

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
September 26, 2022
6:15 PM

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

Others in attendance: Linda Dwight and Karen Shuttle

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

Executive Session

At 6:16 PM a unanimous roll call vote was taken to enter into 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.

The School Committee reconvened in public session at 6:47 PM.

SusanMary Redinger read the Vision Statement

Public Commentary:

None

Summer Services Report:

Request to change agenda order, move item number 8, Summer Services report to the first item to report on the agenda. Request was accepted.

Ms. Benoit, Director of Instructional Design, and Ms. Toth, Director of Pupil Services, shared with the Committee all the different programs that were provided to students over the summer through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education summer grant program.

Ms. Allen expressed her appreciation for all the work accomplished and is looking forward to having middle and high school students engaged in the programs next summer. Very proud of the work involved.

Ms. Molloy commented it's good to know we could reach so many students. Ms. Molloy asked what measures, if any, might be in place to help us better understand the impact of these programs on the students.

Capital Plan Review:

Ms. Cronin gave a detailed overview of the FY24 - 5 year plan for CPIC, the Capital Planning and Investment Committee. Ms. Cronin and Dr. Dwight shared the details of what's new and changes that have been made in the 5 year large capital (over \$500K) and small capital (under \$500K) plans answering questions and concerns that arose by the Committee as each section was discussed and reviewed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Capital Plan. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Dr. Dwight requested a late last minute addition to the Capital Plan of a continuation from last year's plan regarding reserved funds for a fields complex. The Parks & Recreation Department and Open Space Committee are asking CPIC to set aside \$500K for FY24 and another \$500K for FY25 to add fields to the towns plan for a field complex. This request to CPIC may require one more vote from the School Committee.

A motion was made and seconded in support for the CPIC application and acquisition as presented. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Superintendent Update:

Dr. Dwight presented her submitted report as follows:

- Congratulations to the eleven new Eagle Scouts who were recognized in the Court of Honor held at the Unitarian Church Saturday, September 24th. It was so nice to see so many Harvard teachers, leaders and coaches in attendance to help congratulate them.
- CASE Board 1st Meeting of the new school year took place Friday, September 23. They reviewed the many tasks that lie ahead which also includes contract negotiations with teachers and support staff. CASE expressed the struggles they are experiencing hiring staff and drivers. The students are enjoying the new playground which was added to the Colebrook site which also includes equipment which has wheelchair accessibility.

- Nature's Classroom: The fifth graders had a wonderful week at Nature's Classroom! With the help of many teachers, staff and parents the students had an amazing adventure and experience through joy and dynamic learning. Thanks to everyone who gave so much of their time to make this possible!
- Leadership Network: Dr. Dwight attended a two-day conference in Boston with other superintendents and school leaders from around the country. They discussed many common beliefs, different aspects of education and shared district visions. It was a great experience to come together in leadership and plans are to continue sharing throughout the year virtually.

District Improvement Plan (draft):

Dr. Dwight acknowledged all the work that has led up to this particular draft. Dr. Dwight was considering an advisory group which would include several School Committee members to give input on the goals, measures and actions of the current draft plan.

Ms. Besse and Ms. Allen agreed to be the Advisory from the School Committee.

Dr. Dwight reviewed and discussed each Core Value, the goals, measures/actions year 1.

Dr. Dwight reminded the Committee that the District Improvement Plan is a flexible and continuous working plan.

Ms. Dwight was hoping for feedback on the draft before the next meeting on Monday, October 17th.

Finalize SC/Superintendent's Joint Goals:

Ms. Besse reviewed with the Committee the edits of the Joint Goals as follows:

- Goal 1: Future Space Needs Consideration: there were no changes/edits made
- Goal 2: Fields Improvement: School Committee reviewed and made various edits from the feedback regarding Outcomes and Measures for 2023.
- Goal 3: Negotiate a Three Year Contract: there were no changes/edits made

A motion was made and seconded to approve the SC/Superintendent Joint Goals. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Policy Review:

Ms. Allen began with the Policy Review Schedule. She shared the changes that needed to be made to update the schedule and to review and complete various sections.

Ms. Redinger reviewed Policy FA, Facilities Developmental Goals.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Policy FA as amended. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Redinger reviewed Policy FB and recommended that Policy FB be rescinded as MASC no longer has this policy. It is no longer consistent with MA General Laws.

A motion was made and seconded to rescind Policy FB, Facilities Planning. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Redinger reviewed and amendments were made to Policy FCB, Retirement of Facilities.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Policy FBC as amended. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Redinger did the first read of FF: Naming New Facilities, in hopes of adopting the policy. Questions and or suggestions will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Ms. Redinger: first read of FFA, Memorials. The committee will bring FFA back for discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Allen reviewed policy JJE.

A motion was made and seconded to accept MASC's version of Policy JJE as presented. The motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Ms. Allen reviewed policy JJG, Contest for Students, recommending no action be taken.

Ms. Allen reviewed policy JJH, Student Travels.

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JJH as presented. Motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

All Boards Meeting, talking points:

Ms. Besse asked the Committee if they had any comments, recommendations, or concerns with the joint goals to be presented at the virtual All Boards meeting on Wednesday, October 5th at 7 p.m. Ms. Besse did request to have the budget overview removed. There were no objections.

