

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, March 14, 2011
7:00 pm.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman, Keith Cheveralls.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2011 meeting as amended.

VOTED (5/0)

FY12 Omnibus Budget – Public Hearing

The public budget hearing was tabled until March 28th so that the notice of public hearing could be publicized for the requisite seven day period in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws.

Review and Vote on SY12 Kindergarten program proposal.

Dr. Jefferson reviewed with the committee four potential options with regard to the kindergarten model for the upcoming year based on accommodating 49 full day requests and 7 half day requests.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to adopt option C, as the kindergarten configuration for the 2011/2012 school year as presented.

VOTED (5/0)

Option C is three full day kindergarten classrooms to include all 49 requests to date. This would leave us with a single half day class of seven.

Review and Vote on SY12 grade level Choice slots

Dr. Jefferson reviewed the current choice enrollment numbers with a recommendation for SY11/12 of adding eleven students.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we authorize the Superintendent to take in eleven choice students, adding 5 students to incoming grade 8 and 2 students in each of incoming grades 9, 10, and 11 and to authorize the superintendent to replace within the grade any student who leaves the choice program.

VOTED (5/0)

Student Report

Ryan Holmes reported that spring sports have started. The girls ski team earned the honor of 2nd in the state. Grade 9 went to Washington, DC and although it was cold and wet they had a great time. The Model UN attended a conference in New York City.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Maureen Babcock reported that the DEAC will meet on Tuesday, March 22nd at 7 p.m.

Piali De reported that Instruction Leadership had no updates at this time.

Patty Wenger reported that the HES School Council is preparing to send out a survey for teachers soon. The “Big Belly” trash compactor will be arriving at The Bromfield School in April.

Kirsten Wright agreed to serve as the School Committee representative to the Parks and Rec Department. Kirsten Wright agreed to organize and author the School Committee letter that will

go in the budget book. All material for the budget book should be ready for submission by March 21st.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson presented for approval an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to support the Washington DC trip.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to gratefully accept the anonymous donation of \$1,000 for the Washington DC trip.

VOTED (5/0)

Dr. Jefferson reported that applications are pouring in for teaching vacancies for the SY 2011/2012. Dr. Jefferson was notified that due to increased student achievement The Bromfield School has been recognized and enrolled in the AP Achievement Honor Roll for 2011.

Report of Boxborough Job Sharing Subcommittee. This will include SC discussion on next steps.

The committee continued to discuss potential leadership models with the possibility of sharing a superintendent with Boxborough as one option. Boxborough will be presenting models at their annual town meeting and the committee will wait to see what direction Boxborough will take. The framework of decision making on Harvard's model will be worked on between now and September/October in order to meet the prime hiring time frame for administrators of November/December.

Review Annual Town Meeting Warrant and member assignments for School Committee Capital Articles

Members were assigned to speak to specific articles as presented. Article 11 – Piali, Article 12 – Virginia, Article 13 – Kirsten, Article 14 – Patty, Article 15 – Patty and Article 16 – Keith.

Commentary

Piali De – great privilege to be part of the superintendent search – such depth and breadth of wisdom; learned a lot.

Patty – tipped her hat off to Virg, thanked her for all she has done.

Kirsten – thanks to Virg, her voice was important to the group and the community.

Keith – thanks to Virg for everything she has done at the table as well as behind the scenes.

Virg – thanked everyone past and present, the position has allowed her to grow personally. The committee has done a lot of good things this year. Thanked all of the people in town who volunteer. Harvard is an amazing place to live. Thanked all of the incredible people who work in the schools. The schools are the jewel of Harvard.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Pilai De seconded to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

VOTED (5/0)

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary