

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 12, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the minutes of the August 22nd meeting as amended.

VOTE (3/0) to accept the motion (Patty Wenger abstained due to absence)

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly updated the committee on repair work that had been completed by a very committed maintenance staff over the summer. The committee discussed a few corrections to the Liaison and Subcommittee assignments. Piali De should be listed as the State Representative Liaison and Maureen Babcock should be added to the DEAT Subcommittee. Dr. Connelly shared with the committee several letters of appreciation for going above and beyond to prepare for the pending "Hurricane Irene" over the weekend of August 27th. Joe also shared that Lorraine Leonard was the recipient of the coveted Friend of MASBO award. Congratulations to Lorraine for this significant accomplishment. Joe Connelly gave an administrative flow chart presentation explaining all the positions in the district that had the potential to be shared with another district if that is the direction the committee takes with regard to a new administrative model. Joe presented a sample calculation using Boxborough and Harvard if they were to merge. The potential savings for Harvard would be \$126,293. Joe will be meeting with the Boxborough superintendent next Thursday, September 22, 2011 to discuss this further.

School Committee Reports

Patty Wenger reported that DEAT met and they are preparing a report for the Board of Selectman with useful information regarding Vicksburg Square.

Piali De reported that NEASC had a very productive PD day on Friday. The NEASC timeline will be in packets for the next meeting. The NEASC evaluation team will be at The Bromfield School from April 29 to May 2nd to do their site visit.

SusanMary Redinger submitted her minutes to the Town Planning Committee to be included in the RFP.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC will meet next Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Keith Cheveralls discussed that the meeting time for the duration of the current board will be 6:00 p.m. Keith reminded Joe that Religious Policy IMD and IMD-E were required to be made public and that with the approach of Rosh Hashanah on September 28th all should be sensitive to policy IMD-E which insures special accommodations that may be needed for students to attend religious events. Keith reported that the All Boards would meet on September 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Keith reported that the Technology Plan Committee has a broad representation and plan to have 6 to 7 meetings before December. They have developed a staff survey which will be finalized tomorrow and completed by all staff on Wednesday.

Meet with Board of Selectman to review and vote on the requested of the Harvard Farmers Market to allow wine sales on school property – front parking lot at HES.

Rochelle Greer, from the Farmer’s Market and Marie Sobalvarro from the BOS joined the committee to request that the Farmer’s Market allow the sale of wine. Permitting authority is the BOS but the School Committee must approve the sale of alcohol on school grounds.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to allow the Harvard Farmer’s market permission to sell wine on the school premises on Saturday only from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. subject to the Board of Selectman vote and permitting under provisions of Chapter 138, Section 15f.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Extracurricular Fair/New Student Club Proposals

Jim O’Shea introduced Erin Molinaro and Allie Serrine who talked about the Extracurricular Fair that will held at the Bromfield School cafeteria on September 14th to introduce students to all of the various extracurricular clubs offered at the school.

Katie House spoke about organizing a S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decision) Club at Bromfield. The goal of the club would be to hold events and discussion that promote good decision making.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the S.A.D.D. club.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

The committee also heard a request for the formation of the Bromfield Art Club which would meet twice per month in the Bromfield cafeteria.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Bromfield Art Club as presented.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

2011/2012 Special Education Procedures Manual

Pam DeGregorio reviewed the Special Education Procedure Manual with the committee. The procedures manual is an internal document that serves as a handbook to help staff. The document will be shared with SEPAC. The committee thanked Pam for her work to create this outstanding document.

2011/2012 School Opening Report

Joe Connelly updated the committee that the middle school walkway repair and upgrade is underway. The new gas stove at HES will be hooked up this week. The committee reviewed the enrollment and bus counts at HES and TBS. Joe reported a very smooth school opening and we are off to a very good start.

Middle School Drop-In Center Progress Report

Sharon Correnty has been hired as the teacher for the Middle School Drop In Center. There is excitement among the students to join and Jim has identified a group of sixth grade students to engage in conversation about ideas. Sharon announced that she has received a grant from Kids Consortium which will be applied toward the purchase of a film series that will tie in nicely

with the Drop In Center. The committee discussed the per pupil fee for becoming a member of the Drop In Center and in order not to discourage participation the committee agreed to make the fee \$50 per year.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that we get this program going and charge \$50 as an enrollment fee.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Community Education – Superintendent’s financial update and discussion around future expectation for Community Ed.

Joe reviewed with the committee the Community Education financial history spreadsheet of trends since FY09. There is concern that FY11 generated a deficit of \$2,137. Judy Cavanaugh is exploring options to revitalize the program and coming up with programs that will hopefully be successful. The committee discussed having a joint meeting with the Pilot Project Program and the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss ways to provide the most efficient service to the community. At this point the committee agreed to support the Community Education program as long as it covers its cost with the hope for the future for it to be profitable.

Review draft of Five Year Strategic Plan as request by Board of Selectman

Keith Cheveralls discussed the key initiatives for the next five years as requested by the BOS for their 5 year financial plan. This information will be distributed at the All Boards meeting. The committee discussed their submission. Keith will make the necessary changes and send them to all members of the committee. Keith agreed to speak to the initiatives at the upcoming All Boards meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Club Stipends
Gifts/grants
Status of Goals

Commentary

Patty Wenger– a lot of exciting things going on, receiving a lot of positive feedback.

Maureen – great meeting.

Piali – really likes the letters of appreciation to be acknowledged/ positively changing the culture of the schools.

Keith – reminder next meeting to be held at 33 Andrews Parkway, Devens at 6:00 p.m/Project Adventure to be highlighted.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga