for the 2021-2022 school year.

5th grade – 5 openings

6th grade – 2 openings

7th grade – 2 openings

9th grade – 1 opening

The Committee will bring back the information for a vote at the next meeting.

Covid Screening Fundraising Report

Liz Ruark reported the following regarding COVID Safe Schools

Overview

- *Seven weeks of screening

- *91% of eligible educational staff, 83% of eligible students screened at least 1time

- *Average 70% staff/week

- *Average 74% in person students/week

Results

- *Last four weeks: 0 positives

- *Highest # of positives in a week: 3 (week of 1/25)

- *Covid mitigation strategies are working

Funding

- *Fully funded through remainder of school year

- *Individual donations, grants (PTO, HTA), DESE program

- *Thank you to Harvard Schools Trust!

Additional Benefits

- *Offering testing to remote students

- *Increased Trust membership

- *Mentoring other Mass. Districts

- *A model for the nation

SusanMary Redinger expressed the utmost appreciation to the Covid Safe Schools group. The town, the school district and the School Committee thank you. It has taken everyone pulling together in the same direction to make the project a success.

Disposition Preference for Bromfield House

SusanMary Redinger presented an update on the work the Bromfield House Committee has completed as it relates to the disposition of the Bromfield House and property. The options were to sell both the land and the house or sell the house and keep the land. SusanMary Redinger would like to see if the Committee would support a particular direction and present a School Committee recommendation. The Committee is aligned with keeping the land and having the

land used for an educational purpose. SusanMary Redinger will present the recommendation to the Bromfield House Committee and keep the School Committee informed going forward.

Grant Approval (VOTE)

The following gifts were presented for approval from the PTO.

Roundhouse Theatre – Kristina Lazaro - \$600.00

Acton Discovery Museum for Grade 3 – Amy Bassage - \$1,125.00

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

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

Future Meeting Dates

March 22nd

Student Advisory – April 7th

Agenda Items

Policy

Choice

Calendar

Minutes

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes as presented.

School Committee Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Abby Besse was unable to attend the last Bromfield School Council meeting.

Abby Besse reported that she attended the Parks & Rec meeting. There was some discussion on Anne Lee Softball field not being taken care of in accordance with the MOU but that issue has been corrected and Parks and Rec will be maintaining that field. Parks and Rec has been working on ways to maintain the athletic fields so they are safe and in good playing condition. They have come up with a rotating field schedule where one field per week will be rested. They are working on details to rent a field from Devens. This could create trouble with our athletic budget due to the cost of transportation to Devens and the rental fee. As a School Committee we will need to meet with Parks and Rec and work out the details of these changes. The change could start as early as the next spring season. Parks and Rec is talking about creating an MOU with the Bromfield Trust for taking over the maintenance of the field in front of the school. Additional questions came up about the maintenance of the field at the new HES property. It will be helpful to have a conversation with Parks and Rec so that we are all of the same page.

Suzanne Allen reported: Policy has been discussed.

Suzanne Allen reported: Wellness needs to schedule a meeting

Suzanne Allen reported: HES School Council meets this week.

Sharlene Cronin reported that she attended both the budget meeting for the Finance Committee and the Selectboard. Fincom presented and finalized the town budget. If there is a COLA it will need to be paid through our budget. The Selectboard understands that there are structural budget issues. There was discussion about what is needed as well as long term goals. This is something we can think about as part of our own strategic plan. Going forward Sharlene Cronin said she will make more of an effort to attend these meetings.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the HTA negotiations are on-going.

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Athletic Advisory will be meeting next week.

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC met on February 25th. DESE presented on a “Tier Focused Monitoring review that is a Special Education review that happens on a three-year cycle. SEPAC members were able to identify an area that needed immediate attention and a work around was created to correct the issue. The presenter reminded us that Harvard is a Tier 1 school. The final evaluation will be made public. The next SEPAC workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 6, and will be a workshop on Effective Communitation. SEPAC is happy that they have been able to move forward and are making progress in a pandemic year.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC hasn’t met. They are sending out a parent survey in the next few weeks. Maureen will report back when she has some data results. SusanMary Redinger thanked Maureen Babcock for putting together the ski club and offering such a great opportunity for our kids. It was really well done and much appreciated.

SusanMary Redinger reported that HEAC is considering a conversion of the tennis court lights to LED as part of the grant funding and also continuing to move through with the electric vehicle charging stations that will be submitted to the grant as well.

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC reviewed a request from the Council on Aging for \$45,000 to send out an RFP to move the Council on Aging out of the Hildreth House to another property in town. The proposed building is behind the post office. CPIC approved the \$45,000 for plans and to go out with an RFP. The cost to move would be much less than the cost of Phase 2 of the project. If the Council on Aging were to move, the town would then need to decide how to use the Hildred House.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES building project is on the verge of being done. So much is getting done. The project is on budget and on time for a May move in. SusanMary Redinger will bring pictures to share at the next meeting.

SusanMary Redinger reported that an easement was granted by the Selectboard for Verizon to move forward with pole work to be able to operate an elevator that will assist with moving into the new building. The use of the elevator will allow for a savings of approximately \$4,000 per day. The School Building Committee is meeting again on March 25th. The Committee will be looking at how to celebrate the school opening.

Public Commentary –

Marisa Khurana, Warren Avenue – School Choice

School Committee Commentary

Suzanne Allen – met a parent this weekend who was so happy that her child was able to get additional services and come in person to Bromfield two additional days per week.

SusanMary Redinger thanked Shannon Malloy for all of her work on the Civics Cup. It is such a great event and your hard work and passion are evident.

Shannon Molloy thanked everyone on her team for all the help and all the wonderful students who competed.

Adjourn

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to adjourn into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A section 2 for the following purposes: To discuss strategy with respect to an in preparation for collective bargaining with Harvard Teachers' Association because an open discussion may have detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

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