

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
September 12, 2022
6:15 PM

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

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

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

Suzanne Allen read the Vision Statement.

Public Commentary:

None

Superintendent Update:

Dr. Dwight presented her submitted report as follows:

- End of Year Reconciliation: In reviewing the FY22 financials, the auditors found that the approved budget at Town Meeting did not reconcile with all of the department budget documents and as a result, the Committee needs to vote up to \$35,000 from a revolving account to be used as an off-set.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$35,000 from a revolving account towards the additional off-set as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

- Leadership Team Meetings: The Leadership Team has started their bi-weekly meetings with the first agenda including DEI topics of professional development as well as a discussion of the book “Grading for Equity.”
- MA and National Professional Development: Dr. Dwight has been asked to serve on the MASS planning team for forwarding the Racial, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) work and has also joined a cross state initiative named Leading Now. She plans to share resources and learning from this involvement with the Leadership Team.

Senior Class Request for Furniture:

Two students from the senior class, Cecilia Juliano and Siena Stanten, prepared a presentation for the School Committee to request furniture for two designated areas at The Bromfield School as a result of losing the Fishbowl space that had been used by previous senior classes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$43,000 for the use towards furniture in the new senior spaces as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Summer Professional Development Update:

Ms. Benoit, Director of Instructional Design, provided a summary to the Committee of the professional development that took place over the summer. This was specifically for the district-funded teacher self-directed PD and was separate from courses, workshops, or other professional learning that teachers may have taken part in outside of the District.

Superintendent Evaluation Review:

Ms. Besse provided some background on how Superintendents have historically been evaluated and indicated that a new rubric will be used next year that addresses the particular role of the Superintendent with regard to instructional leadership. She then proceeded to walk the Committee through the performance evaluation of Dr. Dwight which included detailed feedback from Committee members. Dr. Dwight received an exemplary rating and thanked everyone for their feedback as it will help her inform how to best move forward.

Best Practices New Member Handbook Review:

Ms. Cronin presented the Communication section of the Best Practices New Member Handbook to the Committee and members provided their feedback.

Goal Setting:

Committee members reviewed the Joint SC/Superintendent Goals with the hope that they can be finalized at the next meeting in advance of the All Boards meeting. Ms. Cronin, Ms. Besse, and Dr. Dwight will get together to discuss Goal 2 and will send the revisions to everyone prior to the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Redinger reviewed the Best Practices Goals and asked members to send her and Ms. Cronin their thoughts and feedback prior to the next meeting.

Policy:

Ms. Allen presented Policy FCB to the Committee which covers the retirement of facilities. The District doesn't currently have this policy but the subcommittee believes it should be adopted. Ms. Redinger performed the first reading and members will come prepared to share their thoughts at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Dates:

Ms. Besse shared the proposed School Committee calendar to members prior to the meeting which maps out the meeting dates for the entire school year. Members discussed some changes due to Monday holidays. Ms. Besse will share the updated calendar.

Agenda Items:

Future agenda items include: policy, finalizing goals, finalizing the budget, commenting on the district improvement plan draft, the new evaluation rubric for the Superintendent goals, Bromfield needs, a deep dive into the Devens fund, and a STAAR program update. Ms. Besse asked members to send her any additions.

Minutes:

Without objection, Ms. Besse approved the minutes of August 22, 2022 as presented.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports:

Ms. Cronin discussed the upcoming Best Practices Subcommittee meeting and the most recent Budget Subcommittee meeting. She also went to a goal setting conversation that was hosted by MASC and will share the slide deck with the other Committee members.

Ms. Molloy said there are two warrants in the folder and indicated that she would be seeing the State Representatives this weekend in case any other members had something they wanted her to ask them about.

Ms. Redinger has been working with Dr. Dwight, Ms. Nilsson, and Patrick Harrigan - Director of Facilities - on the RFP for the stonewall. She said she will share the responses as they start getting them back.

Ms. Allen said the policy discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Ms. Besse said the Parks & Recreation Department approved the request to modify the Ryan 2 and Ann Lees fields.

Public Commentary:

None.

School Committee Commentary:

None.

Executive Session:

At 8:55 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.