Bromfield House Land Disposition Discussion:

Ms. Besse opened discussion regarding the Warrant Article #7 with regards to Harvard Historic Commission adding The Bromfield House including the parcel of land, 1.9 acres, to the historical district. After lengthy discussion the Committee agreed that they need more time to study the situation and shouldn't be hasty in the decision at this time. More time is needed to decide on what to do with the Bromfield House. All in attendance agreed to vote NO on Warrant Article #7. Ms. Besse agreed to send a letter to the Select Board and make them aware of their concerns. Ms. Besse also agreed to represent the Committee's vote at the Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded that the School Committee is not in favor of the Bromfield House being placed on the Historical District and that the Chair is authorized to send a letter to the Select Board to that effect.

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

Club & Grant Approvals:

Dr. Dwight requested that a stipend be added to HTA for the Husky Headlines Advisor in the amount of \$1,020.00

A motion was made and seconded to approve funding for the Husky Headlines. Motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Dr. Dwight presented the Harvard Schools Trust grants for Hildreth Elementary and the Bromfield School.

A motion was made and seconded to approve this grant from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented. Motion was passed by roll call vote.

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

Future Meeting Dates:

The meeting taking place on Monday, October 17, 2022, will be in person at the Town Hall.

Agenda Items:

Future agenda items include: policy, bring back District Improvement Plan after advisory has met about it, working on the Student Advisory Counsel, STARR Program update, Best Practices/Handbook, review last year's survey on Youth At Risk, updating enrollment projections and possibly executive session. Committee members will email Ms. Besse if they have any additions.

Minutes:

Ms. Allen noted that under the Superintendent Evaluation, it should indicate that Dr. Dwight received an exemplary rating.

School Committee Liaison & Subcommittee Reports:

Ms. Molloy: attended DEI meeting and will discuss it at a later time. SEPAC met and Ms. Molloy shared about the Adaptive Skateboarding and Soccer as well as the surveys that will be available soon. The Fall Social will be held on October 19th, at Friendly Crossways.

Ms. Redinger: HEAC met with the Select Board. Ms. Redinger was unable to attend. They are working on electrifying the vehicle fleet for the town and looking at adding chargers possibly at HES as well as TBS. They don't have any action steps to take from what they were proposing for the climate action plan. The Revenue Ideation Committee met this week

to finalize the report. She will circulate to the Committee once she has the draft. The Building Committee met and we do not yet have a response on the RFP but we explained we had put it out for the wall to go along Mass Avenue and wrote the RFP to include a request for a design as well that should complement the wall across the street and be consistent with it being in a historical district.

Ms. Allen: Not much of an update. Bromfield School Counsel, Wellness Committee and Transportation Advisory have not met yet but I do have a request, I am not able to do TBS School Counsel. I need to hand this off to someone. After some discussion with the Committee Ms. Besse indicated she would take it on. Ms. Redinger will be the backup if there should be a conflict.

Ms. Besse reported the athletic working group for improving Ann Lees Field and converting Ryan Land met and went through the list of items to delegate. Mr. Harrigan is getting quotes and Mr. Boisvert is working on equipment purchasing. It was a very productive meeting. There was discussion about moving sheds from one place to another but is just in conversation at this time. Scoreboard was discussed and the general feeling is it is not needed. Too many questions regarding the scoreboards not working and so forth but still in conversation. Things are in motion to get these things done on time and on budget.

Public Commentary:

Ms. Kopay of Littleton County Road shared positive comments for the School Committee:

1. Those are awesome Harvard School Trust Grants! Thank you to the Harvard Schools Trust! I love seeing creative options for the kids.
2. Loved hearing the SEPAC updates as well. It is important work for our students in the community.
3. Also with the meetings moving in person I would like to request that they still be available on zoom if possible because it's still so great to follow along even when we can't make the meeting, one of those few silver linings that have come out of the pandemic is the ability to be more engaged.
4. To my main reason, The District Improvement Plan Draft, it was excellent! I would love to see how the type of goals especially with the leadership changes I just wanted to recognize that work being done even though it's been very challenging it must be with all those leadership changes at the schools. Great presentation really helpful for understanding. One point that really resonated with the work on executive functioning skills that moving into the middle school as a former university academic advisor I've seen how critical these skills are especially making that transition into adulthood successfully and it's not about academic intelligence. It's not even about the many kinds of intelligence that we talk about it's a very specific kind of skill that needs to

be built. As a parent and a coach I'm also seeing how important this is to develop these skills very early on and I know that a lot of these skills are taught to our son in a developmental appropriate way at Hildreth. It may be useful to intentionally if possibly intentionally tie that work into the programs at the middle and high school as a consistent and contiguous program if that makes sense. I just wanted to recognize how early that works needs to start and how important that is. So thank you and congratulations for calling out that work and I'd even like to see it go further. Ms. Besse assured Ms. Kopay that a zoom link would be made available.

School Committee Commentary:

Ms. Molloy thought the Executive Session at the front end worked well for her and would love to do that again.

Meeting adjourned.