

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, April 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.

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

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

Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the Minutes from the April 13, 2009 meeting as presented.

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

Student Report

Rachael Kipps reported that the Student Council planned an event for a 6th Grade Buddy Program for next Wednesday. She also informed that senior projects would be held on April 29th and 30th with the public invited from 7-9 p.m. on the 30th. AP exams begin next Monday.

Emma Cait O'Rourke-Friel reported that the Bromfield Review was accepting submissions, a Coffee House is scheduled for 5/13 and the Gala is rescheduled for 5/2 where the Drama Club will present it's play, "Misconception".

School Committee Reports

Patty Wenger reported on the Facilities Study/Land Acquisition/School Planning Committee and presented a mission statement, membership and meeting/reporting outline. She asked for interested parties to contact her.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to authorize formation of the sub-committee.

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

Keith Cheveralls reported that he had met with Mark Force to go over the capital planning articles for Town Meeting. Mark will act as technical adviser.

Stu Sklar reported on the Suburban Coalition Annual Breakfast which was attended by 41 towns. He reported that Nashoba School District was dropping out of the CASE Collaborative. He invited Committee members to attend Nicki Tsongas' say in

Washington, D.C. He also informed that he had met with Jen Benson last week regarding the FY10 Budget cuts, and they were still not clear.

Willie Wickman asked Committee members to invite Student Council members to attend the Day on the Hill with them.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson thanked the District 33 Lions Club, singling out John Drummey and Colleen Nigzus for their efforts, for the use of the Sightmobile. He informed that the New England Sousa Music Festival was held at Bromfield over vacation and was a success. He stated that he had contacted the Harvard Cable Program Committee and was working with them on a monthly forum wherein he would interview one staff member and one student.

Keith Cheveralls asked the Superintendent for clarification on the open job postings.

Old Business

SY0910 Calendar

The Committee discussed religious holidays proposed on the school calendar.

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the 0910 calendar with two amendments, Good Friday as a half day and no professional development on November 11th.

VOTED (2/3) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (No), Stu Sklar (No), Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (No).

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Willie Wickman seconded to accept the calendar as presented.

VOTED (3/2) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (No), Willie Wickman (Yes).

HEAC Update

Rene Roy gave a status update. He advised that bid documents and design specs should be completed in early May, and a contractor ready for early June. He stated that the Cost Benefit Analysis will be ready for review shortly. Dr. Jefferson recommended that the District convert HES to natural gas. Keith Cheveralls agreed with Dr. Jefferson to rescind the vote to pass over the Article at Town Meeting due to the bid process timeline. The Committee agreed to meet at 8:30 a.m. before Town Meeting. Dr. Jefferson thanked Lorraine Leonard for negotiating a lower bid with National Grid. Rene Roy informed that a GeoThermal Meeting was scheduled for tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at Volunteer's Hall and the public was invited to attend.

VOTED

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to rescind the vote at the last meeting and to authorized School Committee to restore Article 10/ (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Willie Wickman (Yes).

Stimulus Update/FY10 Budget

Dr. Jefferson informed the Committee that FY10 Budget stands, and that the Budget Book for Town Meeting had been mailed out to residents. There was no new information regarding the Stimulus Funds, but Dr. Jefferson stated he would forward the grant application as soon as possible.

The Committee discussed their Town Meeting game plan. Article 8 will be passed over, and Keith Cheveralls will speak to Articles 9 through 12. The Chair advised on the Disclaimer regarding FY09 and FY10 budget comparisons. Dr. Jefferson will hold coffee hours on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at HES and Friday at 7:45 a.m. at TBS.

New Business

Superintendent Evaluation and Contract

The Chair stated that the Committee followed the MASC Guidelines for conducting the Superintendent Evaluation this year. He then read the Evaluation verbatim.

At 8:45 p.m., the Committee took a short break and then reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

The Chair reminded that Committee that last year it recommended that the sitting Committee vote on the contract extension once the evaluation was complete. Dr. Jefferson requested that the Committee vote on an extension on his contract under the same terms with no compensation change to August 31, 2012 to align his retirement credits.

VOTED

Keith Cheveralls made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to defer consideration of this order of business (Superintendent Contract Extension) until such time as the School Committee resumes normal business after May 5, 2009. (2/3) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (No), Stu Sklar (No), Patty Wenger (Yes), Willie Wickman (No).

VOTED

Willie Wickman made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to offer a new employment contract to Dr. Jefferson, with the same terms of employment/contract language as the current agreement, to run through August 31, 2012. (3/2) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (No), Willie Wickman (Yes).

After the vote, Patty Wenger requested that it be put on the record that she voted “No” as she would have liked to give herself the opportunity to digest the evaluation information before voting on it, what the extension meant and what the process was about.

Gifts

No gifts were presented.

Adjournment

Keith Cheveralls 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 9:53- p.m.
Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Recording Secretary