

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, January 24, 2011  
7:00 pm.

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

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2011 meeting as amended.

VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion. Piali De recused (absent from January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting).

### **Student Report**

Gavin Arnold from the sophomore class, reported that the Snowball semi-formal dance went well. The Snowflake semi-formal was cancelled due to snow and is scheduled for this Friday. Molly O'Rourke-Friel will be getting back to the committee with Student Council dates.

### **Liaison and Subcommittee Reports**

Patty Wenger reported that the next HES School Council meeting is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>. Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council is meeting tomorrow. The Council hosted Jane Mane who presented the "Get Real" health curriculum. At tomorrow's meeting the Council will follow up on the Race to Nowhere discussion and make plans to hold "civic days" in honor of Dr. Harris. Additional user fee information is being collected for feedback at tomorrow's meeting.

Keith Cheveralls publically acknowledged Mark Force and the Maintenance Crew for the great work at removing snow and making driveways and walkways passable and safe.

Keith Cheveralls addressed an email issue in which School Committee members are not receiving all emails from the school in a timely manner. Dr Jefferson agreed to issue all committee members a psharvard.org email address in order to alleviate the problem internally while the underlying problem is explored in more detail. At the request of Mr. Cheveralls the Superintendent agreed to keep in mind any meaningful work that could be offered to a Harvard senior citizen in exchange for a tax credit. The Capital Plan and Investment Committee are looking into hiring a town building manager. The position would overlap with the town energy manager.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Jefferson announced that after an extensive process involving a seventeen member screening committee, Dr. Linda Dwight was selected as the Hildreth Elementary School Principal effective July 1, 2011. Keith Cheveralls thanked everyone involved in the process. A welcome ceremony for Linda will be held at an appropriate time to be announced.

Dr. Jefferson thanked the Harvard School Trust for sponsoring the film "Race to Nowhere". The plan is to build on the thoughtful presentation and positive discussion with another forum at a later date.

Tom presented gifts for approval from the Harvard Schools Trust  
\$600 to CASE for a music program  
and a gift of a Skiers Edge machine from the Nelson Family

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded - move that the School Committee accept the gift of the Skiers Edge Fitness machine with special thanks to the Nelsons and \$600 for a music program for the CASE program with special thanks to Harvard Schools Trust.

VOTED (5/0)

### **Long Range Planning Sub Committee – presentation of NESDEC report and findings.**

Patty Wenger led the discussion on the NESDEC report. The committee discussed the contents of the report and next steps. For a copy or an electronic version of the report, please email either Dr. Jefferson or Mary Zadroga. Maureen Babcock will bring the report to DEAC for input. The Long Range Planning Subcommittee will meet on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. to decide how best to present the report to the town and next steps.

### **FY12 Budget Total Operating Budget – Recap of any outstanding issues**

The committee discussed the FY12 budget. The committee agreed to increase the sub-caller stipend by \$1,000. The funding for the NEASC visit was approved for approximately \$25K with funding coming from the Devens' revolving account. The committee decided to keep \$15K in the budget for the World Language program at HES. Jen Fraser and staff from HES will be exploring curriculum options. The committee discussed two new positions in technology which will free up time for Mark and Oksana for more complex assignments and also add media integration consultation at HES. The Associate Principal position at the elementary school will be an interim position for one year with a posted salary of \$95,000. The Committee discussed divesting the link between Community Education and HES Associate Principal, with oversight of the Community Education program being moved into the Superintendent's job description.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded – move that effective immediately, the Community Education leadership position become the responsibility of the Superintendent.

VOTED (5/0)

The committee discussed the Finance Committees' set of questions to be answered at the upcoming Saturday meeting. Tom will be prepared to answer the questions and will prepare the relevant budget pages with clear amendments.

### **Succession and district leadership transition planning**

Keith Cheveralls congratulated Dr. Jefferson for being appointed Superintendent of Lynnfield Public Schools. There was discussion about the superintendent model with ideas such as sharing a Superintendent with Boxborough, sharing with another district, looking at a unionized model or a shared Superintendent/Principal position. It was decided that it would not be practical to go forward with anything but an interim at this point in order to give the committee time to research the best model.

The committee discussed the membership of the Interim Superintendent Search Committee. The Search Committee will consist of all members of the School Committee, Maureen Babcock, Pam

DeGrigorio, Jim O'Shea, Lorraine Leonard, one student from Bromfield, two parents from the School Council (one from each school) and two faculty members.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move that we initiate a search for an Interim Superintendent for one year who will be eligible to apply for the permanent position. Screening will start upon receipt of a formal resignation from the current Superintendent.

VOTED (5/0)

A search for a permanent superintendent is planned for October. A subcommittee will be formed to explore the desired model.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move that we create a subcommittee of the School Committee for the purpose of exploring different models for Superintendent.

VOTED (5/0)

### **Commentary**

Virginia Justicz – excited about the new principal at HES, fabulous opportunity, new beginning.

Piali De – thanked Tom for his steady leadership and wished him the very best in his new job.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Budget Forum- will schedule for March 14<sup>th</sup> before the regular scheduled meeting.

Race to Nowhere discussion

Global Achievement Gap

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary