

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday, September 22, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, 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.

Superintendent Contract

Community Member, Debra Skauen-Hincliffe raised a point of order under M.G.L. 268A. The Chair, Stu Sklar, stated there was no conflict of interest.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to extend the Superintendent's Contract to June 30, 2011 and move into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss non-union contract negotiations.

Each member expressed their position on the topic. Keith Cheveralls raised a point of order that Stu Sklar must have the Vice Chair take over as Chair while he expressed his position. Stu complied and Virginia Justicz was Chair during his statement. When he was finished, he returned as Chair.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to amend the original motion to postpone the vote until April of 2009. Willie Wickman made a friendly amendment which was accepted that it be postponed until the School Committee Meeting scheduled before Town Elections.

VOTED (2/3) to not accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (No), Stu Sklar (No) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (No).

Back to original motion.

VOTED (3/2) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (No), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Student Report

Molly O'Rourke-Friel, Rachael Kipps and Emma Cait O'Rourke-Friel reported on Open House, Fall sports, the first school dance and congratulated the Environmental Club. Emma expressed concern regarding the parking/drop off in the Pond Street parking lot. They also invited the Committee to attend the School Council meeting on October 3rd.

School Committee Reports

Willie Wickman reported on the School Council training conducted by Glenn Koocher. The Committee requested rosters from both School Councils.

Keith Cheveralls reported on the School Start Time Survey. He commended all participants and thought it was a thorough process.

Stu Sklar reported on the Suburban Coalition. He informed the Committee of the meeting scheduled for October 1st in North Andover regarding Vote No on Question 1.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson stated that he would follow up with Leo Blair regarding the usage of the Hapgood Library as a potential Teen Center.

He also discussed the School Start Time Survey and thanked all participants for their efforts. He will report the results at the October meeting. He also stated that he would be exploring the matter further at the state level.

He informed the Committee of the new Going Green movement in the schools' cafeterias which will include composting and reusable utensils.

He reported that MCAS results will be public this week and that Harvard did well.

Keith Cheveralls requested that the Superintendent look into the ADA Compliance issue mentioned in the newspaper.

The Chair requested a three minute break.

Minutes

VOTED Virginia Justicz made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the Executive Session Minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting to be released. (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Abstain), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

VOTED Willie Wickman made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the Minutes from the September 8, 2008 meeting as amended. (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

The Minutes from the August 25, 2008 meeting were tabled for corrections.

Policy Review

The Committee did a second reading of Section J – Students Policies. It was noted that regulations did not need School Committee approval.

Willie Wickman made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to approve Policies – JA, JB, JBA, JFABD, JFBB, JG, JH, JHD, JI, JIB, JIC, JICA, JICC, JICE, JICFA, JICFB, JICG, JICH, JICI, JIE, JJA, JJE, JJF, JJG, JJH, JK, JKA, JKAA, JL, JLC, JLCC, JLDBA, JLD-E, JLF, JP, JQ, JRA, and JRD.

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

Dr. Jefferson stated that he would review the new policies with Administrative Council for procedural changes.

SC Goal Setting

The Committee revised #9 School Climate of their Goals.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the School Committee Goals as presented and subsequently amended.

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

The Committee will evaluate their goals in January for their status.

Devens

This item was put on the agenda as a follow up to the Board of Selectmen meeting. The Committee agreed that it needed hard data on potential housing before it could make recommendations. They decided to table any decisions for the next meeting. Stu informed the public that a Board of Selectmen meeting was scheduled for Saturday, September 27th in The Bromfield School cafeteria for a public Q & A regarding the Devens' Disposition.

MCAS

Dr. Jefferson presented preliminary MCAS data from the ESE. The full report is due out later this week, and he will provide greater analysis at the next meeting. Willie Wickman requested that he identify weaknesses and their budget impact based upon the results.

FY10 Budget

On October 7th at 7:30 p.m., the Committee will attend the first Tri-Board meeting at Devens' Community Center.

The Committee discussed the standards for preparing the FY10 Budget. Stu recommended that they adhere to the standard of last year's preparation. The Committee wanted to hear Administrator's recommendations for their budget requests.

Superintendent Goals

Dr. Jefferson provided his draft Goals to the Committee. The Committee will review the Goals, get their suggestions to Tom, and discuss at the next meeting.

Future Meeting Agenda

Stu Sklar informed that the next two meetings are October 14th, a Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and October 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Monty Tech.

He also stated that a Community Member was needed for the Monty Tech Representative position. Interested parties should submit their letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen.

Gifts

The Harvard PTO submitted the following two donations:

1. \$4,000.00 – Appleseed Money – Harvard Elementary School
2. \$2,000.00 – Appleseed Money – The Bromfield School

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to accept the donations.

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.

Adjournment

Willie Wickman made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing non-union contract negotiations and not to return to the regular meeting. Roll call.

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 10:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Secretary