

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, October 12, 2010  
7:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Piali De, Patty Wenger, Maureen Babcock, Lorraine Leonard, Molly O'Rourke-Friel and Thomas Jefferson. Absent: Kirsten Wright

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Piali De seconded to approve the minutes from the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

Keith Cheveralls explained that under the advice of counsel some executive session minutes are being withheld, but executive session minutes from May 10 and July 12 will be released. The Attorney General's Office is reviewing case law and will decide if other executive session minutes can be released.

Patty Wenger made the motion and Piali De seconded - move that the executive session minutes from May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> be released to the public effective immediately.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

### **Student Report**

Ryan Holmes reported that a Club Fair held at The Bromfield School open house was a big success. Gavin Arnold reported that there will be an Anti-Bullying assembly on Thursday. Molly O'Rourke-Friel reported that the NEASC survey would be going out and she looks forward to the Student Council meeting with the School Committee, October 22 at 7 a.m.

### **Liaison and subcommittee reports**

Instruction Leadership –looking at new administrative models at HES and will come back with a recommendation for the committee.

Long Range Planning – NESDEC is on board. Committee meets with NESDEC on October 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss contents of report with discussion around enrollment, volatility of Devens and residential zoning questions.

HES School Council – liked the idea of both school councils getting together to meet with the School Committee.

Keith Cheveralls reported that DEAC is looking for participation from the School Committee. Keith will get charge from DEAC and BOS and put on future agenda.

The Chairs of School Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Selectman along with the Town Administrator will meet on Friday to discuss fiscal issues. Chairman Cheveralls will be inviting Sue Tokay, Harvard's representative to Monty Tech, to a November meeting. Arrangements will be made to follow up on a request from George Ramirez to tour HES.

Keith received the Special Education Plan statement for the mid cycle review which requires the signature of the chair. Keith will follow up with Pam and Lorraine. An electronic version of the document will be sent to members.

The Policy Subcommittee will be reviewing the HES and Bromfield student manuals for consistency with school policy.

Capital Plan and Investment – to meet October 21<sup>st</sup>

Budget Subcommittee – looking to prepare a level dollar budget with steps absorbed. First pass will imply some reductions. Communicate to councils and administration priorities at a higher level. Budget books should be available prior to Thanksgiving break.

### **Superintendent Report**

Reception for new teachers is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 at TBS cafeteria.

Harvard ranked #1 in combined achievement on the MCAS which is an impressive result.

Teacher and students will attend training on The “World of Difference” program. The program is new to TBS this year with a focus on promoting a safe school environment through student peer leaders.

Request from TBS to start a club called Global Awareness Association under the advisory of Ms. Nilan. The club will focus on informing and educating their peers about current issues facing the world.

Piali De made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the starting of the Global Awareness Association at The Bromfield School.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

### **Bus Data and Service Level Standards**

Superintendent Jefferson informed the committee that he had followed up on an overcrowding/long route bus situation by adding a bus at TBS only. The cost of adding the bus is \$11 per day and will be funded by a surplus within the line.

### **HES Principal Search**

The Committee discussed the possibility of extending the current model for one more year. The Instructional Leadership subcommittee is working to create a revision to the administrative leadership model at HES. If everyone is comfortable with the model, there would be no benefit to extending the current model and would favor a push towards a permanent solution. If the pool is thin the option of the current model could be entertained at that point. Lorraine will get clarity on MTRS rules on suspending retirement. Tom will come back to the committee with a recommendation for what is in the best interest of the school.

### **FY11 Budget Report**

Lorraine Leonard presented an update to the FY11 budget.

### **FY12 Total Operating Budget**

Discussed the option to continue to invest in energy savings or use the savings to add to the operating budget. Lorraine presented the National Grid energy initiative which requires an upfront payment of 10K with the remaining 85K to be financed by National Grid and paid back monthly over 3 three fiscal years.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move to continue on our path to defer energy savings and spend up to \$10K to continue to leverage the incentive for cheaper cleaner fuel.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

The committee stated their individual budget priorities which included maintaining class size, user fees, principal position, administrative model, job share, writing curriculum coordinator, foreign language at HES.

### **Capital Requests and Plan**

The committee discussed capital requests items which included HES playground project, town sewer/water at The Bromfield House, replacement of carpet at HES in the front office, replacing planking /rails on walkway at TBS, convert from oil heat to gas at TBS. Two members of the playground committee presented the project and explained costs.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee endorse the playground project for Hildreth Elementary School as presented.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the Capital Request – 5 year plan summary, subject to further verification by the capital planning representative, superintendent and facilities manager.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

### **Future Agenda Items**

Global Awareness Association, ballot questions, George Ramirez, Strategic plan, NEASC, Monty Tech, MCAS follow-up, Instructional Leadership, Global Achievement Gap, Budget.

### **Adjourn**

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded at 9:52 to adjourn.

VOTED (4/0) Motion approved

Mary Zadroga  
Recording Secretary