

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday, October 14, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Virginia Justicz, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Willie Wickman, and Thomas W. Jefferson

Call to Order – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

VOTED Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the August 25, 2008 meeting as presented.
(5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

VOTED Willie Wickman made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Executive Minutes from the September 14, 2008 meeting to be released.
(4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Abstain), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

VOTED Willie Wickman made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the September 22, 2008 meeting as amended.
(5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

The Committee wanted to review the Executive Session Minutes from the September 22, 2008 meeting in Executive Session.

Student Report

Emma Cait O'Rourke Friel, student representative, reported that School Council was pleased to meet the School Committee at its last meeting, Ancient Medieval History and Fine Arts will visit the Museum of Fine Arts, Academic Bowl broke the 400 point mark making history, the League of Women Voters was at Bromfield registering seniors, and that a Band concert was scheduled for this Thursday with Chorus the following Thursday.

Start Time Study

Representatives from the School Start Time Committee reported on their findings to the School Committee. The School Committee was very impressed with the response to the survey. The data showed a benefit from a later start time for adolescents; however, the logistics were too complicated to work out without all other school districts on board. The committee felt it was a worthwhile study as it raised awareness to the issue. Dr. Jefferson stated that he would be addressing the issue on the policy level at the upcoming MASC/MASS joint conference.

School Committee Reports

Willie Wickman reported on the Shirley School tour at Devens.

Patty Wenger reported on the GeoThermal walk through at Southborough. Unfortunately, it is not possible to implement at Bromfield but might be a possibility at the Elementary School. National Grid is preparing a building assessment.

Virginia Justicz reported on the Shirley School tour as well. She felt the facility had potential for younger children. She reported on meeting with The Bromfield Student Council. She also reported on the North Andover United Community Forum regarding Question 1. She questioned whether a Capital Planning Committee had been formed yet.

Keith Cheveralls also reported on meeting with The Bromfield Student Council. He presented an email requesting the he and Patty Wenger be allowed to visit both schools for "A Day in the Life of". He questioned doing a survey for school climate, and Willie Wickman stated that the School Councils were in the process of conducting that survey.

Stu Sklar reported that the Elementary School Council was scheduled to meet next Tuesday. He reported on the Suburban Coalition which participated in the North Andover meeting on Question 1. He read a letter from the Water Commissioner regarding the well head on Pond Road and appointed Keith Cheveralls as the liaison to Work with the Commission. He also read a letter from the Planning Board.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported that Mark Force would be presenting his Energy Guidelines at an upcoming meeting. He also stated that the schools' thermostats had been set at sixty-nine degrees to conserve energy and save money. He gave an enrollment update. He read an article he prepared, "Building the Budget from the Ground Up". He presented a list of virtual high school courses being taken at The Bromfield School. He reported on the conference with ELNA where they will view the film "Two Million Minutes", and he also reported that an in service professional development day entitled "Habits of the Mind" was planned for faculty on Election Day. He presented a letter from the College

Board recognizing Bromfield for its excellence in Calculus AB. Keith Cheveralls questioned the ADA compliance issue, and Dr. Jefferson stated that public meetings will no longer be conducted at the Bromfield House.

MCAS Results

Mary Beth Banios and James O'Shea, Principals, gave brief synopsis' of their respective school MCAS results. Principal Banios gave a presentation on Data Driven Decision Making at HES. Both Principals agreed the successful scores were a result of collective efforts. Dr. Jefferson discussed Annual Yearly Progress and how each strand of the MCAS population must meet the requirements due to NCLB. Also, discussed how this assessment is not designed to be ranked as is done by the Boston Globe.

Superintendent Goals

The Committee reviewed Dr. Jefferson's draft 2008-2009 goals. Recommendations were made, and revised goals will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Budget Update

Lorraine Leonard presented an updated Budget Report to the Committee.

Shaw Trust

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the recommended Shaw Trust Expenditures outlined in a memo dated October 8, 2008 for the purposes specified therein.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Open Meeting Complaint

Stu Sklar discussed an Open Meeting Complaint that was filed with the District Attorney's Office regarding the Superintendent Evaluation process. The Committee agreed to await clarification of the ruling and then decide how to proceed for future evaluations. Keith Cheveralls suggested having the District Attorney attend a School Committee meeting to explain the Open Meeting law. He also questioned why all Committee members were not notified of the correspondence from the DA when it was first received. Stu Sklar stated that historically such requests have been handled by the Chair. Keith requested that all members have access to information at the same time.

Gifts

The Harvard School Trust submitted the following Grants:

1. Grant No. 08-15: \$1,125.00 Book Talk Project
2. Grant No. 08-16: \$500.00 Market Math
3. Grant No. 08-18: \$11,152.00 Physics Lab Equipment

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Willie Wickman seconded to accept the grants.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

The Committee asked that a thank you letter be sent.

Willie Wickman made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing union contract negotiations and to review the September 22nd Executive Session Minutes and not to return to regular session. A roll call vote was taken.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Secretary