

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Wednesday, January 21, 2009
6:30 P.M.**

Members attending: Virginia Justicz, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger (arrived during Tri-Board meeting), Willie Wickman, Keith Cheveralls and Thomas W. Jefferson

Call to Order – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

0809 School Calendar

Dr. Jefferson provided the results he received from the Survey Monkey sent to staff and parents regarding the present school calendar and how to absorb the six snow days used to date into the rest of the school. This is necessary to achieve the 180 day requirement by ESE. On Question #1, the recommendation was to have June 26th be the last day of school. On Question #2, there was no clear consensus. The Committee discussed using Good Friday as a half day with excused absences for students and staff and no exams scheduled for students. Also discussed using Memorial Day, Saturdays or April vacation days to make up additional storm days. Dr. Jefferson stated that graduation was still scheduled for June 5th. Kathleen Doherty, HTA Representative, advised that the HTA agreed with using the June 26th date and to sanctify vacation weeks. She further stated that once a decision was made, then the Association would negotiate based on the decision. Keith Cheveralls questioned what was in the best interest educationally for students. Dr. Jefferson stated it depends on each student and the circumstances. The Committee further discussed making the last week early release days and using them for enrichment programs like Nature's Classroom. They also discussed eliminating the early release days and using full days in order to prepare for MCAS.

7:00 P.M.

The Committee joined the FINCOM and BOS for a Tri-Board Meeting. No action was taken.

9:00 P.M. Reconvened into School Committee Meeting

Resumed discussion on the 0809 School Calendar. The Committee agreed to make June 26th the hard stop date and to use Good Friday as a make up day. The Committee further agreed that if more storm days occur, options will be revisited and decided on at a later date.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to change the calendar to make Good Friday at half day for 2009.

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

The Committee discussed potential budget cuts totaling \$250,000.00 for FY09. The Committee asked Dr. Jefferson to provide a firm estimate of elementary Devens' students for next year and use of that potential revenue.

Virginia Justicz left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Dr. Jefferson will draft proposed cuts and email them to members.

Lorraine Leonard will post the Committee to meet at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday prior to the Tri-Board meeting.

Adjournment

Willie Wickman made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to adjourn the meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith/Patty Wenger
Secretary