

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM**  
**Thursday, February 5, 2009**  
**9:00 A.M.**

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

**Call to Order** – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

The Committee discussed the issue of turning down the heat to 64 degrees in the school buildings. ESE guidelines recommend 66-68 degrees, and Dr. Jefferson is checking with the Department of Occupational Health and Safety for their guidelines. He further stated that the majority of classrooms are at 66 degrees or higher even though the thermostat is set at 64 degrees. He has asked Mark Force to provide weekly temperature reports on classrooms for monitoring. There is overwhelming public support for the initiative.

The Committee discussed the FY10 Budget, that there were many variables still undecided to make any determinations, and possible solutions to meet potential reductions. Solutions discussed were School Choice, Devens revenue, staff reductions, program reductions, class sizes, and health insurance. The Chair and the Superintendent are scheduled to meet with the HTA. The Committee was cautious about releasing any information regarding potential cuts until a reduction target is set.

The Chair advised that the Tri-Board meeting scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> is in the process of being rescheduled, possibly to February 21<sup>st</sup>. He will advise once it is determined. He also advised that the FinCom survey is tabled for now.

The Committee agreed that it should include a graph in the Budget Book showing School Choice trends over the last ten years.

The Committee discussed development and distribution of the Budget Book. They also discussed preempting questions from the committees, and members will email the Superintendent line items which need further explanation. The Committee agreed that clear directives were necessary from the FinCom and the BOS before further reductions could be made of the existing budget.

**Adjournment**

VOTED            Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to adjourn the meeting.  
                      (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar  
                      (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith  
Secretary

