

School Committee Minutes
Hapgood Meeting Room
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Members attending: Virginia Justicz, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Keith Cheveralls, Piali De, Maureen Babcock, Thomas Jefferson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair offered thoughts and prayers to Lorraine Leonard whose mother was taken ill.

Minutes

Stu Sklar made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Minutes from the April 27, 2009 meeting as amended/
VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion. . (Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Abstain).

The Chair introduced Piali De to Maureen Babcock. He then discussed the process for requesting agenda items.

Student Report

Emma Cait O'Rourke-Friel reported that student government elections were scheduled for next Friday, which is the last Student Council Meeting. School Committee members will attend that meeting. She thanked the Celebration Committee. Grades 7,8 and 10 will be taking MCAS this coming week. Drama is presenting Peter Pan this coming weekend. Graduation is June 5th and Awards Night is June 2nd. The Committee thanked Emma and all student representatives for their insight and service.

School Committee Reports

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC met last week.

Piali De presented a governance cycle for the Committee's review.

Patty Wenger reported that HEAC was working with National Grid and DOER on assessing the schools' energy usage. She will provide a status update in a couple of weeks.

Virginia Justicz informed the Committee that the Policy Subcommittee had completed its first pass on Policy Section I. She further informed that SEPAC is scheduled to meet on June 8th.

Stu Sklar informed that the 5th District Day is scheduled for June 25th. HES School Council meet today and discussed the following: no additional H1N1 virus cases

reported, Husky news is now online as well as the school supply list for next year, Bus information will be online shortly, there are 2 parent openings on the Council and interested parties should contact Cathryn Noyes, and the Council is reviewing the School Improvement Plan. Stu further reported that he testified at the Municipal Relief Hearing and provided a copy of his testimony to the Committee. Stu was appointed Treasurer and Secretary of the Suburban Coalition.

Keith Cheveralls reported that he met with DEAC. He also had his first meeting with the Superintendent as Chair and discussed policy guidelines and information sharing.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported that today was the last of the extended make up days. He also informed that the District received a waiver from ESE for the N1H1 day at HES. He provided an Enrollment Update, and he also provided a copy of the MLQ5X Review which he had his Administrative Council complete as data to be considered as part of his performance self-evaluation.

Old Business

Superintendent Annual Report

Dr. Jefferson gave a powerpoint presentation on the District's Annual Report. The Committee discussed the format of, audience to and supporting data to the Report. The Chair requested that members review the presentation and email their comments and requests to the Superintendent for revision of the Report. The revised Report will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

FY0910 Goals

The Committee agreed to use last year's Goals as a starting point for this year's Goals. They further agreed to discuss goal setting in a separate meeting scheduled for June 22nd.

Data and Reference Material

The Committee agreed to discuss this agenda item at the next meeting.

Summer Schedule

The Committee agreed to add an additional meeting day of July 8th for end of year business.

Liaison Responsibilities

The Committee revised the following subcommittees:

Policy – Piali De and Keith Cheveralls
Contract Negotiations – Stu Sklar and Piali De

Superintendent Contract

The Chair spoke with Stu Sklar and Naomi Stonberg, School Counsel, regarding the changes in the revised contract. The Chair was initially comparing the 2005 contract which he obtained from Town Hall, This older version of the contract explained the discrepancies. The Chair stated the new contract complied with the spirit and content of the prior one. He requested to discuss contract retention process and procedure with the School Business Manager.

School Calendars

VOTED Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to approve the final week of the 0809SY Calendar as early release days of Monday through Thursday. (4/1) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (No).

The Chair requested to see attendance data for that week of school.

VOTED Stu Sklar made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approved the presented Early Release days for the 0910SY Calendar. (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Budget

Dr. Jefferson reported that the FY09 Budget was still on target. He informed that he had completed the ARRA grant to assist in funding health insurance costs. The Committee discussed using Stimulus funding to replace local funding deficits. Dr. Jefferson stated that FY10 Budget will be the same process. The Chair questioned funding of the SmartBoards and professional development. Dr. Jefferson informed that those would now be funded out of stabilization stimulus allocations. The Committee charged Virginia Justicz to draft a letter to the District’s Representatives and Senators regarding its concerns of lost local funding receipts.

New Business

Policy KA

The Committee charged Piali De and Virginia Justicz to meet with the Student Council to brainstorm ideas for new ways to promote community relations.

School Improvement Plans

The Committee passed over this agenda item. HES will present on June 9th and TBS will present on June 22nd.

Vicksburg Square

The Committee discussed the Vicksburg Square housing project, with a potential of 350 houses. A Super Town Meeting is scheduled for June 8th.

Commencement

The Committee discussed the process for graduation ceremonies. It was decided that Piali and Patty would hand their children their diplomas, and the Chair would hand out the rest.

Future Agenda Items

It was requested that Lorraine Leonard provide a Local Aid Report. The Chair will ask the Board of Selectmen to put Health Insurance on their agenda.

Gifts

The Harvard Schools Trust submitted the following grants:

1. Grant No. 09-13 \$1,800.00 STC Science Kit Training
2. Grant No. 09-15 \$750.00 Honorarium Bromfield Drama Department

VOTED Stu Sklar made the motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the gifts.
(5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

The Committee asked that a thank you letter be sent.

Adjournment

VOTED Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to adjourn the meeting.
(5/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Meeting adjourned at 10:33- p.m.
Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith

Recording Secretary