

School Committee Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
April 10, 2023  
6:15 PM

Members attending: Suzanne Allen, Abigail Besse, Sharlene Cronin, Shannon Molloy, and SusanMary Redinger. Ms. Knowles joined the meeting at 7:15 PM.

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

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

**Vision Statement:**

Ms. Redinger read the vision statement.

**FY4 Budget Hearing:**

Ms. Besse and Ms. Cronin presented the FY24 Budget Hearing.

**Public Commentary:**

None.

**Superintendent Update:**

Dr. Dwight shared her submitted report as follows:

- Grant for Celebration: The Celebration Committee is planning the annual post prom experience which will be held at HES with an undisclosed theme. The Celebration Committee received a grant from the District Attorney's office for the purposes of hosting a safe, substance-free after prom party.
- Crisis Training: A voluntary training will be offered to faculty and staff who would like to learn the best way to respond to an active shooter. The Harvard Police will also join the trainings which are scheduled for the last week in April.
- Hourly Staff Meetings Continued: A representative group of hourly staff met with Dr. Dwight and Ms. Nilsson on April 4th to spend time reviewing job descriptions, comparing salaries, and updating the handbook. Recommendations will be shared with the School Committee at an upcoming meeting.

- STEAM Night Success: Over 600 community members attended the first annual STEAM Night organized by Beth Graham. Activities taught attendees a mixture of science, technology, art, and math in a fun, collaborative way.
- Dawnland and HC2: Arm and Arm and the Harvard Schools Trust sponsored these two educational events for the community. Dawnland is a documentary film that was brought to the District by Kristin McManus and Marisa Khurana and was shown in the Cronin Auditorium to about 80 attendees. The HC2 conference was organized by a Bromfield student, Lauren Stoller, with the help of Ellen Sachs Leicher and focused on the theme of Hope.
- Leadership Training: Jenn Toth organized a training on mandated reporting for the Leadership Team that reviewed the laws and detailed steps for child safety. The District plans to ask her back for a training with the counselors.
- HEA/Student Event: The teachers organized the return of an annual scholarship fundraiser where teachers and staff challenge the Seniors to a volleyball match. The HEA raised approximately \$2,000 to be given to the senior class for their end of the year events in the form of scholarships.

### **New Orleans Trip Reflections:**

Patricia Niland shared a presentation outlining some of the projects students completed while in New Orleans with Committee members. Two student leaders from the trip, Brady Niland and Molly Squire, shared their experiences and answered questions from Committee members. Both students shared that they learned a lot while on the trip and found that it was worth missing the few days of school.

### **Student Update:**

Nina Iverson shared that the third quarter closed last week and that spring sports are in full swing. She also shared that Challenge Day took place on April 5th and was a good bonding opportunity for students. She also said that students are looking forward to their April break!

Henry Wacek shared that 9th graders went on their DC trip and 10th graders just had their ELA MCAS. The high school music concert will be held on April 13th and the coffee house is on April 14th. He also shared that he has heard some complaints about the furniture in the cafeteria. Dr. Dwight said that they will look into this as the furniture is new.

Ms. Besse asked for more information about Challenge Day and Ms. Allen asked about any lasting impact from the events that day. Both students agreed that the event feels disjointed from their usual school day and that some improvements could be made in the future.

### **Last Day of School:**

Dr. Dwight shared the revised 2022-2023 school calendar which shows the last day of school with the five snow days. She also shared the 2023-2024 school calendar which shows the last day of school with and without five snow days. The calendars will also be posted to the website in grayscale.

A motion was made and seconded to approve June 23, 2023 as the last day of school. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

### **Policy Review:**

Ms. Allen presented the proposed changes to policies: JP, JQ, JRA, JRA-R, JRD, and IMH. Committee members voted on the policies individually.

A motion was made and seconded to rescind policy JP (Student Gifts and Solicitations) 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 JQ (Student Fees, Fines and Charges) 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 JRA (Student Records) as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

A motion was made and seconded to rescind policy JRA-R (Student Records) as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Ms. Allen shared policy JRD (Student Photographs) for review, but a Committee vote was not required as the Policy Subcommittee made no changes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve policy IMH (Guidelines for the Use of Professional Therapy Dogs) as presented. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

*Move: Ms. Redinger*

*Second: Ms. Allen*

*Status: Passed*

**Minco Corporation Informational Session:**

Eric Loth and Greg Winter provided a brief presentation to the Committee regarding the development on Ayer Road and members had an opportunity to ask questions related to the impact on the school system.

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

Dr. Dwight shared the gifts made by the PTO that are pending School Committee approval.

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

*Move: Ms. Cronin*

*Second: Ms. Redinger*

*Status: Passed*

Dr. Dwight shared documentation showing that HES had received a donation of sand for the new sandbox which is part of the effort to make the playground more accessible.

*Move: Ms. Cronin*

*Second: Ms. Redinger*

*Status: Passed*

Dr. Dwight shared the grant recently approved by the Harvard Schools Trust for Committee members to review.

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

*Move: Ms. Cronin*

*Second: Ms. Allen*

*Status: Passed*

Members reviewed a field trip request for students who are members of SWAT in Nashua, NH. This trip will support the work that SWAT is doing to increase the student conversation about mental health and wellness.

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

*Move: Ms. Cronin*

*Second: Ms. Redinger*

*Status: Passed*

**Future Meeting Dates:**

The next School Committee meetings are scheduled for April 24, 2023 and May 8, 2023. The annual town meeting will be held on April 29, 2023.

**Agenda Items:**

Ms. Redinger asked for a financial update as the end of the school year approaches. Dr. Dwight said that there will be a math curriculum update and education evaluation update ready to present at the next meeting. The hourly pay scale and best practices will be ready for the May 8th meeting. Members will let Ms. Besse know if there are any other items that should be included.

**SC Liaison and Subcommittee Reports:**

Ms. Cronin had nothing additional to share.

Ms. Molloy shared that she put a warrant in the folder for members to review. SEPAC met on March 23rd to review survey results and build the next survey. SEPAC hosted a bullying workshop on April 6th that was, unfortunately, not very well attended. Their next meeting is on April 27th at 7 PM.

Ms. Redinger said she met with Dr. Dwight and Patrick Harrigan regarding the ADA report. Mr. Harrigan said he can do some of the work, but they are reaching out to Shawmut to see if someone can do some as well. She also reported that the granite cap is mostly on the wall in front of HES and they are not waiting on the fencing materials for it to be complete. She will share the minutes from the TBS School Council once she receives them.

Ms. Besse reported that the HES School Council met last week to review the parent survey results. Dr. Katsh-Singer will organize the comments by theme to be shared at the next meeting. She also shared that Ann Lees field is just waiting on the dugout covers. Two sheds are being dismantled at Ryan Land which will be replaced with one new shed.

**Public Commentary:**

None.

**School Committee Commentary:**

None.

**Executive Session:**

At 8:31 PM, a motion was made and seconded to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HEA because an open meeting may have detrimental effects on the bargaining position of the School Committee. The motion was passed unanimously by a roll call vote and members will not return to open session.

*Move: Ms. Allen*

*Second: Ms. Redinger*

*Status: Passed*