

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, June 29, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Stu Sklar, Patty Wenger, Piali De, Lorraine Leonard, and Thomas Jefferson

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes

VOTED Piali De made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to approve the Minutes from the June 22, 2009 Joint SC/BOS meeting as presented/ (3/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Abstain).

VOTED Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Minutes from the June 22, 2009 meeting as amended/ (4/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Stu Sklar expressed a concern regarding an email sent from the Chair to Committee members wherein the Chair disclosed that he had appended a confidential document to an email to be placed his conflict of interest disclosure file at the Town Hall. Stu read the email and informed the Committee that he had filed a complaint with the Ethics Commission. The Committee discussed the issue and agreed to await the Ethics ruling.

Stu Sklar made a motion that Keith Cheveralls recuse himself from HES issues and obey Ethics laws. The Committee discussed the motion. No second to the motion.

VOTED Stu Sklar made a motion and Piali De seconded that Keith Cheveralls recuse himself from issues at HES due to an apparent conflict. (1/2/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (No), Keith Cheveralls (Abstain), Piali De (No).

School Committee Reports

Patty Wenger provided an update on HEAC. They are working with Anita from National Grid, who has nominated HES to participate in the Power to Save Program. National Grid is also considering a pilot version of the program for The Bromfield School to participate in as well. They are moving forward on the energy savings programs at both schools.

Keith Cheveralls advised that the email issue still was unresolved. He also informed the Committee that he had received a vacation buyback request from the Superintendent, and he requested the Committee take action.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Superintendent's request to carry forward five vacation days from the 0809SY to 0910SY.

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

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson provided the Committee with a copy of employee attrition data. The Committee questioned why employee names had been redacted, and Dr. Jefferson stated School Counsel advised him to do so. The Committee asked him to obtain the specific reason for the redaction.

Dr. Jefferson provided attendance data from the last week of school, and the Committee requested data from an average school week be provided for comparison.

Dr. Jefferson provided an enrollment update, and the Committee discussed school choice. They requested choice attrition data and budget implications be provided at the next meeting.

Dr. Jefferson presented preliminary data from meeting with teachers, individually and collectively as part of a process to evaluate the RTI program, specifically those mechanisms which address curriculum development, curriculum oversight and intervention for students.

Old Business

Land Use Study

Ron Ricci, BOS, gave an update on the Getty Land. He recommended they pursue purchasing the land for municipal recreational or conservation use, and possibly future school use. He asked for the Committee's support.

Piali De made a motion which Patty Wenger seconded that in the interest of forward thinking the School Committee fully supports the Board of Selectmen looking into options to acquire the Getty Land for future municipal purposes.

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

The Chair will send a letter to the BOS confirming the vote.

HES School Council – School Climate

The Chair turned the meeting over to Piali De and Patty Wenger. The Committee discussed the HES School Climate and school climate surveys with members of the School Council and Principal Mary Beth Banios. The Committee questioned whether they had the authority to access school climate, and the Chair will contact Glen Couture for clarification. Mary Beth stated that she would be conducting a school climate survey over the summer, and she would translate that data into an action plan. Piali De asked that she use a web-based survey and include parents. The Chair read a portion of the school council training document used by Glen Couture last year.

0910 Goals

Dr. Jefferson provided an Addendum to the Annual Report. He will provide a final version for publication at the next meeting. The Committee discussed the 0910 Goals. The Chair will incorporate Dr. Jefferson's Addendum into the draft goals and then apply Piali De's process to them. The Chair asked Dr. Jefferson if he could color code the action items by authority. Dr. Jefferson emphasized that it was important to stick to the Strategic Plan, and that due to having a small administrative staff, he reserved the right to prioritize his goals.

New Business

Future Agenda Items

Future Agenda Items include choice program, Final Annual Report, HEAC update and FY09 Budget.

Gifts

The following gifts were offered:

Harvard PTO

- 1. \$4,158.00 – SmartBoards – Harvard Elementary School
- \$1,225.00 – Wellness Day – Bromfield School
- \$2,000.00 – ConnectEd – Central Office

Harvard Schools Trust

- \$800.00 – National Academic Bowl
- \$1,420.00 – Model United Nations
- \$1,899.00 – HES Senteo Clickers for SmartBoards

VOTED Stu Sklar made the motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the gifts.
(4/0) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty
Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

The Committee asked that thank you letters be sent.

Stu Sklar made the motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

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

Minutes submitted,

Jackie Smith
Recording Secretary