

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, March 1, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Tom Jefferson presented information regarding kindergarten registration numbers and the options available with regard to full and half day programs as well as possibly making choice available in kindergarten. With two full day kindergarten classes there are a seven Harvard families on a wait list for the full day program.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded seeking to endorse an additional full day kindergarten section making 3 full day kindergarten classes for next year.

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

Share news with wait list people. Make query on choice wait list for full or half day programs. Advertise once we know about half day. Report back on March 15 any change of numbers.

**2010/11 Budget**

School Committee Priorities- Maureen – class size, Patty – library media position and reorganization of curriculum leadership model K-12. Virginia – preserve what we have, comfortable with budget, see if free cash could be used for maintenance expenses. Stu – happy with budget, in good shape, don't look at ideas for next year because of budget constraints. Piali – instructional leadership piece and foreign language department leader. Keith - curriculum leadership issue is too big and important to tackle with 15 days remaining before budget submission, reinstatement of World Language Department leader. After discussion Keith Cheveralls made a motion to reinstate the department leader position which was seconded by Piali De, after discussion on the motion

Stu Sklar made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to table vote until next scheduled school committee meeting.

VOTED (3/2) to accept the motion. Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Nay), Piali De (Nay).

Suggestion made to invite Jim O'Shea to the next meeting to get his input on the Department leader position.

### **Community Education (Director of Community Education)**

Gretchen Henry, Director of Community Education presented the committee with an overview of the program. Gretchen will be in contact with the public library to see if there are any program ideas that would attract middle school students. Gretchen will also send out a survey to the community and share the results with the committee at a later date.

### **Athletic User Fee Override**

The Committee discussed the athletic user fee override and whether to move forward with the request. After discussion

Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to request a \$107,000 override be placed on the annual town meeting warrant to subsidize user fees at The Bromfield School contingent upon School Committee finding \$31,000 in its funding to revamp the user fee program.

VOTED (3/2) to accept the motion. Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Nay), Piali De (Nay).

### **Accountability and Oversight**

The committee discussed the implementation of Policy DBJ, which would require a school committee vote for any transfer of funds from one line item to another.

Implementation of policy may clog the system and there has been no operational problem with a balanced budget for the last 3 years. Lorraine will give the committee a sample of what it looks like and a recommendation.

### **School Calendar**

The committee decided to table the vote on the calendar until they were able to receive input from the community with regard to religious holidays.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Athletic Subsidy

March 12<sup>th</sup> – Student Council meeting

Stu Sklar made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn to executive session for collective bargaining negotiations, not to return to open session except to adjourn.

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