

School Committee Meeting
November 22, 2021
Town Hall/Zoom

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

In attendance: Suzanne Allen, Abby Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Shannon Molloy and SusanMary Redinger.

Others in Attendance: Dr. Linda Dwight, Ingrid Nilsson, Scott Hoffman, Robin Benoit, Josh Myler, Melissa Niland, Patrick Harrigan, Chris Boyle Jen Sauter, Kevin Mitrano, Olivia Ren.

Olivia Ren read the Vision Statement.

No Public Comment.

Student Report

Olivia Ren reported that the Bromfield School students received their first quarter report cards last Tuesday and parents are attending parent teacher conference today and tomorrow.

*The Quiz team qualified and will be performing on television. There are plans for a community event next year.

*Bromfield Cares is collecting gifts via the giving tree.

*The Coffee House took place last Thursday.

*Drama performed Murder on the Orient Express and the show went very well with many people attending

*The Boys Soccer team won the Division 5 state finals.

*The Girls Soccer team did very well and reached the quarter final rounds

*Boys Cross Country came in 5th place in the state meet.

*Girls Cross Country came in 13th place in the state meet.

Superintendent Update

Attached

HCTV Project Presentation

Britney and Hristina from HCTV shared a presentation on the programs and supports they have provided to the district.

The value their work with Harvard Public Schools and look forward to a continued partnership. They look forward to being a resource for all teachers.

FY23 Budget Review

Dr. Dwight and Ingrid Nilsson presented the FY23 budget. Ingrid Nilsson explained the changes as a result of COVID from the FY21 to the FY23 budget. The FY23 budget has an increase of \$945,121 from FY22. The offsets are similar to FY22 from but don't include the Devens offset

used in FY22 to gap the budget increase and fund the COLAs. Ms. Nilsson shared the FY23 significant budget impacts that results in the increase which includes teacher column moves and steps, additional staffing, increase bus costs, new text books, fewer Devens offset and more revolving/circuit breaker offset.

Central Office – Discussed the addition of the Director of Instructional Design Position. The School Committee is in favor of this position for the district.

Facilities – Added a custodian that will be funded by a grant. Added \$5,000 to resurface the tennis and basketball court. HVAC replacement units are being requested through the Capital budget.

Hildreth Elementary School – Added a Kindergarten teacher due to class size. Added staff to help with COVID distancing and other needs due to COVID. Added an Enrichment tutor to meet a broader range of student needs. Added bus monitors to help students keep masks on and it benefits safety and behavior issues.

The Bromfield School – Added an English, Science and Wellness teacher due to need. Planning to purchase a new math curriculum.

Pupil Services – Added learning assistants, out of district placements costs increased.

Technology- Increased a technology support person to assist with lunch/recess and bus monitoring which is offset by the ESSER grant. Adding a MacBook cart, increase to the antivirus software. Chris Boyle explained the technology lease program and related costs.

School Lunch – Budget built on the premise that lunch will be free again next year. We are projecting a loss for FY23 budget.

Athletics – Coaching salaries have not increased. No cost listed to rent fields at Devens. Unsure of bus increase. Is there a place for intramural sports which could be a part of Parks & Rec and Community Education and Recreation? Booster policy needs to be looked at.

Community Education and Recreation – Assumes half of the director salary being paid by Parks and Rec.

Discussion around how we can use the Devens fund to fund the deficit or cut things that we can do without. We will need to be prepared on December 6th to be able to vote for an approved budget. SusanMary Redinger has a meeting set up with Finance Committee and Select board to work together moving forward.

Grant Approval

The Harvard Schools Trust submitted the following grants in October and November for approval:

Sports Reporting Workshop - \$500

Bromfield Flag Display - \$2,250

4th Grade Steam Club - \$360

Weather Bug - \$3,195

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the grants as presented.

The Harvard PTO presented two grants for approval to HES:
Installation of Earth Networks Weather Station package - \$2,250
Two Discovery Museum Traveling Workshops (Force/Motion) for kindergarten - \$1,558

With no objections SusanMary Redinger approved the grants as presented.

The Harvard PTO presented the following grants for approval to TBS:
Parent Teacher Conference Scheduling Software - \$800
Replace 4 basketball rim in the gym - \$700

With no objection SusanMary Redinger approved the grants as presented.

Future Meeting Dates

December 6th

December 13th – Budget Vote

Agenda Items

Budget

SEPAC

DEI

Technology Software

Facilities

Minutes

With no objection, SusanMary Redinger considered the minutes of the November 8, 2021 approved as amended.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Sharlene Cronin – nothing to report

Suzanne Allen – nothing to report

Shannon Molloy – reported that the STSS meeting was cancelled.

Shannon Molloy reported that our in-district testing advisory met.

Shannon Molloy reported that SEPAC met and are planning upcoming workshops. SEPAC is also planning an adaptive basketball program that will start January 9th. Enrollment for that program is starting now.

Abby Besse reported that HES School Council met and they are finalizing the student survey. School Council is mindful of consumption and the logistics on how to reduce waste.

They plan to send out a family survey on the topic. There has been discussion on raising money to start using a zero-waste box program from Teracycle.

SusanMary Redinger reported that CPIC will be meeting next on December 1st.

SusanMary Redinger reported that there is not much left to be done on the Building Committee project. The playground is very close to being finished. SusanMary Redinger thanked everyone for coming to the Dedication Ceremony on November 14th.

Public Commentary - None

School Committee commentary - None

Executive Session

SusanMary Redinger made the motion and Abby Besse seconded to move into executive session for the purpose of: MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(a), #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HTA because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or position of the school committee.

MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(a), #2: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Superintendent Dr. Linda Dwight);

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Zadroga