

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, October 13, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz , Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Piali De, Maureen Babcock, Lorraine Leonard and Thomas Jefferson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the Minutes from the September 29, 2009 meeting as amended.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Student Reports

Gavin Arnold introduced himself as a member of the Student Advisory Council. He stated the Council was looking forward to defining its role in School Committee student involvement.

Molly O'Rourke-Friel stated the Student Council enjoyed having Piali De and Keith Cheveralls attend their meeting last Friday.

School Committee Reports

Patty Wenger reported on the Harvard Elementary School Council. The Council is compiling the results from the teacher survey and will present their findings to the Committee. She further reported that the Energy Advisory Committee was holding its "Go Green" event this evening. Patty asked Committee members if they were planning on attending the MASC conference in November. She questioned if the Chair and Vice Chair had scheduled to meet with the teachers three times per year. The Chair said he would email the HTA representative to schedule dates.

Piali De reported on attending The Bromfield School Student Council meeting.

Virginia Justicz reported that the FinCom Survey was complete and the results will be available in November. She also reported that 9C cuts would be revealed on October 15th.

Stu Sklar reported on the Bromfield School Council meeting. He advised that parents would be able to sign up for conferences online beginning tomorrow. He also advised that many Bromfield teachers were not pleased with the Thanksgiving break schedule. The Fall Ciderhouse is scheduled for October 28th at Fruitlands and Senior Projects are

90% approved. Stu further reported on the Suburban Coalition who has events planned for September 30th and November 5th.

The Committee agreed to attend the Acton Town Meeting with Jen Benson on November 9th and to substitute this event for its regular scheduled meeting and to continue the meeting in Harvard at 9:00 p.m. if necessary.

Maureen Babcock, DEAC representative, reported that DEAC had its first meeting on September 22nd. DEAC is working on updating its guidelines and creating an annual parent survey. DEAC enjoyed a presentation by Evergreen Playschool and voted to approve the one room schoolhouse. DEAC will invite other Devens' programs to present at their meetings.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Capital Planning Committee will meet on Thursday, and it is in the developmental planning process. He informed that Jen Benson will attend the October 26th meeting in an open format, and he welcomed topics from members. He reminded the Committee of the November 30th joint training with Glenn Koocher. He also asked members to send their MCAS follow questions for the next meeting's agenda.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson provided updated enrollment figures. He presented the following gifts from the PTO:

1. \$58.40 Hudson RPM Distributors for the purchase of English trade books; and
2. \$870.00 Virtual Paragon – software for conference sign ups

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the gifts with gratitude.

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

A thank you to be sent to the PTO.

Dr. Jefferson reported that fifteen Middle School students attended the ELNA conference. Rachel Leicher conducted a workshop on interfaith tolerance. The event was a great success.

The Committee asked Dr. Jefferson to provide a full accounting of gifts from the PTO and the Harvard Schools Trust.

Class Trips

Dr. Julie Horton presented two field trips for approval. One for ninth grade to visit Washington D.C. and one for juniors to visit New York.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the class trips as presented.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

The Chair presented to the Committee for approval an invoice from the Suburban Coalition for annual dues.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to authorize payment of the Suburban Coalition invoice.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Budget 2010/2011

Lorraine Leonard presented an updated budget and Outside Fund Report to the Committee. The Committee agreed to prepare a timeline and discuss the budget process next week.

Policy

The Committee revised Policy JFA-E Residency and discussed stakeholders to be included in its review. The Committee will revisit Policy School District Vision and Mission and Policy GCCC-E/GDCC-E at its next meeting. The Chair asked the Secretary to develop and maintain a tracking system for pending policies.

Future Agenda Items

The Committee should email its agenda items for Jen Benson to the Chair. Piali De asked that Curriculum Coordination be an agenda item.

Executive Session

Stu Sklar made a motion and Piali De seconded that the School Committee enter into executive session, as authorized by Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws, at a meeting for which 48 hours notice has been given, for the purpose of discussing:

1. Union contract negotiations

Following the executive session, the Committee will reconvene into open session, for the sole purpose of adjourning.

ROLL CALL

VOTED (4/1) to accept the motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Abstain), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith

Recording Secretary