

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, April 13, 2009
6:00 P.M.

Members attending: Virginia Justicz, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Keith Cheveralls, Lorraine Leonard, Thomas Jefferson

Call to Order – Stu Sklar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to accept the Minutes from the March 23, 2009 meeting as amended.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Student Report

Molly O'Rourke-Friel reported that the Band Concert went well and that the Choral Concert is scheduled for this Thursday. She also reported that the extended day schedule was going as well as expected.

Andrew Korstvedt reported on the Staff-Senior Basketball Game and the Senior Citizen Luncheon which was held on April 1st.

Emma Cait O'Rourke-Friel reported that senior projects were due after vacation and the public was invited to view them on April 30th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

School Committee Reports

Patty Wenger reported that she had been in touch with Tim Clark of the BOS regarding the Technology Advisory Group.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the Capital Planning Committee had finalized the articles for the warrant, and they were listed on the Town's website. He encouraged the public to view them prior to Town Meeting. Keith further reported on the Policy Subcommittee's progress with Section I – Curriculum and Instruction. Due to the nature of these policies, he along with Dr. Jefferson and Virginia Justicz recommended that the Administrative Council, Curriculum Liaisons and Department Chairs review the Section for suggestions and comments.

Stu Sklar reported that the Suburban Coalition was holding its Legislative Breakfast tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. at the State House. He further reported that the HES School Council met two weeks ago and discussed the TeLLs Survey. The Council will continue its discussion tomorrow at 3:45 p.m. at HES.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson also reported on the Staff-Senior Basketball Game joking that the refs were biased in the first half. He congratulated band members, noting specifically the seniors for the dedication to a four year program, and thanked Tom Reynolds and Talia Mercandante for their efforts. He informed the Committee that the Lions Club Sight Mobile would be conducting sight and vision screenings at the schools this week.

Old Business

Capital Planning

Dr. Jefferson emphasized that SmartBoards were a critical necessity for the schools, and the goal for next year is to equip grades 1-5 at HES. He stated that this technology request could fall under the IDEA funds and recommended that the Committee pass over the warrant article at Town Meeting. Virginia Justicz questioned the competing uses for the IDEA funds, and Dr. Jefferson stated that Pam DeGregorio was preparing a list of recommendations for the money which will meet the Special Education requests as well as fund the SmartBoards.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to authorize a School Committee representative to speak to pass over Article 8 – HES SmartBoards at Town Meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Keith Cheveralls will represent the Committee on the capital planning items and introduce Mark Force for technical questions regarding the requests.

School Choice

Dr. Jefferson presented updated enrollment data and recommended a total of ten slots for School Choice for 0910SY – grades K=2, 3=3, 6=2, 10=2, and 11-1.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to participate in the School Choice program for the 0910SY.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to accept choice students as follows: 2 in grade 3, 2 in grade 6, 2 in grade 10 and 1 in grade 11 with the provision of up to 3 students in grades 10 and 11.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Shirley School Facility

Dr. Jefferson recommended that the Committee hold off on occupancy of the Shirley School facility. He will inform MassDevelopment of their intention, and he will continue to explore occupancy in an effort to create funding sources as well as educational opportunities for the District.

Stimulus Update/FY10 Budget

Dr. Jefferson informed the Committee that the District will receive approximately \$50,000 for stabilization funding and \$150,000/\$160,000 in IDEA funds. He further stated that he will apply for the funds on or about April 30th.

HEAC – 7:00 P.M.

Brian Smith gave an update on the committee's efforts. They are obtaining mechanical audits of the school buildings, studying the behaviors relative to conservation, and exploring renewable energy sources as well as grant funding. The committee will survey staff and students for suggestions. He discussed the pending National Grid contract. He stated there would be a two year payback period, and that no bids or Town Meeting were necessary as each contract was under \$100,000 and a green contract. He stated that thus far HEAC was in favor of the contracts, but a final report would not be ready for two weeks. He will work with Lorraine Leonard to have it finalized for the next meeting.

David Fay gave a powerpoint presentation to the Committee on Harvard's Baseline Energy Usage. The data showed that both schools rated well in their energy usage, and that The Bromfield School achieved the Energy Star rating.

Oil Tanks

Rene Roy and Keith Cheveralls gave an update on the HES oil tank. Mr. Roy stated that it would cost approximately \$30,000 to bring the tank up to standard with the total expense realized once the tank was exposed. He further stated that it would cost approximately \$60,000 to convert to natural gas and \$90,000 for a dual fuel conversion. An engineer had been contracted to prepare specifications for the bidding process. He stated it would be a viable move to convert to natural gas. He recommended that the warrant article be passed over at Town Meeting and that a Cost Benefit Analysis be done and be presented at the Special Town Meeting in June. They are still trying to determine who is responsible for inspecting the tank – the Fire Chief or the Board of Health

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to authorize a School Committee representative to speak to pass over Article 10 – HES Heating Systems at Town Meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

Budget Hearing – 7:53 P.M.

Dr. Jefferson gave a powerpoint presentation on the FY10 Budget. There were no questions from the public. The presentation will be posted on the website for the public.

The FinCom Budget Hearing is scheduled for April 16th at 7:00 p.m. in Volunteers Hall, and members of the Committee will attend to answer any questions from the public.

The Budget Hearing closed at 8:13 p.m.

New Business

0910SY Calendar

Dr. Jefferson presented a proposed 0910SY Calendar to the Committee for its approval. He indicated that both the HTA and the Administrative Council had approved of the calendar. The Committee discussed the religious holidays included in the proposal.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve September 2nd as the first day for students and the vacation breaks as indicated on the proposed calendar with the caveat that the Committee would review the pending dates at its next meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

The Chair requested that the public email him their comments and suggestions.

Gifts

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept a gift from Tufts Health Plan for \$200.00 for Wellness Day.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes).

The Committee asked that a thank you letter be sent.

FY09 Budget

Lorraine Leonard updated the Committee on the FY09 Budget.

The Chair informed the public that the Gala was rescheduled to May 2nd and tickets are still available.

Adjournment

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn the meeting.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40- p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Recording Secretary