

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, February 27, 2012  
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Piali De, Kirsten Wright, Maureen Babcock  
Absent: Patty Wenger and SusanMary Redinger

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Piali De made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting.

VOTE (3/0) to accept

### **HES – Math Intervention**

A group of fifth grade students along with Gretchen Henry, Math Curriculum Coordinator and Deborah Walker attended the meeting in order to present and highlight Digi-Blocks which are math manipulatives used at the Hildreth Elementary School. The manipulatives are very engaging and a great way to support students learning.

### **Student Report**

Student Council member, Caroline Mazzolla reported that everyone is excited to be back from break. The boys and girls basketball teams are in the playoffs. The boys play tonight and the girls play on Thursday. The Quebec trip is planned for this week and should be a great experience. Two French teachers (Robin Hermans and Anastasia Townsend) will be going for the first time. Tonight at 7 p.m. the Art National Honor Society is hosting a program called “Every person has a story”. This is a world-wide program where the organization gives children from all over the world cameras to photograph their lives. The story of the good times and struggles of these children are told in the series of photos. Nick George reported that the National Honor Society including the French and Spanish Honor Society will be having their induction ceremony next Wednesday.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Connelly reported that the tentative date for the budget public hearing is Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also that night the School Union Subcommittee will be presenting on the Boxborough/Harvard School Union Restructuring Options.

Dr. Connelly included in the packet the User Fee comparison Survey Report to be discussed at a future meeting.

Jim O’Shea attended the meeting to explain why he feels TBS should participate in the Emerson Hospital Youth Risk survey for 2012. The survey is optional. Parents can view the survey before their child participates. Other communities felt it was helpful. The survey results will be helpful in developing a wellness program.

Dr. Connelly reported that last Monday or Tuesday morning The Bromfield School was vandalized. There have been no arrest made in the case which is being investigated by the Harvard Police Department. Piali De asked Jim O’Shea to figure out a way to make this a teachable moment. Keith Cheveralls indicated serious malicious damage to our schools would not be tolerated.

### **School Committee Report**

Piali De reported that the Policy Subcommittee has taken care of reviewing all of Policy D. The Concussion policy is coming forward for a first read. At this point the subcommittee has two meetings remaining and would like to focus on the Mission and Vision statement as well as graduation requirement policies.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the CPIC met and the good news is all but one request from the school department received support. Moving to the top of the list as a result of the vandalism at TBS this past week will be the intrusion alarm. Keith also reported that the finishing touches are being put together on Dr. Connelly's contract and Naomi Stonberg will put it into draft form for review at our next meeting in March.

The committee discussed how to prepare for the March 28<sup>th</sup> Super Town Meeting regarding The Vicksburg Square project. The committee decided to have a meeting on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to come up with questions that need to be answered.

### **Energy Advisory Committee Periodic Update on Energy Utilization and Initiatives**

Brian Smith and Jim Elkind from the Harvard Energy Advisory Committee attend the meeting and updated the committee on the HES building automation project which they hope to start during April vacation.

### **FY13 School Committee Approved Budget**

Steve Caldwell from the Harvard Finance Committee joined the committee to explain the action taken by the Finance Committee on Saturday to fund a level service budget. The Finance Committee recommended not funding the .6 FTE Wellness Teacher and instead recommended funding the Bromfield textbook account (reference document from FinCom- "FY13 School Budget as voted by FinCom 2/25/12). The Finance Committee's recommended budget is \$11,488,532. Keith thanked Steve and his colleagues for the outstanding job they do. The committee agreed to additional discussion as required to finalize FY13 budget.

### **Overnight Field Trip**

**NY City** – Martha Brooks and Gayle Bruning asked that the junior class be allowed to travel to New York City over the Memorial Day weekend. The cost of the trip is approximately \$540.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Piali De second to approve the field trip to New York City, May 25, 26 and 27<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE (3/0) to accept

**Grade 6 – Museum of Science** – A science field trip for grade 6 under the direction of Dr. Tarullo. The students leave after school on Thursday and are home for dismissal of Friday. This is a highly valued trip.

Piali De made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move that we approve the sixth grade trip to go over night to the Boston Science Museum.

VOTE (3/0) to accept

### **Approval of Club – Bromfield League of Crafters Club**

The Committee reviewed an application for a club called the "Bromfield League of Crafters Club". Mr. Drew Skrocki will be the advisory for the club. The committee was not able to make a decision until more information is presented regarding the Mind Craft game, and the logistics of the club for instance will school computers be used.

### **Administrative Restructuring Updates – School Union Study**

Dr. Connelly spoke of the questions formed by the School model subcommittee and included in the packet. Some members of the subcommittee will be visiting the Tri-Town union on March 5<sup>th</sup> to help find answers. Dr. Curt Bates and Dr. Bernie Creeden have agreed to attend the next School Model Subcommittee meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> as resources in helping to answer questions. The committee will be ready to present a report to the School Committee on March 26<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing for the community on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Volunteers Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

### **Financial Report – Revolving Funds**

Lorraine Leonard reviewed with the committee the revolving accounts and reported that they are in good shape at this point in the year.

### **Tentative Teaching Design**

Joe Connelly reviewed with the committee the Tentative Teaching Design Posting document that will be used this year to identify all anticipated teacher vacancies at both schools. This posting allows all teachers to submit a letter of interest, indicating their desire for a voluntary transfer into one or more of these positions. Over the next two weeks all teachers submitting a letter will be interviewed with each principal announcing by March 19<sup>th</sup> Tentative Teacher Assignments for 2012/2013. Vacancies unfilled on March 19<sup>th</sup> will be reposted with the principals free to interview external candidates.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Enrollment Capacity  
Boxborough Union  
Superintendent performance  
User Fee  
Policy work  
School Committee Self Evaluation  
School Choice Recommendation  
Public Hearing – April 2nd  
ATM- April 28<sup>th</sup> –

### **Commentary**

Kirsten Wright– was talking with a parent after the last meeting about how impressed she was with the Model UN student’s presentation and the parent said she does this so well because of what she learned in elementary school.

Piali De – The continuity we give is fabulous’

Keith Cheveralls – Wow! These kids are fantastic, they showed great enthusiasm, and connection - good stuff!

Piali De made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m

VOTE (3/0)

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary