

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, November 22, 2010
7:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Piali De, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright, Maureen Babcock, and Thomas Jefferson. Also in attendance was Naomi Stonberg.

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve as amended the minutes from the November 15, 2010 meeting.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Model UN Field Trip Approval

Bryce Mattie requested approval for the Model UN students to attend the National HS Model UN conference in New York City, March 8 to March 13, 2011 and the Harvard University Model UN conference in Boston, January 27 to January 30, 2011.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move that we approved the Model UN conference to New York City, March 8, 2011 to March 13, 2011 and the Harvard University Model UN conference to Boston January 27, 2011 to January 30, 2011.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Student Report

Ryan Holmes reported that the boy's soccer team lost in the state finals to Lenox on Saturday. The drama clubs' presentation of "Plaza Suite" and the Cider House were a great success. Gavin Arnold reported that the "Glo in the Dark" dance was a big success. Parent teacher conference are being held November 22 and 23rd.

Molly O'Rourke Friel reported that there was a large student presence to show support with regard to the graduation date policy and the religious holiday subcommittee report.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported that the budget book will be ready by Wednesday with December 6th and December 9th as dates for review with cost center managers. Dr. Jefferson reported Karen Bucholc announcement of her retirement at the end of this school year. Dr. Jefferson presented a gift from the Harvard Schools Trust for \$1,660.90 for the purchase of video cameras for the Foreign Language Department.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept with gratitude the gift from the Harvard Schools Trust for \$1,660.90 to purchase video cameras.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Policy Section I – Religious Observance Policy Files IMD & IMD-R and Review of Opinions from Calendar subcommittee.

Patty Wenger gave an overview of the development and process the subcommittee used to examine the religious holiday question. The Calendar Subcommittee made no recommendation to the School Committee. Chairman, Keith Cheveralls presented a revised policy IMD to the committee for review. The Committee discussed the revisions under which schools would

remain open on all religious holidays with the exception of Christmas because it is a federal holiday. The policy would include language for accommodations for students who were absent and students who were absent would incur no penalty. There will be employee training at the start of each school year. The Committee will bring forth changes/amendments they would like to see made to the policy for the second reading of the policy on December 13, 2010.

Policy I – Graduation/Files IC/ICA/ID

The Committee discussed the change made to the policy which allows the school to graduate 7 days prior to the last scheduled day of school. The previous policy required school to graduate 12 days prior to the last scheduled day of school. In a previous meeting the Committee asked the question “what will students be doing for the additional five days of school”? The question went back to School Council for consideration. There was some question as to whether or not there was enough time to plan anything for this year and possibly making the change effective for the next school year. The policy stands as written and graduation will be seven days prior to the last scheduled day of school. Dr. Jefferson will work with The Bromfield School Administration to come up with an arrangement for this school year.

Bullying & social Networks – Policy Files IJNDD and JICFB

The Committee did a first reading of Policy JICFB (Bullying Prevention). Will bring forward as a draft policy.

The Committee reviewed a draft of Policy IJNDD (Policy on Face book and Social Networking Websites). The Committee will share the Policy IJNDD with the School Council and Student Council to get feedback. More work is needed before the first reading.

Curriculum & Instructional Leadership Subcommittee

The Committee continued discussion on the Instructional Leadership model at Hildreth Elementary. Kirsten met with teachers and received suggestions and input. A few changes need to be made but overall reaction was well received. The new instructional leadership model will be approved by way of its incorporation into the FY12 budget.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary