

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
December 14, 2020

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

Others in attendance Taylor Caroom, Brooke Caroom and Aziz Aghayev.

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: None

Student Report

Brooke Caroom – The on-line play went very well. Over 250 tickets were sold. The school held a Loaves and Fishes monetary drive and French and Spanish Honor Society inductions were held. An internet filtering system was installed on student computers and students feel that it has affected the computer speed. Students and families donated to the Bromfield Cares Giving Tree which provided gifts to families in need.

Taylor Caroom - Shared student feedback on the COVID policy related to the number of cases per school that would result in the school to shut down. Students were not aware that this decision was being discussed and in general are supportive of increasing the number of cases to 2 at each school, but were not supportive of counting a family as 1 case. The Student Advisory group is hearing a wide variety of concerns.

Superintendent Update

See Attached.

Finalize Budget and Narrative (VOTE)

Aziz Aghayev presented the FY22 Budget. The budget is level funded at \$14,325,141. At this time, the School Committee is not prepared to present a budget that represents a 5% cut to level funding. The level funded budget is presented with an \$86K deficit. The Budget Subcommittee agreed the deficit will come from the Devens fund. The budget is in the School Committee folder in a PDF format and can be made into booklet copies for any members who would like one.

Dr. Dwight reviewed the Revolving Account budgets; School Lunch, Athletics and Community Education/Bridges. The School Committee would like a long-term plan for what the district will offer as part of the Community Education programming moving forward.

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

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

Devens Account Balance Minimum Review

The Budget Subcommittee spent time looking at the previous two-year history of the revenue and expenses for the Devens account. They determined that a basement balance of \$500K could be established in the Devens account each year to avoid that account from going into deficit. This would be a general recommendation. The Committee was comfortable with establishing a \$500K balance in the Devens account and agreed that it was a good solution that will need to be monitored carefully.

Screening Initiative Plan Update

Shannon Molloy explained that Harvard has received 5 proposals for the COVID surveillance testing. The Screening group will review each proposal and by mid-January will be ready to award a contract.

Testing Resolution (VOTE) –

Shannon Molloy presented a resolution in support of state funded Sars-CoV-2 Surveillance Testing for Public K-12 Education. The resolution asked the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation including our United States Senators and House of Representative members to advocate for and approve funding for easily accessible, reliable, rapid turnaround, ongoing weekly or twice-weekly surveillance testing in our public schools.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to move to approve the resolution in support of state funded surveillance testing as presented.

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

Policy Review (VOTE)

Suzanne Allen reviewed the proposed change to the Protocols for Responding to Suspected or Known Covid19 cases.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the Protocols for Responding to Suspected or Known Covid19 cases as amended.

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

Policy JFAB – Admission of Foreign Exchange Students –will be taken back in order for the subcommittee to consider the attorney’s input.

Policy JG – Assignment of Students to Grade and Classes –Recommend removal
With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the removal of Policy JG.

Policy JI -Student Rights and Responsibilities

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved Policy JI as amended.

Policy JIB – Student Involvement in Decision Making-Amended

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved policy JIB as presented and amended.

We will work on the specifics to add student middle school representation to the School Council.

Policy JIC – Student Discipline – Amended

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Suzanne Allen seconded to approved Policy JIC as amended and presented.

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

Policy JICA – Dress Code – The policy was presented as amended using language from the TBS handbook and the MASC policy - The Committee tabled the policy changes to give members a chance to read a little more into it.

Athletic Competition Decision Process Review

Dr. Dwight presented the 2020-21 Competition Determination Form for Winter Sports. The form will be completed within 24 hours of each competition and digitally stored by the principal at The Bromfield School. The form includes the following:

*Eligibility to compete will be determined by reviewing the number of COVID positive students. If 2 or more student cases are identified within the past 7 days, we will postpone or cancel the competition. If more than 1/3 of the team is in quarantine, we will also postpone or cancel the competition.

*If the opposing team has 2 or more COVID positive students identified in the school within the past 7 days, we will postpone or cancel the competition. This information will be confirmed by a phone call to the opposing team's Athletic Director and/or the school principal.

*If our district or the opposing district is temporarily remote due to a local decision, we would use the above metrics to determine whether competitions will be permitted.

Annual Report Assignment

The annual report submission will be brought to the January 11th meeting for review prior to submission to the town. SusanMary Redinger agreed to write the report unless someone else wanted to take it on. Suzanne Allen agreed to take it on with the help of SusanMary Redinger.

Anti-Racism Work Update

Dr. Dwight shared that the district continues to collaborate with students and faculty on the topic of Anti-Racism. There is a panel discussion at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday. The panel is a continuation of district, student and alumni participation with the hope to open it up to the broader community. The panel will be interactive and will be answering questions from the audience. To register visit armandarm.com. The presentation will also be taped for viewing at a later time. Abby Besse asked who is identified as the contact person for submitting concerns of racism in the classroom or curriculum. Dr. Dwight said there will be an anonymous form for parents to

use. If the parents don't feel comfortable they could go to the principal or superintendent. In circumstances of discomfort we are able to step over the chain if need be.

Grant Approval

The following gifts were presented for approval:

Wee the People	\$1,800	PTO
Principals discretion	\$31.35	Coca-Cola Give

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Sharlene Cronin seconded to accept the grants as presented.

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

Turing Tumbles	\$592	HST
Lexia PowerUp for MS	\$5,925	HST
Coding Touchables for Pre-K/K	\$3,518	HST
The Pineapple Project Virtual Presentation for K	\$800	HST

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Abbe Besse seconded to approve the grants from HST as presented.

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

Future Meeting Dates

January 11

January 25

SAC February 3

Agenda Items

BOS and Finance Committee meetings

Curriculum Update

Goals

Survey Data

Policy

Minutes

Without objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of November 9th as amended.

SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes of November 30th approved as amended.

Liaison/Subcommittee Reports

Suzanne Allen – HES School Council meets tomorrow.

Abby Besse – Parks & Rec update – 2 items that impact the school. The Conservation Commission has granted Parks and Rec jurisdiction to maintain the maintenance of the fields. They with that are allowing them to add a 200-foot fence to the softball field which will make it MIAA compliant. Parks and Rec has noticed that with taking over the maintenance of the fields their budget of \$25K is not adequate to maintain the fields. At town meeting they will be asking the town for \$18,000 to be used to keep fields maintained and safe. If the motion fails at town

meeting they will need to charge a fee for teams to use the field which will result in an increase in athletic user fees to cover the cost. Parks and Rec is asking the schools to consider supporting the ask at town meeting.

Sharlene Cronin –Budget Subcommittee information has already been shared earlier in the meeting.

Sharlene Cronin - Negotiation Subcommittee nothing new to report.

Shannon Molloy – Updated the Committee that the MCAS testing language supporting a moratorium appears in the house version but did not prevail in reconciliation. Shannon plans to follow up and work with others on stand-alone language but it will not be included in the budget bill. Still hopeful that we can get some accommodations.

Maureen Babcock – DEAC - No updates.

SusanMary Redinger -The Capital Committee met and reviewed their ratings on all projects. They are recommending the school projects move forward. They are giving a nod to the HVAC replacement for \$150K, the card access for \$100K and the locker replacement for \$150K which will be Devens funded. CPIC did not recommend the old library roof repair and they asked the fire chief to resubmit the alarm repeater request. Also approved were a new fire engine, the Ayer road construction project, the fire pond work and restoration, a light duty pick up and the Ayer road commercial development project. The funding for these projects needs to be approved by the town and will be on the warrant at town meeting.

SusanMary Redinger - The School Building Committee meets this week. The project is currently on time and on budget. The soil has been sent out for testing, the hope is it will come back as a good quality soil, and will not cost more money than is budgeted for export. Building project expenses related to COVID-19 were submitted to the town's FEMA grant for payment/reimbursement consideration. We have not received any news yet if the expenses have been approved.

Public Commentary

Marty Green- FY22 budget narrative question.

School Committee Commentary

Abby Besse -thanked the budget subcommittee – the budget process has been so clear and so transparent. She appreciates the hard work on everyone's part and appreciates that the budget prioritizing student learning while keeping the resources of our town in sight.

SusanMary Redinger - Wished everyone a happy holiday. Enjoy the break. Hoping it is a restful enjoyable time with your families. Appreciate everyone's work and wishes every one of you the very best.

At 9:05 p.m. with no objection SusanMary Redinger adjourned the meeting.

Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga