

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, May 23, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Piali De, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright, SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock, Tom Jefferson and Lorraine Leonard

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Outstanding School Partner Award – presented to the Harvard Schools Trust by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and the Harvard School Committee

MASC Executive Director Glenn Koocher attended the meeting to present an award naming the Trust an Outstanding School Partner. Koocher explained the award was established to recognize individuals and organizations that provide continuous, meaningful and sustained support for schools. Chair, Keith Cheveralls read the letter he had submitted to MASC nominating the Trust for the award on behalf of the committee. Co-presidents Debbie Kaegebein and Molly Cutler accepted the award with a round of applause from all in attendance. Committee members spoke regarding the wonderful partnership, passion, generosity and hard work the Trust provides to the children of Harvard.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to accept the minutes of the May 9th meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to accept the minutes of the May 17th meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Bromfield School Council – report from Kirsten Wright. Looking for feedback/follow up from HES School Council on revisions to Core Value Belief document. Working on school improvement plan, website improvements and looking to do another survey.

HES School Council – report from Patty Wenger. Looking for direction regarding the World Language position in the 2011/2012 budget for \$20K. Council elections are coming soon, thinking of adding to the number of members to the group.

Energy Advisory – report from Patty Wenger. The solar panels to be installed at the Bromfield School will be placed on the roof as the wall is not feasible.

Piali De had no subcommittee report, but wanted to recognize the class of 2012 who organized the second Jessie 5K which was attended by over 300 runners and was a great community supported event.

DEAC – report from Maureen Babcock. DEAC met last Tuesday to discuss the Devens Education Survey and the Vicksburg Square project. The survey results will be distributed soon. To view the Vicksburg Square presentation log onto www.jbos.info. Keith Cheveralls reported that the Boxborough town meeting voted to pursue talks with Harvard and other towns about sharing superintendents and or regionalization with Acton.

The Master Plan Task Force Subcommittee is requesting representation from a member of the School Committee. Keith Cheveralls will invite the chair of the Planning Board to a meeting to discuss the requirements and commitments of membership.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Attorney Generals Office has advised with directive the release of appropriate executive session minutes from late spring and summer of 2010.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson informed the committee that two teachers have been hired for the 2011/2012 school year. Jamie Bussolari, Special Education Teacher and Jacques Duranceau, Physics Teacher. We are pleased to have both of them on board. Tom also shared a notice of retirement from Earl Maurer who has been a long standing employee, starting out as a tutor, then reading teacher and most recently special education teacher. Dr. Jefferson presented a gift from the Harvard Schools Trust to fund the grant request from Donna Piche and Kathleen Kittredge for the Weather Bug Station in the amount of \$615.00.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the grant for the Weatherbug project for Donna Piche and Kathy Kittredge.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Model United Nations Report and request – Bryce Mattie

Bryce Mattie attended the meeting with members of the club to thank the committee for their continued support. They presented two field trip requests. The traditional trip to Harvard Model UN held at the Sheraton in Boston January 26 – January 29, 2012 and the Saint Petersburg International Model United Nations in Russia March 24 – March 31, 2012. The committee agreed to bring the January trip forward at the June 27th meeting and would like to invite members of the committee to send Tom their ideas and opinions on international travel as well as school trips that only benefit a few of our best students.

Community Education FY12 Business Plan

Judy Cavanaugh presented the committee with a plan to provide extended day childcare to preschool and kindergarten students next year. She has sent out an email to perspective parents to seek interest and will flush out needs and develop a target yield to run at least a break even program. Judy also presented and discussed plans for field trips for Middle School students on early release days. The committee asked Judy to come up with programs that will attract 4, 5, and 6th graders. It was suggested that the senior class participate as part of their senior project to develop a cool, hip place, supervised by older

teens and identify it as a “Teen Center”. The Committee will revisit this topic early summer for updates and plan.

FY12 School Committee Meeting Schedule

The FY12 meeting schedule will remain the second and fourth Monday of the month, except during October the date will change to Tuesday October 11th and the meeting for December 26th has been deleted.

6/24 Early Release update for both Bromfield and HES

The School Committee endorsed adding an early release day to the The Bromfield School schedule on June 24.

2008/13 Strategic Plan Progress Assessment – Goals #5

Dr. Jefferson reviewed the progress made on goal 5 of the strategic plan.

Policy Files

Policy IMG – Animals in Schools.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve Policy IMG, Animals in School as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion.

Commentary

SusanMary Redinger – Willie Wonka was fabulous.

Keith Cheveralls – thank Tom for officially taking the first step to hand over the reins to Dr. Connelly.

Kirsten- Senior project were presented so eloquently and it was very exciting to participate in the event.

Patty Wenger – this is an exciting time of year.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn at 9:55.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga