

School Committee Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2017
6:15 p.m.
Upper Town Hall

Attendance: Mary Traphagen, Nancy Lancellotti, SusanMary Redinger, Jon Green, Linda Dwight
Absent: John Ruark, Maureen Babcock (arrived at 7 pm), Peter Rowe

Mary Traphagen called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Read the Vision Statement – Nancy Lancellotti

Public Commentary – None

Field Trip Approval

Bromfield students Yohhan Kumarasinghe and Christopher Thornton presented a request to the School Committee seeking approval to attend an overnight/out of state field trip to the National History Bee and Bowl in Arlington, VA. The event will be held from April 27th to April 29th. The students would need to qualify in order to attend.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the April 26th to 29th, 2018 National History Bee and Bowl championship trip as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Kristin McManus along with Samvit Pisal and Mischa Deruijter presented a request to the School Committee on behalf of the Business Professionals of America to attend the State Leadership Conference from March 3rd to March 5th at the Sheraton in Framingham and Assabet Valley Regional High School in Marlboro, MA.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Business Professionals of America trip as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Kristin McManus presented a request to the School Committee seeking approval for students to attend the overnight field trip to the State Conference of Youth and Government being held at the MA State House and the Omni Parker House in Boston from March 21st to March 23rd.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the Youth and Government trip from March 21st to March 23rd as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Michael Poe presented a request to the School Committee seeking approval to attend a field trip to Columbia University the weekend of January 19-21, 2018 in order to bring two debate students to compete in a nationally ranked debate tournament.

Nancy Lancellotti made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Bromfield Debate team overnight field trip to Columbia University between January 19th to 21st as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Bromfield students Julia Deng and Melissa Mazzu presented a request to the School Committee to start the "K-Club" for students in grades 6 through 12. This club would expand students' knowledge of Korean culture through music and fun. If approved Ms. Olyan Rosal will serve as the faculty advisor with an estimated stipend of \$618 per year.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the K-Club as presented.

VOTE 4/0

Superintendent Report

List of the actions completed in past five weeks:

*CM at Risk candidates presented to the interview committee. After the interviews, the committee deliberated and then selected Shawmut.

*Shawmut representatives attended the School Building Committee Meeting on November 30th.

*SusanMary Redinger and Dr. Dwight attended the MSBA meeting on November 29th regarding an update to our design. Arrowstreet and NV5 presented. The board members were generally positive about the progress, but their discussion led to a requirement to change a ramp to a sloped floor.

*The working group met on December 7th to further develop the design and lead into the final SBC meeting before cost estimators begin their process.

Guidance Department Update

*Christine Reale visited another district for Challenge Day. This is a program that several people have rave about for building a stronger school culture of inclusion, leadership, and reducing at-risk behaviors. She reported back to the leadership team and with encouragement has submitted a grant to the Harvard Schools Trust for funding the program this year.

Athletic Advisory

This advisory committee met on November 30th. We reviewed the budget and discussed sports opportunities for 6th grade students. This committee supports the movement of the softball field to Pond Rd. and is investigating the possibilities of turf.

Science Lab Update

The plumbers have been on site for the past week. They came in this past weekend to jack hammer the remaining concrete that was in the way of the piping. They expect to finish their work by the end of this week. We are coordinating the remaining contractors.

Successful Partnership with Other Districts

Harvard has a visit planned to Natick to learn more about their technology design for their new schools. This visit is planned for December 19th and will include the teacher liaisons and tech department leaders.

Leaders from Littleton and Ayer-Shirley came to Harvard for a debriefing meeting regarding the PD held on November 7th. We reviewed the teachers' feedback and started planning another joint day for next year.

Policy Second Reading

The Committee reviewed Policy BDF and BCA for adoption after a first read of both policies was done on November 27th.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded to move that we adopt Policy BDF as presented.

VOTE 4/0

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to move that we adopt Policy BCA as amended.

