

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 27, 2010
7:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Piali De, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright, Maureen Babcock, Lorraine Leonard, Molly O'Rourke-Friel and Thomas Jefferson

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the minutes from the September 13th 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))

Student Report

Gavin Arnold reported that The Bromfield School Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 30. The Student Advisory Council will be running a club fair during the Open House to showcase the different clubs and activities available to students.

Molly O'Rourke-Friel reported that The Bromfield School will have student representation on the State Student Advisory Board. Molly will also be drafting a report for the Calendar Subcommittee.

Liaison and subcommittee reports

Virginia Justicz reported that the SEPAC Steering Committee met to discuss issues at The Bromfield School. It was also a planning meeting to discuss events, speakers and workshops for the coming year.

Piali De reported that the Instruction Leadership Subcommittee will meet next Friday. They aim to make a presentation to the School Committee by the end of next month.

Keith Cheveralls reported that he and Patty met with Boxborough School Committee representatives to continue the discussion sharing potentials. Chairman Cheveralls reported the he and the Superintendent will be working on a Bullying Policy to be reviewed and presented to the Committee by December 31st. Work needs to be done on the policy regarding electronic use as well. Keith will bring the question to the Student Council meeting on October 22nd to get feedback on this issue from the student body representatives.

Patty Wenger reported that the HES School Council voted officers. The playground is moving forward in high gear. The HES parent and teacher survey is due to go out in January. The Energy Advisory grant has been signed. The Calendar Subcommittee met and had interesting dialogue. Members will be submitting opinions in writing to Patty. Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council is looking for one teacher and one community representative to serve on the council. The Bromfield School Council is reading "The Global Achievement Gap" as a group. The School Council will also be

looking into student expenses not covered by the omnibus budget. Jim O'Shea with the help of Lorraine Leonard will compile a list of student expenses and user fees.

Maureen Babcock reported that the DEAC met last Tuesday and they are excited to be having Glen Koocher from MASC attend their meeting on October 26th to give his perspective on their work.

Lorraine Leonard gave an overview of the FY10 end of the year report. The report won't be available on the DESE website until January or February. The report needs the signature of the School Committee Chair.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to move that the School Committee authorize the Chair to sign the DESE end of the year report.

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

Superintendent Report

Thomas Jefferson congratulated the Harvard Lion's Club under the direction of Bob Kinney and Bob Hazel for the work involved in hosting the Harvard Fall Festival. Kudos to the Harvard Police as well who sponsored the Battle of the Bands as part of the event. Dr. Jefferson reported that the hope is to have a Guidance Counselor in place as soon as possible. Dr. Jefferson suggested some dates for the new staff reception which will be held at the Bromfield School cafeteria with a 4:00 p.m. time frame.

Dr. Jefferson presented gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust which included

\$1,550 for Apply Technology to Formative Assessment – Wyatt Holt

\$500 for Market Math – Rika Stevenson

\$2600. For French Program Ceiling Projector and Laptop – Margaret McDoom

\$1720. Bromfield Model UN Club-conference registration – Bryce Mattie

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to move to approve the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust as noted.

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

Washington DC trip

Dr. Julie Horton discussed plans and details for the Washington DC trip planned for the 9th grade class from March 9 through March 12, 2011.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee approve the 9th grade trip to Washington DC.

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

Dr. Julie Horton as Junior Class Advisor reported to the committee that the Junior Class is planning a trip to New York City on December 3, 2010 for the day.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the New York City trip for the Junior Class on December 3rd, 2010.

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

Graduation – Policy file IKFB

The Committee discussed the graduation policy which was changed in February to read “graduation may be held, up to seven days before the regular scheduled closing date of that school. In the past the policy had read “up to twelve days before the regular scheduled closing date of that school”. There was discussion about what students could do during these additional days if AP classes had finished etc. It was recommended that this question go back to the School Council and Student Council to come up with ideas.

Strategic Plan - Update

Dr. Jefferson continued to present the Harvard Public Schools’ 2008-2013 Strategic Plan Score Card, discussing Goal 2: Components one, two, three and four.

Long Range Planning Subcommittee – NESDEC study request

Virginia Justicz reported that the subcommittee had their first meeting to discuss their scope and deliverable before town meeting. The subcommittee would like to have NESDEC do an in depth report of enrollment including Devens. NESDEC would factor in state trends as well. The cost of the report would be approximately \$6,250.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move to commission NESDEC to do a long range analysis for Harvard population and Devens population to be funded through the Devens carry forward account.

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

Capital Requests and Budget Planning Process – 2nd discussion

The committee discussed planning for the FY12 budget. The committee discussed a capital request placeholder of 65K for the construction of the HES playground with the possibility of matching funds from either Devens capital or Shaw Trust. Committee will discuss proposal at next meeting.

Superintendent Evaluation Process – 2nd discussion

Dr. Jefferson and Piali De are going to continue to work on the Superintendent evaluation and bring it back to the next meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Monty Tech, MCAS Follow-up, Instructional Leadership, Global Achievement Gap, Budget, Capital Request, Strategic Plan, Graduation Policy Follow-up.

Executive Session

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded move that the School Committee enter into executive session, as authorized by Chapter 30A, Section 18-25 for the purpose of reviewing and approving executive session minutes of July 19th, August 30th, and September 8th.

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

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary