

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Hybrid Meeting
Harvard Town Hall and Remote via Zoom
October 17, 2022
6:15 PM

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

Others in attendance: Linda Dwight and Caitlin Lelievre

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

Executive Session:

At 6:15 PM, members entered into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HTA because an open meeting may have detrimental effects on the bargaining position of the School Committee. Members will return to open session. Members agreed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Members returned to open session at 7:03 PM.

Vision Statement:

Ms. Cronin read the vision statement.

Public Commentary:

Paul Green expressed some concern about not being able to hear all of the members. Adjustments were made to enhance the audio quality.

Superintendent Update:

Dr. Dwight presented her submitted report as follows:

- Congratulations to our High School Musicians!: The high school students held their first concert of the season led by the TBS music department of Craig, Andrew, Nik, and volunteer Dave.
- MCAS Scores Released and Analyzed: MCAS scores for the District have been released along with data from the state. Teachers will use this information to adjust their

instruction and meet students' needs. Parent copies will be mailed out the week of October 17th.

- Response to the OCR Complaint: Dr. Dwight, Jenn Toth, and Dave Boisvert gathered the data that was requested by the Office of Civil Rights and shared it with the Committee.
- Budget Process Begins: Ingrid Nilsson has met with the Leadership Team and the Teacher Leaders in a series of meetings to review the budget process. The Budget Subcommittee will review the results of the budget process and all Committee members are invited to attend. The dates reserved for the public meetings are November 3rd, 9th, and 10th.
- District Improvement Plan (DIP): Dr. Dwight, Ms. Besse, and Ms. Allen met to review the DIP and the proposed changes were presented to the Committee. The HES, TBS Middle School, and TBS High School will bring their School Improvement Plans to the School Councils and then to the School Committee for approval.

STAAR Program Update:

Dr. Dwight introduced Christine Reale, School Counselor and STAAR Program Coordinator, who presented to the Committee in order to give them some insight into the success of the STAAR (Student Transitional Assistance and Academic Reengagement) Program. Ms. Reale provided current data, ways students use the program, and student and parent feedback. Committee members asked questions about ways they can support the needs of the program moving forward.

Student Update:

Nina Iverson provided an update on Fall athletics and shared that the Homecoming dance is being organized by the Junior class and will take place the week of October 24th in conjunction with Spirit Week.

Best Practices Handbook Review:

Ms. Cronin presented the Special Education, Devens, Community Partners, and the Harvard School Committee Important History sections of the Best Practices New Member Handbook to the Committee and members provided their feedback.

Enrollment Projections:

Ms. Redinger shared an Enrollment Projections spreadsheet with the Committee which uses the number of year-to-date births in Harvard to see potential future enrollment trends in the District.

Members discussed the ways they may be able to improve the accuracy of these projections moving forward.

Policy:

Ms. Allen presented the proposed changes to policies: FF, FFA, JJIF and JK. Committee members decided to vote on the policies individually.

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

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

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy FFA as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JJIF as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy JK as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

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

Future Meeting Dates:

The next School Committee meeting will be held remotely on October 24, 2022.

Agenda Items:

Future agenda items include: district improvement plan, youth risk survey, student advisory council, best practices, and Executive Session. Ms. Besse asked members to send her any additions.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports:

Ms. Cronin shared an updated CPIC review schedule and indicated that the date for the schools discussion will be December 15th. The Finance Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19th and will review the budget memo, revenue report, and budget assumptions.

Ms. Molloy put a warrant in the folder and said that a DEI meeting was originally scheduled for this week, but it was canceled. Additionally, there is a SEPAC social on Wednesday, October 19th.

Ms. Redinger discussed DEAC and a presentation that was given to the Board of Mass Development. She also mentioned the recent HEAC meeting and their discussion regarding National Grid. Bromfield Student Council met and Ms. Redinger commented on how great it was to work with Ms. Murphy and Mr. Greene as they navigated their first council meeting. Ms. Redinger also shared that the School Building Committee posted about the Story of a Building which took place on October 13th. The Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee is hosting a public forum at HES on October 19th which will be recorded.

Ms. Allen shared that the Wellness Committee hasn't met yet but they hope to get something scheduled soon. Additionally, she had a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting and discussed the resurfacing of Ayer Road. Ms. Allen also let Committee members know that an application has been submitted for a new badminton facility on Ayer road.

Ms. Besse shared that the HES school council elected new parent co-chairs as well as a secretary. She commented that the new vision statement is already being used to guide professional development in the schools. Ms. Besse also had an update on the athletic fields and shared that a bid went out again after the first one came back too high and one came back that is within budget and is someone the District has worked with in the past. She will keep the Committee updated on this as well as the status of the sheds at the fields.

Public Commentary:

Paul Green asked that the meeting packets be shared with his wife, Marty Green.

School Committee Commentary:

Members agreed that it was nice to be back in person and Ms. Besse said she liked having Executive Session first.

Adjourn:

With no objection, Ms. Besse adjourned the meeting at 8:48 PM.