VOTE 4/0

CPIC Update

SusanMary Redinger reviewed the CPIC projects that were recently approved. The projects were sorted by rank and the top fourteen projects were approved by the Capital Committee and will go forward for approval at Annual Town Meeting. School projects that were approved were updates to the Cronin Auditorium (lighting and curtain), Bromfield bathrooms, water tank and science labs. The Science labs will be funded through the Devens revolving account.

Omnibus Budget Update

Dr. Dwight, Peter Rowe and members of the Committee presented the school budget to the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. At the meeting Lucy Wallace talked through the 84 questions that were answered by Dr. Dwight and Peter Rowe prior to the meeting. It was recommended that a joint BOS meeting be held when the budget is being developed to help everyone understand the process and ask questions while the cost center managers are developing their budgets. The Committee is waiting to hear back from the Board of Selectmen. Dr. Dwight will ask Tim Bragan for a date when the Board of Selectmen will be deliberating the school budget so that Committee members can attend.

6th Grade Sports Involvement Plan

The Athletic Advisory Committee met to discuss the possibility of allowing 6th grade students to participate in after school athletics. Dave Boisvert and Scott Hoffman will be working on the plan. The plan is to start a 6th grade developmental basketball team this January, and eventually adding field hockey, track and cross country. This would allow 6th grade students time at the beginning of the year to adjust to middle school, and at the same time giving them a structured after school option.

Agenda Items

Policy

Budget

Goals Update

District Improvement Plan Update

School Improvement Plan Update

School Building Committee Update

Annual Town Report

Student Achievement Report

Student Update

Approval of Meeting Minutes

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Nancy Lancellotti seconded to approve the minutes of the November 27th meeting as amended.

VOTE 4/0

Dr. Dwight informed members of the Committee that Cindy Prescott, a long-time food service worker at the high school lost her battle with cancer and passed away last night. The Committee asked Dr. Dwight to send their condolence to the Cafeteria staff and Chef Paul.

Liaisons

SusanMary Redinger – started the website review and sent out a google document to Jon Green and Mary Zadroga to start to tag things that need to be updated.

Nancy Lancellotti – Harvard School District Wellness Committee is planning an evening presentation for parents to discuss the Youth Risk Survey. The tentative date is mid-January to look at the 2016 data. A similar presentation format as was done two years ago will be used. The Bromfield School Council will meet tomorrow, subcommittees are on the agenda and will hopefully go forward.

Mary Traphagen – the School Committee met with Student Advisory last Friday. There were five members in attendance. They are not in favor of changing the early release to a late start scenario. Students would like to send out a survey to see how our students feel about the gender climate at Bromfield. They talked about the new language lab called “Dill”. Not all teachers use Dill, they use other language programs and apps. Students are in favor of the way the language lab is run. Students want to do their own survey similar to the Youth at Risk survey with a focus on stress, sleep and mental health. Students had questions around the class rank policy. Our policy states we do not rank students but we do in the fact that we have a Valedictorian and Solitarian.

Mary Traphagen and SusanMary Redinger met with HTA members, Jessica Hyde and Melissa Niland. There was discussion around the science lab progress, the need for a Stipend Committee, and communication surrounding how advisors are chosen and equity between schools. In addition, staff are in favor of the new cell phone policy and students are happy with the MacBooks while some teachers are still getting up to speed. Melissa congratulated the team of Josh and Scott at HES for a job well done.

Mary Traphagen - HES School Council took a look at dress codes made comments to Josh Myler and he will consolidate them. HES is looking at doing some in reach at a full-scale faculty meeting to explain the project. School Council has not decided on which survey they will do this coming year.

Jon Green – No update.

Open to Citizen Commentary

Jennifer Finch, 165 Codman Hill Road, Harvard, MA asked for member names for the Communication and Wellness Subcommittees.

Commentary

Dr. Dwight recognized the Middle School students for a great job at the Holiday concert last Thursday. This Thursday the High School Band and Chorus will perform.

SusanMary Redinger – gave a shout out to the “Guys and Dolls” cast and Martha Brooks for a great production, which included our very own Scott Hoffman and Michael Poe. Great job by all students involved.

Adjournment

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Jon Green seconded, to move to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

VOTE 4/0