

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday, April 14, 2008
6:30 P.M.**

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Willie Wickman, and Thomas W. Jefferson

Call to Order – Superintendent Thomas Jefferson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He welcomed the two new members, Keith Cheveralls and Patty Wenger, congratulated Virginia Justicz on her re-election, and thanked Willie Wickman for her leadership as chair last year.

Nominations

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Willie Wickman seconded to nominate Stu Sklar as the new chair.

VOTED (3/1/1) to accept the motion. (Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Abstain), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Willie Wickman made the motion and Stu Sklar seconded to nominate Virginia Justicz as the new vice-chair.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to nominate Patty Wenger as the new secretary.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Minutes

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Willie Wickman seconded to accept the minutes from the March 24, 2008 meeting as amended.

VOTED (3/0) to accept the motion. (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the minutes from the March 27, 2008 executive session meeting as amended and to release them to the public.

VOTED (3/0) to accept the motion. (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Capitol Planning Committee

Virginia Justicz stated that the Capitol Planning Committee had met to discuss the failed warrant article bundle. They are focusing on small warrant articles that address safety concerns or will provide immediate savings (i.e. boiler, ceiling fans). It was proposed that the boiler be funded from the stabilization fund.

Suburban Coalition

Stu Sklar informed that he had attended the Suburban Coalition breakfast on April 7th. He said that it appears that next year looks grim with more cuts in state aid like what occurred back in 2002.

Superintendent Report

Tom Jefferson gave an update on the Director of Special Education Search. He informed that the position was advertised locally as well as in the Boston Globe. They had received seventeen applicants. The screening committee had performed a paper screening of the resumes and selected six semi-finalists. Interviews are scheduled for April 16th and 17th. Keith Cheveralls questioned whether any work had been done to evaluate or redesign the present job description. He also asked Tom to look at the composition of the screening committee. He felt both would be a good opportunities to look for savings as well as build bridges within the community.

Tom also gave an update on the Energy Subcommittee. Lorraine Leonard explained that the schools had installed Rentars, which are catalysts that heat the fuel faster. They are supposed to burn fuel more efficiently. He asked the Committee to charge him with the responsibility of forming a committee to look at energy savings. Willie Wickman requested that Stu Sklar, as chair, ask the Superintendent to come back with a proposal and timeline for the next meeting. He did so.

Tom further informed the Committee that there was a meeting last Tuesday at Devens to discuss the MassDevelopment RFP. There was a favorable response to Harvard's proposal. It appeared the Devens' parents want their children educated in Harvard schools. It is anticipated that a decision will be reached by May. Keith Cheveralls questioned whether the Committee was still considering starting a daycare at Devens. Willie Wickman stated that was part of the negotiations, and if it occurred, it would be run through the Community Education program in an effort to generate revenue.

Tom said that he would give an enrollment update when they discussed School Choice.

Solar Energy

Steven Strong from Solar Design Associates gave a brief presentation to the Committee. He stated that his company had installed solar panels at numerous schools throughout the state as well as worldwide. He said that it could be a profitable enterprise, and there were a number of ways that it could be achieved. One option was that the school could be the host with third party investors who pay for the installation and also sell the power for profit. He had already done an inspection of the Bromfield roof and felt that it was possible to gain 100-130 kilowatt capacity. He further suggested that if the faculty got involved, it can be used as an excellent teaching tool. He recommended that an energy audit be conducted. He stated that more detailed work needed to be done before he could present a proposal. He will work with Mark Force, Director of Maintenance, to achieve that goal and come back to the next meeting with a proposal. He said the work should be completed over the summer.

Student Report

Sam Leahy informed that the Spring Coffee House was scheduled for this coming Thursday, April vacation was fast approaching, Senior Projects will be presented on April 30th, a Senior Citizen Luncheon sponsored by the Student Council is scheduled for May 7th, the Junior class just returned from a trip to New York City, the teachers won the Staff-Senior Basketball game, and there is a Choral Concert on this coming Wednesday.

SY0809 Calendar

Tom presented the Committee the proposed SY0809 Calendar. He informed that it had been developed and endorsed by the Administrative Council, Harvard Teachers Association and the Instructional Team. He also stated that there would be twenty early release days per contract, but they would not be determined until the school event calendar was released. Keith Cheveralls questioned the notations of religious holidays and suggested that sensitivity should be used. It was pointed out that the Committee had been petitioned by residents to add the religious holidays.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the SY0809 Calendar as proposed.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

School Choice

Tom presented enrollment data to the Committee in support of his recommendation to advertise School Choice in grades 1, 2 and 11 for the 2008/09 school year. The Committee agreed that it would further discuss the number of slots available at the next meeting.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to participate in School Choice for the 2008/09 school year and to authorize administration to advertise that applications would be accepted for slots in grades 1, 2 and 11.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Gifts

There was anonymous gift of \$1,000.00 to be used for scholarships for Bromfield students unable to afford the total cost of the Washington D.C. trip.

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the donation.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

The Committee asked that a thank you letter be sent.

Tri-Board Meeting

The School Committee joined the FinCom and Board of Selectmen for a Tri-Board Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 10:25p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Recording Secretary