

School Committee Minutes
Virtual Meeting
August 17, 2020

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

Others in attendance Scott Hoffman, Josh Myler and Aziz Aghayev.

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

Abby Besse 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 Comment:

None

Superintendent Update

Dr. Dwight reported that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Teacher's Association that compensates teachers to teach an extra section for the school year to bring down class sizes was approved by the HTA and will be presented to SusanMary Redinger and Melissa Niland for signature.

HPS Re-Entry Plan Update (Vote)

Dr. Dwight presented four proposed changes to the Bromfield Re-Entry plan.

1. Plan to open in hybrid 1A for the first 2 weeks with the potential to stay in 1A long term.
2. Change the in-person learning cohorts to Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday to ensure that both groups are at the same point in the curriculum when they meet remotely on Wednesdays.
3. Change the time of the afternoon remote classes to 1:40 – 2:10 p.m. and 2:15 – 2:45 p.m. to give families who have students at both HES and TBS more time to arrive at home and join their remote classes following the HES dismissal.

Suzanne Allen made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the plan to change the student cohorts to Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday as presented.

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

2020-2021 Calendar Adjustment; Vote

Dr. Dwight explained that the administration would like to make a change to the district calendar for Bromfield. Instead of starting on Tuesday, September 8th and only seeing .5 of the students before seeing them all remotely on Wednesday, September 9th. We would like to propose starting the Bromfield students remotely on Wednesday, September 9th present changes to the school calendar to allows students to start remotely on the same day. To do this, the Professional development day set for May 14 would move to September 8th for TBS and stay on May 14th for HES.

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve the calendar changes as presented.

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

Remote Plan Update

Dr. Dwight shared updated data of students that will be learning in the hybrid and remote models. Dr. Dwight met to collaborate with the Remote Advisory group. Dr. Dwight was able to assure the advisory group that the remote teaching assistant will be a school employee that knows the curriculum and the system. The HTA will be meeting tomorrow to talk more about the remote plan. Dr. Dwight is excited that the advisory group wants to stay connected for the long term. Data has been collected that will be used to help identify and provide support to students who may be disengaged. The next steps are to send out a survey to families. Our next meeting is Friday.

Policy Update

The Committee reviewed the changes being proposed to policy file EBCFA: Masks and policy file E-TBD Learning Model Decision Points.

Shannon Molloy made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to approve the mask policy, file EBCFA as amended.

Vote: Allen (Abstain), Besse (Aye), Cronin (Aye), Molloy (Aye), Redinger (Aye)

Sharlene Cronin made the motion and Shannon Molloy seconded to approve policy file E-TBD Learning Model Decision Points as amended.

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

Minutes

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the minutes of the August 10th meeting as amended.

Public Commentary

None

SC Commentary

Suzanne Allen – would like us to present to families what a day would look like for a student in the remote and hybrid learning models. We need to be sure the to communicate to students and families how the cohort works. Thank you to everyone for all of your work.

Sharlene Cronin– would like to have an agenda item to discuss BOH decision rubric and possibly invite a member of the BOH to our meeting to talk about testing updates, tracing etc. We will need an update on budget spread sheet with a list of items ordered and received included in the detail.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked everyone for their time, energy and commitment to your job on this Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga

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