



**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM - 7:00 P. M.
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007**

Members attending: Virginia Justicz, Jeff Shaw, Stuart Sklar (arrived 7:30 p.m.), Will Verbits, and Willie Wickman

Members absent: None

Willie Wickman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Shaw) to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2007 Goal Setting Meeting. The Committee **VOTED** 3/0 (Jeff Shaw, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The motion was made (Shaw) and seconded (Verbits) to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2007 Regular Meeting. The Committee **VOTED** 3/0 (Jeff Shaw, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The motion was made (Shaw) and seconded (Verbits) to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2007 Meeting. The Committee **VOTED** 3/0 (Jeff Shaw, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The motion was made (Shaw) and seconded (Justicz) to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2007 Regular Meeting. The Committee **VOTED** 3/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

Bromfield students reported the school year has gotten off to a good start, all clubs, HNS and peer leaders are in place, sports teams are winning their games, and there is air conditioning for the band room!

Stu gave a brief report on the Suburban Coalition and reminded the Committee it is time to renew the membership. Dues are \$250 and would be from the Central Office membership line. The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Shaw) to renew the Suburban Coalition membership in the amount of \$250. The Committee **VOTED** 5/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

Willie will update the Selectmen regarding the Committee's membership renewal.

The Superintendent reminded students if they need community service, the Lions Fall Festival needs help with their function.

Strategic Planning Process is in place for the upcoming year. Jonathan Costa will be working with a Committee representation of School Committee, community, town officials, teachers and administrators. The Superintendent extended an invitation to

interested community members watching at home as there are a couple of openings yet to be filled. The Waters Foundation Grant will fund this initiative.

Enrollment summaries for the start of school were shared with the committee. There were no significant changes, although there was a reduction of three choice students and an increase of one Devens student. Potentially an additional 4 to 5 students may be added through the choice program. A list of course enrollment will be available at the next meeting.

The first meeting of DEAC will be next week and reported at the next Committee meeting.

A FY08 budget summary reflected salary adjustments from the HTA contract settlement and projected salary savings from new hires. Lorraine indicated a projected deficit of approximately \$180k as of the end of August.

A review of Shaw Trust revenues and expenditures reflected a balance of \$227,892. With this information the Superintendent recommended rather than bringing minor requests throughout the year, the School Committee designate a dollar amount for equipment purchases. He would work with administrative council to prioritize a list of recommendations addressing district needs.

At the September 4, 2007 Tri-Board meeting, it was proposed that all employees not currently covered by union agreements move to a cost-sharing formula of 75 town/25 employee insurance costs. The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Sklar) to shift the insurance cost sharing for non-union employees to 75/25, consistent with the municipal government cost sharing formula. The Committee **VOTED** 5/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept. The next Tri-Board meeting is September 11, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

At the same Tri-Board meeting, the Board of Selectmen indicated that the COLA for non-union personnel was being adjusted to 3% to coincide with union settlements. The motion was made (Shaw) and seconded (Sklar) to adjust COLAs for non-union personnel are adjust to from 2% to 3% for the current fiscal year, contingent upon funding. The Committee **VOTED** 5/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The Board of Selectmen, at the Tri-Board meeting, presented a document/proposal regarding Paid Time Off (PTO). The Superintendent was asked to develop a recommendation on whether or not this model would be on which would be advantageous for the school. In reviewing the model of PTO with administration, it is not a good fit with the school department. As such, the Superintendent's recommendation is to not take action on paid time off.

Following discussion of the School Committee goals for 07/08, the motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Justicz) to accept the School Committee goals as read. The Committee **VOTED** 5/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The Superintendent's goals will be presented at the next meeting.

New teachers reception will be held on September 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bromfield House.

Update on Committee reports will be ready for the next meeting.

Willie read a statement in response to the citizens petition to censure the School Committee and Superintendent. Stu suggested Selectmen find a home for Channel 12 so that all town board meetings may be televised. The Superintendent commented on the excellent caliber of the newly hired staff and the MCAS information will be released October 2.

The motion was made (Shaw) and seconded (Verbits) to adjourn. The Committee **VOTED** 5/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Jeff Shaw, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.