

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, December 13, 2010
7:00 pm.

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

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve as amended the minutes from the November 22, 2010 meeting.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2010 meeting.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Student Report

Ryan Holmes reported that there is a chorus concert being performed at The Bromfield School tonight and the band is performing tomorrow night. The basketball team has their first game tonight. The Cocoa House was held and students presented beautiful literary and art work.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Piali De reported that contract negotiations are continuing.

Virginia Justicz reported that the Long Range Planning Subcommittee is waiting for the comprehensive report from NESDEC to be completed. BOS, Fin Com and DEAC are also excited to see the results of the report.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Capital Committee is hard at work. They will meet again on Thursday, January 6 to decide which project they will support.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported that Albert Petingill has been hired as a long term substitute to replace Gary Menin who resigned as Grade 9 Physics's teacher at TBS. The principal search committee has selected seven applicants to be interviewed. Finalists will be chosen on Thursday.

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

After much discussion and public commentary, the second reading of policy IMD resulted in a motion

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move to approve policy IMD to replace the existing policy in the policy book.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

The committee read through the Guidelines for Religious Holiday (File – IMD-R). The Committee decided that file IMD-R should be renamed IMD-E as it is an expanded version of policy IMD. After discussion on file IMD-E

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded- move to amend policy file IMD-E by eliminating the first paragraph.

VOTED (1/4) motion denied. (Keith Cheveralls (Nay), Patty Wenger (Nay), Piali De (Nay), Kirsten Wright (Nay), Virginia Justicz (Yes)

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded move to approve policy IMD-E as presented.

VOTED (3/2) to accept motion Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes), Kirsten Wright (Nay), Virginia Justicz (Nay)

Curriculum Discussion – World Religion

Dr. Jefferson discussed the possibility of adding a World Religion course to the electives at TBS. There are currently no religious course offerings available through the Virtual High School. Piali suggested that the Instructional Leadership Subcommittee look at the Social Studies curriculum before jumping into adding an elective. The committee talked about prioritizing course offerings. Keith, Patty and Tom will work together to bring forward a recommendation.

MCAS – History Exam/Graduation requirements

Stu Sklar brought to the committee's attention a DESE recommendation to reinstate the History MCAS exam as a graduation requirement. Stu asked the committee to take an official vote in opposition of the recommendation and send a letter to the governor's office opposing the additional requirement.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that the committee endorse the Citizens' for Public Schools petition by voting to stop the History MCAS requirement and by communicating that in a letter to the Commissioner and the Secretary.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Dr. Jefferson will craft the letter and Keith Cheveralls will sign on behalf of the Committee.

Policy Section J – Second Reading Bullying Prevention Policy File JICFB

The Committee read through policy JICFB for the second time. With the exception of adding "The Harvard Public Schools to the first line of the policy, the committee was fine with the policy.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve policy file JICFB as amended.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

The Bullying Policy and the Prevention and Intervention Plan will be posted on the school website for a two week period for public comment. At their January meeting the committee will have a formal reading to approve the Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Budget – FY11 and FY12 Updates

Lorraine Leonard presented an update of the FY11 budget expenditures as of December 9th.
Lorraine will check to see why the electricity line seems to be running higher than expected.

Executive Session

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move that the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations.

VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion with Keith Cheveralls recusing himself.

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary