

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, August 8, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Piali De, Patty Wenger, Kirsten Wright and Joseph Connelly.

Members absent: SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to accept the minutes of the July 25th meeting.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Superintendent Report

Dr. Joe Connelly reported that there had been a Harvard Public Library meeting with library trustees/personnel, school administrators, and interested/available members of school committee on July 21, 2011 to discuss concerns and brainstorm solutions related to the middle school age children's use of the public library during after school hours. Dr. Connolly supplied a written summary of this meeting, and will provide Marty Green and Mary Wilson of the library with a copy as well. The Superintendent has had a follow-up meeting with administrators, and shared that there will be another Harvard Public Library meeting in August. Date to be determined.

School Committee/Superintendent Goals 2011-2012 discussed. Agreement to add a goal related to the Superintendent's support of district policy. Piali will send this goal to SusanMary to add to current list. There was discussion about Superintendent's leadership in bringing these goals to his administrative team to determine the process for accomplishing them, and asking School Committee for help as he may find the need. Members expressed agreement. School Committee will determine standing subcommittees for budget and policy. Committee agreed to think about other possible standing committees and bring to August 22 meeting.

Superintendent met with technology consultant who feels that creating survey(s) related to technology would be helpful in determining needs as part of building a comprehensive technology plan. School Committee could be of help in developing this survey instrument.

MASC/MASS 2011 Joint Conference is in November 9-12. At least two School Committee members plan on attending (SusanMary and Kirsten), possibly more. Karen Shuttle will register two.

HES Master Schedule: Dr. Connelly invited Dr. Linda Dwight to show how students receiving specialized services would not be removed from specials (art, P.E., music etc.) for these services. In addition, Dr. Dwight explained the benefits of co-teaching as well as the costs involved. She explained that providing classroom teachers with assistants (who have additional training/support), offers cost savings and reaches more students. The Committee agreed that it supports the continued exploration of best options for students, and to make requests through the budget process for additional resources if needed. Dr. Connelly suggested that an early PAC meeting might be used to present the schedule work done. Dr. Connelly and the Committee thanked Dr. Dwight and members of her team for their hard work.

Dr. Connelly and Bryce Mattie met to discuss the possibility of a Model UN International trip for March of 2012. During this meeting, Dr. Connelly outlined some basic conditions of the trip. Discussion about resources, selection criteria to be further explored when Bryce Mattie comes to School Committee with formal request for trip.

The Playground Dedication will be at 4:00 on August 29th.

School Committee Reports

DEAT Meeting about Vicksburg Square (Patty Wenger): Patty met with Superintendent as a follow up after this meeting to present the question: What resources would Harvard schools need to provide quality education to incoming students if this project comes to fruition? Dr. Connelly working on gathering this information.

Energy Advisory (Patty Wenger): Will get a date for Energy Advisory reps to meet with School Committee in September.

Administrative Model Subcommittee (Kirsten Wright): Dr. Connelly, Patty Wenger and Kirsten Wright had a brief meeting to discuss setting up contacts and creating documents for use in future subcommittee meeting with date TBD.

Maureen Babcock and Keith Cheveralls introduced Joe Connolly to George Ramirez, Director of Mass Development, at Devens. Future meeting to be scheduled with Joe and George after Vicksburg Square vote.

Community Ed (Piali De): SusanMary and Piali met with Judy Cavanaugh to create financial planning tool. Park and Rec has similar challenges. Patty, Park and Rec liaison, will reach out to them.

Master Plan Steering Committee update and School Committee Input

Joe Hutchinson, Chair of Master Plan Steering Committee, updates Committee on the progress in developing Master Plan and how School Committee can be helpful. If School Committee has any long range planning documents, this would be helpful (enrollment data, technology plan, last NEASC, goals...) SusanMary and Piali will gather information and bring to 8/22/2012 School Committee meeting.

FY12 Budget Update

Dr. Connelly provided update on current personnel and job adjustments related to budget.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we expand the role of Library/Media Specialist to Technology/Library/Media Specialist, with the added responsibilities as specified in the new job description, and approve additional funds (13K) necessary to hire a qualified person.

VOTE (4/0) to accept motion.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we combine the .5 literacy coach and .5 reading tutor positions into a full time position, and reinstate the posting of a one year full time fifth grade position.

VOTE (4/0) to accept motion.

Discussion about earlier start time for School Committee meetings. Agreement from all members to begin meetings at 5:30 beginning 8/22/2011 through April, with the understanding that the start time will be revisited and adjusted as needed to accommodate potential future candidates whose work schedules or other responsibilities may demand a later start. Karen will check with Julie Doucet about availability of the Town Hall meeting room.

Preliminary Proposal for a possible Middle School Drop-In Center

Dr. Connelly, after having met with Principal O'Shea, shared the beginning logistics of introducing the program to parents and students, and soliciting input from students. There would be a minimal cost for the year to students, possibly \$75.00. A faculty member, with older student help, would staff the program. Dr. Connolly made the request for 10K in start up funds to get the program going.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee approve a \$10,000 start-up funds for the Middle School Drop-In Center.

VOTE (4/0) to accept motion

Commentary

Kirsten – fabulous meeting and thanks to all

Piali – glad we are meeting over the summer

Keith – would like to express appreciation to Joe Connelly in his help in addressing resolutions this evening

Future Agenda Items

Goals Document

School Readiness

Model UN Trip

Continuation School Committee goals

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

VOTE (4/0) to accept motion

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Shuttle