

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, August 23, 2010
7:00 pm.

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

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Keith Cheveralls announced a change to the meeting schedule where August 30th will be an executive session meeting and September 3rd at 8 a.m. will be added as a business meeting.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the minutes from the July 12th meeting as amended.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Kirsten Wright (Yes))

Liaison and subcommittee reports

Kirsten Wright and Piali De reported that reviewing the instructional leadership at HES is their #1 goal. They plan to meet with Tom, Suzanne and Peggy to get a better understanding of what is in place now and they plan to be able to gather info for discussion by October.

Patty Wenger reported that the Energy Advisory committee has rescheduled their upcoming meeting. September 14, 2010 will be the date of the first HES School Council meeting. The Long Range Planning committee is looking for a date to meet. The Calendar committee will be reenergized in the coming weeks in order to make a recommendation regarding holidays.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Board of Health had reviewed a request to reduce air quality testing requirement at Hildreth Elementary to semi annually. This will result in some savings to the school. Keith reported that the Massachusetts School Building Authority has money available to fund energy efficiency initiatives. This may be a way to fund the replacement of HES windows that are currently on the 2014 capital plan. The committee has not heard back from Boxborough with regard to Central Office job sharing. Keith Cheveralls thanked the cable team for all they do.

Superintendent Report

Thomas Jefferson thanked the custodial staff for doing a great job over the summer with work at both schools' front entrances, painting work and overall sprucing up of the buildings and grounds.. Tom reported the following new staff:

The Bromfield School – Thomas Linville – Art Teacher, Leanne McCann – Speech Pathologist, Robin Hermans – French Teacher, Collin Myers – Music Teacher.
Hildreth Elementary School – Carrie Normandin – Technology Media Specialist
System wide – Gretchen McNerney – Behavior Therapist

Tom informed the committee of the rich professional development held over the summer which included the Understanding by Design course presented by Alison Zmuda. The Skillful Teacher course, 2 days of advanced smart board training, a course on digital storytelling and the Wayland Institute for math and reading.

Tom reported that although there have been some glitches to work out, progress is being made so that parents can access their student information on line. Also in the near future an electronic pay system will be launched for lunch payments.

Natures Classroom

Terry Monette presented information on the Natures Classroom trip and requested the school committee approve the overnight trip which will be held October 4 through October 8th for the fifth grade.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to approve the Natures Classroom trip as presented.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Kirsten Wright (Yes))

Hildreth Elementary School Interim Principal

Thomas Jefferson introduced Suzanne Mahoney as the Interim Principal of Hildreth Elementary. Suzanne comes to HES with passion and commitment. Suzanne discussed some idea she has to enhance HES. Some of her ideas include students being connected with senior citizens, writing a student center school newspaper, and establishing a principal awards program.

Reports from Principals, Special Education Director and Athletic Director

The committee discussed having the Principals, Special Education Director and Athletic Director come to a school committee meeting prior to budget planning to discuss goals and priorities, then again at the end of the year to discuss whether goals were met and obstacles overcome. Keith will develop a broad brush timeline and include the Technology Department, Community Education, and the Facilities Director as well.

Bus Data Review

Preliminary data suggests that ridership is down a bit from last year. The bus data review will be brought up again at the September 3rd meeting.

Enrollment

The committee reviewed the enrollment numbers to date reflecting that there is no significant change.

All Boards Meeting September 14th

The All Boards meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall meeting room. Agenda items will include the state of the schools, capital plan, long term financial plan and financial overview. If anything comes up that any of the committee would like to see added to the agenda please let either Keith Cheveralls or Peter Warren know.

School Committee Goals and First reading of Superintendent's goals

The School Committee went through the second reading of their goals. The committee agreed to add the Boxborough central office union as one of their goals. Keith will get in touch with Boxborough and come to the September 3rd meeting with a goal.

The Superintendent read through the first reading of his goals. Piali suggested the following be added to the Superintendent's goals

HTA – teacher evaluation document

Instructional Leadership – provide updates three time per year

PD and Outreach – PD sharing exploration, how does PD align with district goals

Community Education – enhance program – balance budget – provide recommendations to enhance program and identify viable after school programs in the area as best practice.

Review and revise the Policy on Computer use, work with the policy subcommittee to look at the computer use policy at HES.

Both sets of goals with minor adjustments will be incorporated and brought back to the September 3rd meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Fees – Athletic, Bus, etc.

Scheduling of Global Achievement Gap

MCAS release

Superintendent Evaluation process

Strategic Plan progress

DEAC

Adjournment

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary