

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, February 22, 2010
7:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m

Overnight trip to the Boston Science Museum

Glen Tarullo, 6th Science Teacher from the Bromfield School, came to the meeting to request permission for the 6th grade to attend an overnight field trip to the Boston Science Museum, leaving from The Bromfield School on March 11 and returning on March 12.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to authorize the 6th grade to go on an overnight field trip to the Boston Science Museum.

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

Minutes

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2009 meeting.

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

Google Initiative

Worth Robbins, from the Harvard Press, informed the committee of an experiment announced by "Google" to deliver ultra high speed connectivity to a test community. The speed will be 100 times faster than what we have now. The application for consideration is due March 26, 2010 by 5:00 pacific time. Worth received strong support from the Board of Selectmen. Forums to facilitate communication groups are scheduled for Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the town library and Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at the General Store and the Harvard Press Office.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded that the Harvard School Committee will support the citizens' efforts to respond to the Google request for information to deliver gigabyte connectivity to Harvard and acknowledge that many learning activities and opportunities can be achieved.

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

Student Report

The High School Drama club is participating in the drama festival and performing “Defying Gravity” which should be a very entertaining show. The 9th grade will be going to Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, March 3rd. The Student Council invited the committee to attend one of their meetings March 12, April 9, or April 30.

Subcommittee Report

Virginia Justicz reported that the SEPAC holds interesting parent information meetings. Recently, Susan Downing, School Psychologist presented on executive functioning. There is a link of her power point presentation on the Special Education web site. The March 16th meeting will be informational regarding IEP and document processes. The information is important to parents of both regular and special education kids. Stu Sklar reported that the school council will be sending out the student climate surveys beginning in March. The Suburban Coalition will hold the Legislative Breakfast at the Great Hall, Beacon Hill, Boston, MA on April 27th, 2010 beginning at 9:30 a.m. Keith Cheveralls reported that after speaking with Naomi regarding the Wayland decision, the superintendent evaluation will need to be held in open session. Keith will get a written recommendation from Naomi on the process. Keith met with the Board of Health regarding the HES K-wing update and data suggests the possibility of moving quarterly testing to a 6 month cycle. Keith will go through the data and keep the committee informed. The informal name change of the Harvard Elementary School to Hildreth Elementary school will take place on April 1, 2010 with the formal name change taking place on July 1, 2010.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Jefferson gave credit to Bill Spacciapoli, Scott Kimball, Willie Wickman and the custodial staff for the behind the scenes work that was done to correct the air quality issues at HES. Tom reminded families to sign up for Edline. Tom informed the committee that two students, Will Blackwell and Nick Kronauer were winners in the Boston Globe Art Show. The Invent team was awarded \$2000 to help fund their efforts. Gary Menin is to be congratulated. The fifth graders at Hildred Elementary School have received national attention for their work around student bullying. CBS Evening News will be coming to the Hildred Elementary School to interview and film the 5th graders. The segment will air in April.

2010/11 Budget Discussion

Discussion regarding 2010/2011 budget included keeping a sharp eye on the use of Shaw Trust funds for the next two years so that some money could be set aside for the HES playground project. Discussion with regard to the Media Library Specialist position at Bromfield and how best to fund the job as well as meet the needs of the district. Request to change the budget book page for the substitute teacher lines by listing additional reasons for having substitute teachers.

Policy Section I

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve Section I policies brought forward from the February 8th meeting as second reading, with edits as noted to included additional policies IMA, IMD and IMB.

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

Policy IHAE/IHAM/IHAMA reviewed for first reading to be brought forward at March 15th meeting.

Administrative Job Descriptions

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the second reading of job descriptions as incorporated in the agenda of February 8th.

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

Review Media Specialist for 2nd reading, email changes to Tom.

Future Agenda Items

Next meeting, Monday, March 1, 2010
Community Ed – invite Gretchen Henry
Calendar approval

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded move to adjourn at 10:00.

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

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary