

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM  
Monday, November 10, 2008  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**Call to Order** – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Chair thanked the public for voting down Question 1.

The Superintendent awarded Sam Dorward the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Achievement. The Committee offered their congratulations to Sam.

**Minutes**

VOTED Virginia Justicz made a motion and Willie Wickman seconded to accept the Minutes from the October 27, 2008 meeting as presented. (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

VOTED Patty Wenger made a motion and Willie Wickman seconded to accept the Executive Minutes from the October 27, 2008 meeting to be released. (3/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Abstain), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

**Student Report**

Rachael Kipps reported that Student Council wanted to congratulate the Cross Country and Soccer teams for making it to States and Districts, respectively.

Jacque Holmes reported that Middle School Drama presented “Tales of Trickery” and that there was a dance scheduled for Friday.

Molly O’Rourke Friel reported on the mock election, Veterans’ Day ceremony, and that the Student Council had met with the PTO to discuss partnering in a school store.

**School Committee Reports**

Willie Wickman reported on the Getty Land proposal. The Board of Selectmen asked Peter Warren to form groups to gather information to determine how to proceed. The School Committee was asked to provide future school growth projections and how much acreage was necessary for a potential school facility. On Wednesday, a walk of the land will be conducted. The Committee also discussed the life span of the Kindergarten Wing.

Virginia Justicz reported on the Shirley School brainstorming meeting. Potential users discussed were the Harvard Family Association and the Preschool program. A survey will be conducted of Harvard and Devens residents as well as the business community to determine other usages.

Patty Wenger reported that National Grid conducted walk throughs at both Bromfield and the Elementary School. The Committee should receive the results in approximately five weeks..

Stu Sklar reported that National Grid is putting in natural gas lines on Route 111. Leo Blair is working with them on extending the lines to the schools.

### **Superintendent Report**

Tom Jefferson gave an update on the new boiler at The Bromfield School. The project came in under budget, and savings in oil consumption should be about 30%. He thanked Lorraine Leonard for her efforts on the project.

He gave an enrollment update and informed the Committee that he would be sending a survey to MassDevelopment families in an effort to determine additional students for next year's enrollment.

Tom presented notes from the FIAT meeting.

He also provided a copy of the Technology Grant to the Committee for their review. Gretchen Henry will attend a January meeting to highlight the technology cost center.

Tom congratulated Martha Brooks for her efforts with the Middle School Drama production. He also congratulated Emily Jones, the cross country and the soccer teams for their victories.

### **Old Business**

Tom Jefferson gave a status update on the Strategic Plan Implementation.

Tom also informed that Committee that he intended on having the FY10 Budget Book prepared prior to Thanksgiving break. It will be in the same format as last year's. Budget meetings are currently scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Bromfield Staff Lounge.

Lorraine Leonard presented an updated FY09 Budget Report. Currently, showing a deficit of less than \$1,000.00.

Virginia Justicz read an email she sent on behalf of the Committee to Leo Blair, Chair of the Board of the Selectmen, regarding the Getty Land.

### **New Business**

Tom Jefferson presented to the Committee that proposal of a grant writing group (GO FOR IT) which was FIAT inspired. Stu Sklar made a plea to the public that if anyone was interested in participating on such a committee to contact any School Committee member. Tom was asked to contact Tim Bragan to inquire if the Board of Selectmen were in support of the grant proposal.

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Willie Wickman seconded authorized the formation of the GO FOR IT group and requested that the Superintendent and Town Administrator provide such a group with support.

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

Tom Jefferson reminded the public of the Open Forum scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room. The School Committee will conduct a Question and Answer forum for the public; there will not be a business meeting. Tom further thanked the PTO for getting the word out to the public of the Open Forum as well as the Principals' Coffee Hours.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith  
Secretary