

School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
February 6, 2023  
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 6:16 PM.

**Vision Statement:**

Ms. Cronin read the vision statement.

**Student Update:**

Tegan Allen reported that the jazz concert held the previous week was a big success. Additionally, the second quarter just ended at TBS and the first middle school dance after a three year hiatus is being held on February 10th. Asha Khurana reported that there is a shoe drive happening at TBS right now and that the covid scare after the Model UN conference seems to be under control.

**Public Commentary:**

None.

**Superintendent Update:**

Dr. Dwight shared her submitted report as follows:

- Title IX Proposal: Peg Pennepacker of High School Title IX Consulting Services will review data, survey athletes and coaches, interview stakeholders, inspect facilities, and more as she performs a thorough review of the District's athletic programs.
- ADA Compliance Report: The Commission on Disabilities (CoD) contracted with the Center for Living and Work to update the Town's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. Dr. Dwight will work with Patrick Harrigan, Facilities Director, to review the content of the report and begin the work for improvements.

- Piloting Elementary Math Programs: Teachers plan to use the early release day on February 8th to collaborate and plan the piloting of three math series under consideration for use in the elementary school.
- Graphic Design: The District recently unveiled the new visual for the vision statement and core values on the website. This work was done with David Gerratt.
- CPIC Questions: Thanks to Ingrid Nilsson, Sharlene Cronin, Patrick Harrigan, and others for their diligence in answering the questions posed by the CPIC members on the District's capital improvement submissions.

**Update on the Student Trip to New Orleans:**

Ms. Kimberley Murphy shared that they are working to ensure as safe of a trip as possible to keep the schools and community safe. A covid protocol was developed for this specific trip which Ms. Murphy shared with Committee members. Ms. Patricia Nilan also shared an itinerary of the trip which included details on accommodations, meal planning, and service projects. Ms. Colleen Nigzus said that this protocol will also be used for the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C.

**Mid-Year Financial Report:**

Ms. Nilsson presented a financial overview of the current School Department accounts and projections through the end of the fiscal year. She displayed the budget by the DESE function codes as well as the cost center/school based view the Committee is accustomed to seeing. Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Nilsson also has details regarding the revolving accounts and Committee members can reach out to her with specific questions.

**Handbook Updates:**

Ms. Jennifer Toth reviewed the updates to the student handbooks that are based on feedback from the tiered focused monitoring review. The updates focus on nondiscrimination language.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the handbook modifications and updates 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 the dissemination of this information to families. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

### **Policy Review:**

Ms. Allen presented the proposed changes to policy: JLCD.

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

*Move: Ms. Redinger*

*Second: Ms. Cronin*

*Status: Passed*

### **Best Practices:**

Ms. Cronin shared the proposed re-mapped self-evaluation in a side by side comparison with the original self-evaluation. She indicated that they have been working to reduce some of the redundancy and focus on the things they really want to evaluate. Ms. Redinger also indicated that they reviewed some qualities of effective boards from MASC to make sure everything is covered. They also shared a draft rewrite of the rubric and asked for feedback before continuing. Committee members discussed and agreed that they should continue to move forward with the rubric.

### **Grants/Club/Field Trip Approval:**

Mr. Andrew Wright spoke to Committee members about the proposed field trip for the History Team competition in Hanover, NH on February 11, 2023.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the History Team field trip as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

*Move: Ms. Cronin    Second: Ms. Allen    Status: Approved*

Dr. Dwight shared the field trip request form for students who participate in curricular band, choir, and theater courses as well as students who participated in extracurricular drama to travel to New York City for a Broadway show.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the New York City field trip as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Dr. Dwight shared the grants pending School Committee approval and answered questions from members regarding the details of specific grants.

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

*Move: Ms. Redinger*

*Second: Ms. Cronin*

*Status: Passed*

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

The Special Town Meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023 at 7 PM and the meeting with the Finance Committee is on February 14, 2023 at 10 AM. The next School Committee meeting is on February 27, 2023.

### **Agenda Items:**

Upcoming agenda items include the Superintendent review with updated goals. Ms. Besse asked members to contact her if they have any additions.

### **Minutes:**

Ms Besse approved the January 9th meeting minutes as amended with no objections.

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

Ms. Allen reported on the Student Advisory Council and the process of setting norms. She also shared that the Wellness Committee met with all of district leadership to review the current wellness policy. The Policy Subcommittee will review the edits before bringing them to a School Committee meeting.

Ms. Cronin shared that the Best Practices Subcommittee will meet to continue the self-evaluation overhaul. She also said that CPIC is waiting to meet until they hear back on a couple of quotes for the HVAC work that needs to be done and the Tech Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet again on February 9th.

Ms. Redinger reported that HEAC is trying to get the National Grid solar issues resolved and is looking to get involved in the electrification of TBS. The School Building Committee is meeting again soon to close out the building project. The work on the wall in front of HES continues and will probably wrap up in the next few months. The TBS School Council met and discussed how to make transitions easier between 5th and 6th grades and 8th and 9th grades.

Ms. Molloy circled back on the warrant discussion from the last meeting and said they are now being received. They are in the warrant folder for review. She also said DEI met up earlier on February 6th and reviewed some initiatives that have been taking place. Dawnland is being screened on March 30th. SEPAC met on January 26th and discussed the tiered focused monitoring review update and the basketball season wrapping up. It is unlikely that they will be able to do soccer in the spring due to a lack of volunteers for the season. Ms. Molloy also provided a legislative update and said she received a response to the letter that was sent, but it seems unlikely that there will be a change to the 14% increase.

Ms. Besse reported that the science fair is looking for judges from the Committee and said it will take place on March 3rd at 3:30 PM. She also forwarded the conflict of interest training information from town hall and asked members to let her know if they can attend so she can get a headcount. Ms. Besse said that the HES School Council finalized the school climate survey and will analyze it at the next meeting.

**Public Commentary:**

None.

**School Committee Commentary:**

Ms. Molloy shared that the questions and answers from the Finance Committee are in the packet for this meeting. She expressed her disappointment in the tone of some of the questions as she had hoped for a more positive working relationship with fellow board members.

**Executive Session:**

At 8:13 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 not return to open session.

*Move: Ms. Cronin*

*Second: Ms. Allen*

*Status: Passed*