

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, May 9, 2011
7:00 pm.

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

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the minutes from the April 25th meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. SusanMary Redinger abstained due to absence.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the minutes from the May 2nd meeting.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Piali De reported that she had attended the NEASC standards meeting and things are in good shape.

Kirsten Wright – reported the DEAC meeting has been rescheduled to May 17th and the agenda will include Vicksburg Square and the survey. The Bromfield School Council is working on the school improvement plan, the core value statement and homework data. Keith Cheveralls - passed on an article regarding over pressured student. Note of appreciation to the PTO and Community Education for hosting teacher appreciation week. Informal meeting with HTA was very informative and meaningfully engaged conversation. Thanks to Kathleen and Judy. Advised members to be aware and informed about the Vicksburg Square proposal. Boxborough will be holding their town meeting tonight and will get a sense of the town with regard to regionalization/job sharing interest.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson informed the committee that the Devens contract has an automatic rollover clause, but last year the committee chose to make a formal vote by June 30th. Teacher appreciation week was very well received by a tremendous staff. We are very pleased with the caliber of finalists for the open positions for the coming school year. One position has been finalized and two others will be finalized soon. Tom reported on two trips that needed school committee approval as out of state/overnight trips. The National Academic Bowl competition to be held in New Orleans over the Memorial Day weekend and the sixth grade trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire.

Pail De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the National Academic Bowl trip to New Orleans.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the sixth grade Canobie Lake Park trip.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Dr. Jefferson talked about their being two last days of school this year. The Bromfield School's last day is June 27th Hildreth Elementary's last day is June 24th. Both schools will have an early release day of June 24th. Traditionally grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 are scheduled for finals in the morning only. Grade 6 and 7 have a regular program scheduled and grade 8 students are allowed to leave after finals with parent permission. The committee asked to make available to them the Bromfield schedule for the early release day on Friday, June 24th.

Dr. Jefferson reported that there will be a change in email service providers from Integrity to Google Apps for Education. The new email service will have more capacity and is a cost effective, better way of doing business. The Google docs' part of the program will allow for better collaboration between teachers. Google docs training will take place over the summer.

TBS/NEASC – Core Values & District Vision

Jim O'Shea presented a document titled "Core Value, Belief, and Learning Expectation for the Bromfield School" to the committee to see if they would endorse the document. The document was synthesized by reformatting the guiding principles and core values to make it a more NEASC friendly document to use in the self assessment part of the NEASC accreditation visit. Piali De recommended that we endorse the document and work on making it a policy with input from stakeholders and HES. The sense of the committee is to endorse the "Core Value, Belief, and Learning Expectation for the Bromfield School" with refinements yet to be discussed.

FY11 Budget Report and update

Lorraine Leonard updated the committee on the FY11 budget. The major difference in the budget is that the ARRA funds have been added as offset to the out of district to replace the cut in circuit breaker funds. We will not need to ask for reserve fund transfer for out of district overages. The committee would like to ask the Energy Advisory Group to come to a meeting discuss the fuel season past and future.

Redesigned School Calendar

As follow up to our previous meeting Dr. Jefferson presented a copy of the email distributed to staff and parents regarding the holidays we will identify on our school calendar and the overarching guideline which will govern accommodations. Dr. Jefferson suggested that we add and subtract religious holidays with regard to practicality. The key is to emphasize the importance of this to the staff. Implement it in the spirit for which it was intended. Let commonsense prevail and use best professional judgment. Building principals need to own this and introduce it to the faculty. There should be an attendance tracking mechanism to see if high absences on a particular holiday require reevaluation of policy.

School Committee Liaison Assignments

The following are the liaison assignment for the 2011/2012 school year. Current assignments will hold through for the remainder of the school year. Subcommittee assignments will not be decided until a more robust discussion about priorities occurs.

Board of Selectman – Keith Cheveralls
Finance Committee – Keith Cheveralls
DEAC – Kirsten Wright
SEPAC – Kirsten Wright
TBS School Council – Kirsten Wright
NEASC – Piali De and Kirsten Wright
HES School Council – SusanMary Redinger
Capital Planning & Investment Committee – Keith Cheveralls
HEAC – Patty Wenger
Park & Recreation – Patty Wenger
State Representative – Piali De

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we formally approve Keith Cheveralls to serve on the Capital Plan and Investment Committee
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Policy Files

The committee read through the first reading of policy IMG – Animals in School and will make a few minor changes and bring forward for a formal second reading for May 23rd.

The committee voted to approve the addendum to the Bully Policy to meet all requisite deadlines.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to incorporate the addendum to the Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan as presented
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Tom will give the School Committee a recommended schedule for reviewing policies.

2008/13 Strategic Plan Progress Assessment

Dr. Jefferson reviewed goals 3 and 4 with the committee to explain where the district is in terms of progress.

Future Agenda Items

Superintendent Evaluation - Dr. Jefferson would like to register his concern with regard to an evaluation due to the make-up of the committee and the negotiated time frame. Tom will seek advice from legal counsel. The School Committee will meet on May 17th at 1:30 p.m. in the town hall meeting room to continue discussion on the Superintendent's evaluation.

Commentary

Piali De – Reminder about the Jessie 5K event. Misses meeting with the kids.

SusanMary Redinger – is excited about the great work being done.

Kirsten Wright – TBS School Council is a very energized group moving in the right direction.

Keith Cheveralls- attended a stunning performance by the Harvard Pro Musica, proud moment for the Bromfield chorus.

Patty Wenger made a motion Piali De seconded to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga