

School Committee Minutes
Upper Town Hall
Tuesday, October 29, 2019
6:15 p.m.

Members attending: John Ruark, Shannon Molloy, Sharlene Cronin, Suzanne Allen, Linda Dwight and Aziz Aghayev. Absent: Maureen Babcock. Remote: SusanMary Redinger

John Ruark called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Sharlene Cronin read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary – None

Student Update: Olivia Ren gave the following report:

The Bromfield Golf team is competing in the state championship today.

The Bromfield Field Hockey lost their playoff game by 1 point, ending a terrific season.

Boys' Cross-Country took the runner-up spot in this year's Mid-Wach D League championship.

Girls' Cross-Country took first place in the Mid-Wach D League championship.

Both Boys and Girls Cross-Country will complete in the MIAA Central Division 2 district championships on November 9th in Gardner.

Students in grades 10 and 11 took PSAT tests last week.

The Class of 2023 held a Halloween dance last Friday for grades 7 through 9.

Curriculum Review; HES Social Emotional Wellness

Josh Myler and Dori Puluzzi presented on the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program at HES. The top priorities identified by the SEL Committee are self-management (self-control), self-awareness (relating feelings to thoughts and behaviors), social awareness (empathy and perspective taking), relationship skills (working cooperatively), and responsible decision making (making constructive, safe choices for self, relationships, and school). Mr. Myler and Ms. Puluzzi shared examples of direct instruction, school-wide practices and structures, infusion into the curriculum. Events and family engagement that are used to help students acquire and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills were also identified.

HEAC

Brian Smith from Harvard Energy Advisory Committee presented an annual status report on the school's energy use, energy costs, energy projects (past and future) and energy initiatives and concerns.

Environmental Assessment

Ellen SachsLeicher and Brian Smith presented a draft of the Environment Review form for the Committee to review. The form will be used to provide an environmental assessment review when planning and approving major or minor projects. The environmental impact information will be used to inform the boards, Town government and the public. It will ensure opportunities for environmental protection, re-use, and energy conservation when making decisions. Ms. Leicher asked for input on the review form and will take the information she gains back to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee agreed that conversation around energy impact versus costs will be made whenever possible. The Committee will also commit to reviewing School Committee policies around energy conservation and making any necessary updates.

School Improvement Plan for TBS; Vote

Dr. Dwight shared the changes made to The Bromfield School Improvement Plan as a result of the School Committee's review of the plan at a previous meeting. The Committee will approve The Bromfield School Improvement Plan as is with flexibility to decide how the baseline information will be gathered.

Shannon Molloy made a motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to approve the School Improvement Plan as presented without the need to add a baseline survey.

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye).

Superintendent Update – See attached

Enrollment Numbers

Dr. Dwight shared the details of current enrollment numbers for the 2019/2020 school year. John Ruark shared the Enrollment Projections Report for 2019 prepared by SusanMary Redinger. The projection shows an increase in enrollment in the coming years.

Grant Approvals

The following grants were presented to the School Committee for approval:

The Magic of Maps - \$685 – Joan Accorsi

Discovery Museum Traveling Workshop - \$955 – Erin Newbould

Native American Drumming & Dancing - \$500 – Amy Bassage

Politics Club magazine - \$500 – Kate Keane

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

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye).

School Building Update

SusanMary Redinger reported that the School Building Committee along with members of the School Committee toured the new school building. Sharlene Cronin shared that it was really exciting to be in the building and really wonderful to hear about the process and the materials being used. The building is taking shape. The Committee affirmed the selection of the colors for the exterior stone. It will have a great look. The Committee will share the renderings with the Historical Committee. A topping off ceremony is scheduled for November or December. The easement for National Grid was approved at the Special Town Meeting.

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to move to authorize the School Committee to sign the grant of easement for National Grid which has previously been approved.

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye) Redinger (Aye).

Policy Review; Vote

Shannon Molloy presented the following policies for first read, replacement or elimination:

Policy AE – Accomplishment – First Read

Policy ADFA – Life Threatening Allergy Policy – Eliminate – redundancy

Policy ADDA – CORI requirement (MASC Background Checks) – replace with MASC policy

Policy ADDA-E – Info Process Correcting CHSB – eliminate for redundancy

Policy ADDA-R – DCJIS Model CORI Policy – First Read
JA – Student Policy Goals – eliminate - redundancy
JB – Equal Educational Opportunities - First Read
JB-R – Opportunities – eliminate – redundancy

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to eliminate policy ADFA, amend policy ADDA as presented, eliminate ADDA-E and eliminate policy JA and JB-R.

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye) Redinger (Aye).

Agenda Items

Budget review
Policy
Class enrollment
Dashboard Subcommittee Report
Title IX
Executive Session
Debrief MASS/MASC

Approval of Meeting Minutes

With no objection, the Chair approved the minutes of the October 15th meeting as amended.

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin reported that the Field Subcommittee is meeting tomorrow. They are working to put shape to a full report. They are planning to meet with the Select Board in the later part of November. At Special Town Meeting, Parks and Rec put forth an article for \$15K to provide general field maintenance. After a friendly amendment, the funds were appropriated to the Department of Public Works rather than the Parks and Rec Department.

Suzanne Allen reported that SEPAC held a meeting with a lot of positive responses from community members. They continue to work towards having a parent support group and fulfilling some of the needs of SEPAC including providing speakers that will speak on the topic of special education law.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Wellness Subcommittee met and reviewed the Wellness policy, matching it with MASC and bringing it up to date with the DPH standard for policy. Hope to come out with a strong revised policy. There was discussion around the Angst movie and some vaping conversation. Scott Hoffman is looking into how to outreach to students to have them come to adults to ask them for support before they get themselves into trouble.

Suzanne Allen reported that the Start Time Subcommittee meets tomorrow. It is exciting to be working on the details of how we will communicate and get feedback from community members regarding a possible change.

Suzanne Allen reported that she, John Ruark, and Shannon Molloy met with five members of the Student Advisory Committee. Students gave feedback about the Angst movie. Members led a discuss into real life skills/solutions for anxiety. Student talked about the new attendance policy and although they were skeptical at first, it seems to be working out. Students were positive about the plans to rebuild the Middle School ramp.

John Ruark – the students want to make sure there is ongoing discussion around anxiety and that it won't end with the movie. Students feel that the new attendance policy wasn't communicated well. They feel as though the changes/expectations should be announced in layman's terms with some startup efforts to streamline any bugs in the system.

SusanMary Redinger reported that School Council met on October 16th. Scott Hoffman gave an update of all things happening at Bromfield including sporting events. The ramp was well received. More conversation about the Angst movie. The conversation is making the topic relevant. People appreciated the board of experts at the end of the movie. It is great that the conversation is continuing. The Council subcommittees for Balance and Climate have begun to meet. The next meeting is November 6th.

SusanMary Redinger The Capital Committee met and approved the library roof and are now working on meeting with individual boards and committees to review their capital request. Still looking for more information on the school projects. There is a total of 16 capital project requests to be funded for the 20/21 fiscal year.

Shannon Molloy– reported that the Policy Subcommittee is moving forward.

Shannon Molloy reported that the HES School Council has not met.

Shannon Molloy reported that the Budget Subcommittee will be busy for the next seven days as a kick off to the season.

Shannon Molloy reported that at the Student Advisory meeting it came through loud and clear that the excused college visit component of the excused absence policy that was triggering a lack of trust. Hopefully that can be worked on.

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC held their kick off meeting at Volunteer's Hall with 25 people attending. Folks came out to show support for the new group getting going. A significant number of parents with kids that are grown came to offer support.

John Ruark reported that DEAC is meeting tonight and we will get an update from Maureen Babcock at the next meeting.

Dr. Dwight reminded members that the Budget Subcommittee would be meeting on Friday and Monday and extended the invitation to all School Committee members who wished to attend. Dr. Dwight reminded members to confirm their attendance to the MASS/MASC conference by November 1st.

John Ruark shared with members that at the MASS/MASC conference that there are several good sessions on Social Emotional Learning.

Public and School Committee Commentary

The musical Seussical Junior will be held this weekend at Hildreth Elementary School.

John Ruark made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to convene into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, sections 18-25 for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to an 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. We will not enter back into open session.

Allen (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Ruark (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye).

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Zadroga