

School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
August 22, 2022  
6:15 PM

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

Others in attendance from the district: Ingrid Nilsson, Stephen Greene, Kim Murphy, Rebecca Katsh-Singer, Marisa Khurana, and Caitlin Lelievre.

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

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement.

**Public Commentary:**

Rachel Kopay, Littleton County Road, spoke and wished everyone a great start to the new school year.

**Superintendent Update:**

Dr. Dwight presented her submitted report as follows:

- Leadership Retreat Summary: The District Leaders met in early August to prepare for the upcoming school year. Leaders spent time discussing the District Improvement Plan and reviewing the teacher evaluation process.
- Lunch Planning: Students in the District will have free lunch again for this school year.
- Middle School Ramp Update: After a year and a half, the middle school ramp is almost complete. The new ramp features a sitting bench, composite material decking, metal mesh sides, and light poles for decorative lighting.
- Parent Forum: A forum scheduled for August 24, 2022 will allow families to virtually meet the new principals, review the COVID protocols, and see the new vision and core value statements. It will be recorded for families who are unable to attend.

**Handbook Approvals:**

Ms. Katsh-Singer, Principal, discussed the changes made to the handbook for Hildreth Elementary School. Most of the updates were minor language changes and some of the other

updates were based on feedback from staff about streamlining certain processes. School Committee members provided their feedback.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the HES Handbook as amended. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Ms. Murphy and Mr. Greene, Principals, discussed the changes made to the handbook for The Bromfield School. School Committee members provided their feedback.

A motion was made and seconded to approve The Bromfield School Handbook as amended. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

#### **DEI Statement:**

Dr. Dwight and Ms. Khurana presented a memo outlining the importance of adopting a resolution in support of the District's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. The language for the proposed statement was borrowed from the National School Board Association with some modifications to fit the District. School Committee members provided feedback on some of the language.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution on Equity. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

#### **Year End Financial Closeout:**

Ms. Nilsson shared her prepared presentation with the Committee and reviewed a summary of the FY22 budgets by department, non-general revolving accounts, grants, ESSER II and ESSER III grants, and Devens use. School Committee members had an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Redinger shared that the recording from the Budget Subcommittee is available if any of the members want more details.

### **COVID Readiness Plan:**

Dr. Dwight shared the District's COVID Readiness Plan that was developed by the administration in conjunction with the school nurses and HTA President. This information will be shared with families at the virtual forum that will take place prior to the start of school. While no vote is necessary for this plan, the Committee endorsed it.

### **Softball Facilities Improvements:**

Dr. Dwight reviewed the options to improve the softball facilities and requested that the Committee consider approving the conversion of the Ryan 2 baseball field into a softball field as well as the proposed changes to the Ryan 2 and Ann Lees fields in advance of the Spring 2023 softball season.

A motion was made and seconded to seek approval from Parks & Recreation to permit the listed modifications and additions to Ann Lee and to permit Ryan 2 field to be converted from a baseball field into a softball field with the listed additions. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

*Move: Ms. Molloy    Second: Ms. Redinger    Status: Passed*

A motion was made and seconded to approve an expenditure of up to \$70,000 to fund all of the listed items. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

*Move: Ms. Molloy    Second: Ms. Redinger    Status: Passed*

### **Personnel .5 ESL Approval:**

Dr. Dwight presented a memo to the Committee which discussed the need to combine the .6 speech pathologist position with the .4 English as a Second Language (ESL) position into one full time opening at TBS. Dr. Dwight suggested that Devens funds be used, if needed, to fund the additional .4 ESL part of the position.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of Devens funds for up to \$50,000 if needed. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

### **Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Items:**

The upcoming School Committee meetings will take place on September 12th and September 26th. Ms. Besse asked the Committee if it would be helpful to put together the dates for the full year as there are occasional Monday holidays that may cause some meeting dates to move. The Committee agreed and will discuss it at the next meeting.

Upcoming agenda items include: voting on the final budget once finalized by the Town, reviewing best practices, receiving an update on the five year capital plan, reviewing the capital process, reviewing the professional development plan, and receiving student advisory council updates. Dr. Dwight also suggested an update on STAAR as well as a summer program recap. She mentioned that Ms. Benoit would be prepared to discuss summer professional development. Ms. Redinger mentioned including the Superintendent Evaluation in an upcoming Executive Session, addressing the School Committee and Superintendent goals, and professional development for Committee members.

### **Minutes:**

Without objection, Ms. Besse approved the minutes of July 25, 2022 as amended.

### **SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports:**

Ms. Cronin mentioned the Budget Subcommittee meeting held earlier this same day and said another was scheduled in two weeks.

Ms. Molloy said that there were two warrants in the folder for review and that the minutes from the School Committee Retreat will be done for the meeting scheduled on September 12th.

### **Public Commentary:**

Gloria Pierce of Stow Road in Harvard said that she was pleased with the focus on equity in the District and that she thinks it should consider adding gender into the DEI statement. She appreciates the efforts being made to improve the girls softball field.

### **School Committee Commentary:**

None

**Executive Session:**

At 8:50 PM, Ms. Besse adjourned the meeting to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HTA because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the School Committee. Members will not return to open session. Members agreed unanimously by roll call vote.