

School Committee Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
October 24, 2022
6:15 PM

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

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

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

Executive Session:

At 6:15 PM, a motion was made and seconded to enter 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 agreed unanimously by a roll call vote and will return to open session.

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

Members returned to open session at 6:47 PM.

Vision Statement:

Asha Khurana, Bromfield student, read the vision statement.

Public Commentary:

None.

Student Update:

Asha Khurana said Spirit Week kicked off the week of October 24th with the homecoming dance finishing out the week on Friday, October 28th. The boys and girls cross country teams are both the league champions and the Bromfield Acton Boxborough Rowing team participated in the Head of the Charles 2022. Henry Wacek discussed the upcoming Halloween celebrations and shared that school photos were just released.

Youth at Risk Survey Review:

Stephanie Gonthier, President of Market Street Research, shared some of the results of the Youth at Risk Survey in a presentation to Committee members. Drew Skrocki, TBS School Counselor, was also available to answer questions about how the test was administered and how the results can be used to address some of the more concerning areas of the survey. Committee members expressed concern about waiting two more years for the next survey results, but Mr. Skrocki said the two year window in between surveys allows districts enough time to put interventions in place to mitigate some of the findings from the prior survey.

Field Trip Approval:

Bryce Mattie-Brown, TBS Social Studies Department Leader, introduced five students (Sophia Atwell, Sahara Suliman, Asha Khurana, Finn Hobart, and Sawyer Madison) to request approval from the Committee to attend the Harvard Model UN (HMUN) Annual Session. Students discussed the goals of the event and the opportunities it will provide to students who attend. They have also been able to offset some of the cost associated with attending through fundraising efforts.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the District's Model UN group to attend HMUN. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Julie Horton, TBS Dean of Students and Math Teacher, was present to request Committee approval to reinstate the 9th grade field trip to Washington, DC which has been on hiatus due to COVID-19. She shared a brief outline of the trip.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 9th grade field trip to Washington DC with the understanding that Dr. Dwight will share the final itinerary of the trip with the Committee. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Superintendent Update:

- Nutrition Services Updates: Eleni Burns, Director of Nutrition Services, is attending the annual fall conference organized by The School Nutrition Association of Massachusetts on October 25th and 26th. Conference topics include: scratch cooking, climate friendly menus, school gardens, and farm to school salad bars. Ms. Burns has also hired more help in the kitchen which has created the capacity for more scratch cooking at both schools.

- Community Events: The PTO hosted a meeting for families to meet the HES principals and tour the new school. They are hosting a similar event for TBS on November 10th from 6-7:30 PM.
- Budget Process Update: The District continues to make progress on budget development. Budget Subcommittee hearings will be taking place on November 3rd, 9th, and 10th.
- Technology Advisory: On the recommendation of a community member, Nate Finch, a district technology advisory group is being developed. The purpose of the group will be to better connect the District with professionals in the community and to hear more about parents' experiences and wishes for their students as they prepare for the future and use technology as a learning tool. The group will consist of between five and eight members. Dr. Dwight said they would be happy to have a Committee member join as well.

District Improvement Plan:

Dr. Dwight and the Committee members reviewed edits and suggestions made to the District Improvement Plan. Dr. Dwight reiterated that this is a living document and will continue to be updated occasionally as necessary.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the District Strategic Plan as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Best Practices:

Ms. Cronin discussed efforts being made on the School Committee self-evaluation. They have been trying to condense the questions while keeping the same intentions.

SAC Question Brainstorming and Meeting Schedule:

Committee members discussed possible dates for the meeting with the Student Advisory Council. Ms. Besse asked members to send her any questions they would like to have included in this meeting.

Grant/Club Approval:

There were three grants presented to the Committee from the Harvard Schools Trust. This included a Museum of Science field trip, an Afro-Caribbean Music Workshop, and GaGa balls and basketballs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the grants from the Harvard Schools Trust as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Future Meeting Dates:

Future meetings include November 14th and November 28th. The meeting on November 14th will take place in person.

Agenda Items:

Upcoming agenda items include: MCAS scores report, budget, policy, school improvement plans, update on Title IX, and a review of the superintendent rubric. Additionally, Ms. Redinger will keep Ms. Besse posted on whether or not an Executive Session will be needed to discuss negotiations.

Minutes:

Ms. Besse approved the October 17th meeting minutes as presented with no objections.

Ms. Besse approved the September 26th meeting minutes as amended with no objections.

SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports:

Ms. Cronin said the Best Practices Subcommittee will meet again on October 28th and that the Budget Subcommittee discussed the upcoming schedule of budget hearings. Additionally, she discussed the recent CPIC meeting.

Ms. Redinger shared an update from the recent presentation from HDJC and indicated there were a good number of attendees between Zoom and in-person. She also shared that the School Building Committee will go before the Historical Commission to show the plans for building the wall along Massachusetts Avenue.

Ms. Allen did not have anything to report herself, but thanked Ms. Redinger for representing the Committee at HDJC and Ms. Cronin for representing the Committee at FinComm.

Ms. Molloy shared that the SEPAC social happened the week prior and it was a great success. It gave families the opportunity to connect.

Ms. Besse said that the work with Ann Lees was contracted with Three Seasons and will start this week with plans to work through December. There has not been progress on the sheds yet.

Public Commentary:

None.

School Committee Commentary:

Dr. Dwight reminded everyone that on October 25th, TBS will be hosting a flu clinic from 3-6 PM.

Adjourn:

With no objection, Ms. Besse adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.