

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Thursday, July 9, 2009
7:00 P.M.

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Minutes from the June 29, 2009 meeting as presented.
VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Abstain).

School Committee Reports

Stu Sklar reported that he attended an open forum for Governor Patrick in Shrewsbury but was unable to ask any questions.

Patty Wenger reported she had invited Paul Willard to attend the Land Use Survey Committee's next meeting.

The Chair reported that he had spoken to Ron Ricci regarding the Getty land, and things are moving forward. Keith will reach out to Glen Koocher and Naomi Stonberg to get a firm understanding of ed reform. He will also invite the school councils to engage in detailed discussions with the Committee.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported on the success of the Bromfield School Invent Team. He commented on the Newsweek article that ranked US high schools but omitted Bromfield. He informed that he had submitted data to Newsweek, and they promised to do an informal ranking. Dr. Jefferson reported the Administrative Team was reading "Leadership Without Easy Answers" as a group, and he invited committee members to also share a common reading. Piali De suggested "Tipping Point" as a possible joint read.

Old Business

School Choice

Dr. Jefferson presented updated enrollment figures and recommended adding choice slots in grade three to bring class size up to nineteen per class.

Piali De made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to authorize the Superintendent to open school choice in order to add four more students in next year's third grade to bring the third grade class enrollment to 76.

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

HEAC Update

Brian Smith from the Energy Advisory Committee reported on a National Grid program "Power to Save" in which the company, B2Q, completed building assessments, estimates and a draft report of three projects each of which cost under \$100,000 and will be financed through the electric savings. The three projects are building automation upgrades at Bromfield and the Elementary School as well as upgrade the Bromfield lighting system.

Stu Sklar made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve going forward with the engineering study at both schools for mechanical systems as well as approve going forward with Bromfield lighting project.

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

Superintendent Annual Report

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the Superintendent's Annual Report as presented and to post the report on the website.

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

School Committee/District Goals

The Committee was pleased at how the district and superintendent goals align. The Committee reviewed and revised the goals.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the School Committee/District Goals with minor changes to Section 4 and Section 10 with the understanding that this is a fluid document and they will come back and update goals as necessary.

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

The Committee requested the revised goals be put on the website.

Gas Conversion

Bids were opened on July 2nd for the HES Gas Conversion. Five bids were received ranging from \$94660 to \$131400 with a \$10000 change order to line chimney. After meeting with the low bidder, it was determined that the chimney lining could be eliminated from the job and if National Grid could move line closer there would be additional savings. Town approved \$60000, energy incentives total \$8500, and the difference will be absorbed in the FY10 Budget.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept the low bid of Ambient Temperature Corp. in the amount of \$94,660 with an addenda price of \$10,400, a total bid price of \$105,060, for the HES Gas Conversion Project and further authorize Thomas Jefferson to sign the contract with Ambient in conformance with this vote.

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

FY09 Budget

The Chair was happy to report that the Committee did not need to ask the Town for help in funding gas conversion or SmartBoards. Committee needs to keep in mind that it is using Devens' money to fund core budget items. This practice needs to change.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to request a reserve fund transfer of \$105,224 for the FY09 deficit in out of district and collaborative tuitions as budgeted.

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

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to authorize the district to spend \$40,000 from Shaw Trust to purchase technology for the Bromfield School.

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

New Business

Agenda Distribution

Dr. Jefferson will implement electronic generation of the agenda to teachers, administration, parents and on website. Townspeople may also sign up to receive it electronically. This will be implemented by August 31st.

Virginia Justicz made the motion and Stu Sklar seconded to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing grievance and reviewing executive session minutes and not to return to regular session.

ROLL CALL

VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion. . (Keith Cheveralls (Abstain), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary