

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
July 25, 2022
6:15 PM

Members attending: Abigail Besse, Shannon Molloy, SusanMary Redinger, Suzanne Allen, Sharlene Cronin, and Linda Dwight.

Others in attendance: Ingrid Nilsson, Robin Benoit, and Caitlin Lelievre.

Abigail Besse called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary:

None

Superintendent Update:

Dr. Dwight presented her submitted report as follows:

- Principal On-Boarding: Dr. Dwight discussed four new principals and their transition to the District. They have been meeting with teachers, staff, and leaders to learn more about the schools.
- English Language Arts Specialist Interview Process: Dr. Dwight indicated that a team of teachers and leaders have participated in the interview process and they should be ready to announce the new person soon.
- Before and After School Program: After seeking quotes from different vendors, the District has decided to go with Alpha Best for this service to families. The cost will be similar to the District's own program. The coordination of payments, employee training, scheduling, and hiring will all be managed by Alpha Best.
- Bus Contract Signed: Dee Bus Company will provide transportation services to the District for the next three years. The possibility of electric buses, consolidated bus stops, and an additional Devens bus will be explored.

Superintendent Review Planning:

Dr. Dwight will share all relevant information with the Committee. Ms. Besse asked that all members complete their review by the August 22nd meeting but indicated that they would not review everything publicly until the September 12th meeting.

TBS Middle School Math Update:

Dr. Dwight introduced Ms. Robin Benoit, Director of Instructional Design, to discuss the middle school math textbook adoption process. She discussed the team members who were involved, the timeline, and the priorities for selecting a middle school math textbook.

She then discussed the reasoning for selecting Into Math which include strong independent reviews, alignment to the MA Mathematics Frameworks, robust teacher resources, student centered approach that supports a growth mindset, support for all learners, flexibility to customize materials, and student accessibility and Google Classroom integration. Committee members were then given an opportunity to ask questions.

Strategic Plan Final Review (VOTE):

Ms. Besse presented the proposed District vision statement to the Committee and asked for feedback. Members discussed the proposed statement and suggested edits.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised vision statement as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

Furniture Approval:

Dr. Dwight presented a spreadsheet with final furniture requests that were not captured in the first purchase. This will come out of the building project money and Dr. Dwight thanked the Committee for their approval. She also indicated that the District is still well under budget for that project.

Policy Review:

Ms. Allen presented the proposed changes to policies: JII, JIH, JJA, JLCC, EBCFA, EBCFAA, IJOC, Responding to Suspected or Known COVID-19 Cases, and Spacing Between Students. Committee members discussed the changes and decided to vote on the policies individually.

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JII as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Redinger Second: Ms. Cronin Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JIH as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Cronin Second: Ms. Allen Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JJA as amended. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JLCC as amended. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Redinger Second: Ms. Allen Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to rescind policy EBCFA. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 5-1 with Ms. Cronin voting nay.

Move: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to rescind policy EBCFAA. The motion was approved by a roll call vote of 3-2 with Ms. Cronin and Ms. Malloy voting nay.

Move: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy IJOC as amended. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Redinger Second: Ms. Allen Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to rescind policy Responding to Suspected or Known COVID-19 Cases with the understanding that these decisions will now be handled by Dr. Dwight and the Leadership Team and that this information to be shared with the community to ensure everyone understands the new protocol. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Move: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

A motion was made and seconded to rescind the policy Spacing Between Students with the understanding that the District will communicate with families about the procedures in place.

The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

Motion: Ms. Allen Second: Ms. Redinger Status: Passed

Softball Field Update:

Ms. Redinger gave an update to the Committee as a representative of the School Building Committee. Ultimately, it was decided that there was no support for the conversion of the field in front of HES to a softball field due to the work that would need to be done and the encroachment of the playground area which is used daily. She indicated that the Committee is still committed to addressing this issue.

Dr. Dwight pointed out that these young women felt empowered to advocate for themselves to enact change and that they should be celebrated for that. She expects to provide a more itemized/detailed report that outlines other areas of improvement after working with the Athletic Director and Coach for the next Committee meeting.

Grant Approval:

None.

Future Meeting Dates:

The School Committee Retreat is taking place at 6 PM in the Bromfield Library on July 28th.

The upcoming regular School Committee meetings are scheduled for August 22nd, September 12th, and September 26th.

Future Agenda Items:

Future agenda items include handbook approval, DEI statement review, list of grants and gifts from the PTO and Harvard Schools Trust, Bromfield curriculum changes, policy review, year-end financial closeout, new member handbook review, athletics funding, and COVID plans.

Minutes:

Without objection, Ms. Besse approved the minutes of May 23, 2022.

Without objection, Ms. Besse approved the minutes of June 13, 2022.

School Committee Liaison and Sub-Committee Reports:

Ms. Cronin had nothing left to report, but did mention scheduling a Budget Subcommittee meeting in the upcoming weeks.

Ms. Allen already covered policy and Bromfield School Council had a meeting towards the end of the school year which consisted of handing off responsibilities to the new principals, Stephen Greene and Kim Murphy and discussing the strategic plan.

Ms. Malloy mentioned that two warrants had come in since the last meeting and they are in the folder.

Ms. Besse indicated that everything that she's been working on has already been reported on as well.

Public Commentary:

None.

School Committee Commentary:

Ms. Redinger commended Ms. Besse on her first School Committee meeting as Chair.

Ms. Cronin extended her welcome to Ms. Lelievre, the new Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent.

Adjourn:

With no objection, Ms. Besse adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.