

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM
Monday, February 9, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

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

Call to Order – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and it was seconded to accept the Minutes from the January 12, 2009 meeting as amended.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to accept the Minutes from the January 14, 2009 meeting as presented.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the January 21, 2009 meeting as presented.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the January 24, 2009 Tri-Board meeting as amended.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the February 5, 2009 meeting as amended.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Student Report

Rachel Kipps reported the Science Fair was a success, and that students were aware of recent budget cuts. Andrew Korstvedt reported on carnation sales and erratic temperatures in the school. Jacquie Holmes reported that the greening of the cafeteria was going well. The students further reported that the Snowball and Snowflake were very fun, and the Drama Festival Critique is scheduled for February 10th. The students expressed concern over reducing the library hours and instituting a parking fee.

School Committee Reports

Willie Wickman gave an update on the Getty Land Committee. They determined no identifiable usage for it and therefore no need to move forward. If the Board of Selectmen desire, the subcommittee will have a forum with the townspeople to see if there is an interest. Willie informed the Committee that the Catholic church will be consolidating with the Bolton church, and that land may become available for purchase. The Small land behind the Elementary School is wetlands.

Virginia Justicz informed the Committee that the Special Education Audit Subcommittee meeting was canceled and has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

Keith Cheveralls updated the Committee on the Capital Planning Committee. He stated that the Board of Selectmen appointed Leo Blair as its liaison. Awaiting date for the first meeting.

The Committee agreed to have the Chair discuss with the President of the HTA results of the MTell Survey.

Keith further updated the Committee on the oil tank removal/replacement at the Elementary School. The Committee agreed that this project was necessary.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the removal of the oil tank in the summer of 2009.

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

Keith will prepare an analysis for replacement options as well as costs with the assistance of Mark Force, the Fire Chief, the Board of Health and Lorraine Leonard. Also discussed the Energy Committee, and its findings on the school buildings.

Maureen Babcock gave an update on DEAC. They discussed the transition of Devens' elementary students to Harvard Elementary School. A timeline for parent information meetings was discussed.

The March 9th School Committee meeting will be held at Devens.

Stu Sklar reported that the Suburban Coalition had scheduled a "Breakfast on the Hill" for April 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Stu further updated the Committee on the HES School Council. He was happy to report that no case of head lice are being reported. The Council witnessed a presentation on the automated lunch ticket program. The PTO is going forward with the SmartBoard

fundraiser. He reported that HES has a new classroom information calendar available at Google.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson congratulated students, staff and community for their efforts with the Science Fair. He discussed the change of adding Good Friday as a half day to the school calendar, and that if additional snow days were incurred, then they would address it at that time. He advised that he had applied for an MCAS waiver with ESE. He informed the Committee that the HTA and Administration Council were beginning to develop next year's calendar, and hope to have it fully developed by the end of March or early April.

Dr. Jefferson discussed a letter received from the Board of Health. The ceiling fans have had a positive impact, but temperatures could remain high during summer months. Dr. Jefferson contacted the state to inquire what the legal requirement for school temperatures was, and there is none; only a suggested range.

Old Business

School Committee Goals

The Committee reviewed its 2008-09 Goals and provided a progress report to date. Under the Devens Goal, the Committee changed the date to April 1st for making recommendations on the potential use of the Shirley School. The Committee agreed to put discussing the superintendent evaluation on the agenda for its next meeting, and they will invite the Energy Committee to a meeting as well.

Superintendent Goals

The Superintendent reviewed his 2008-09 Goals and provided a progress report to date. He will form a committee to provide feedback regarding the district website. He also changed the date to April 1st for making recommendation for the use of the Shirley School. Still working on capital planning list.

FY09 Budget

The Committee discussed the FY09 Budget. Clarification is necessary as to where the budget stands. The Committee discussed the legality of the actions of the Tri-Board regarding taking away funding mid-year without a Town vote. They further discussed the possibility of restoring some cuts. They agreed that a mechanism was necessary to honor the deal with the Tri-Board if the figure came in less than projected, then the School would get that funding back. They are scheduled to meet with the Tri-Board on February 21st.

New Business

Enrollment

Dr. Jefferson presented updated enrollment figures along with the NESDEC projections. Discussed establishing a long range planning committee.

Policy Review

The Committee did a first reading of Section G. Personnel Policies. Some minor changes were made, and a second reading will occur at the next meeting.

FY10 Budget

Dr. Jefferson will have a better update after tomorrow's meeting, and he suggested the Committee meet an hour before the Tri-Board meeting.

The Chair requested that the secretary post the Tri-Board Meeting for February 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Gifts

The Harvard Schools Trust submitted the following gifts:

1. US Regions Pod Cast - \$587.91
2. Grade 8 Science SmartBoard - \$3,367.00
3. Stone Sculptures & Poetry Initiative - \$500.00

Keith Cheveralls made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the gifts.

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. It was also mentioned that the Harvard School Trust Gala is scheduled for April 4th.

Adjournment

Willie Wickman made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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 10:47 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Secretary