

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, January 11, 2010
7:00 P.M.

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes

Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the Minutes from the December 14, 2009 meeting as amended.

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

Personnel

Several parents voiced their concerns with regard to the large class size in the fifth grade. Dr. Jefferson informed the committee that HES will have a ½ day substitute teacher available on an as needed basis to assist the fifth grade teachers.

School Committee Reports

Stu Sklar reported that the Suburban Coalition will meet again on February 4, 2010 at the Newton Marriot at 7:30 p.m. The annual breakfast will take place on April 12, 2010 from 9-11:30 on Beacon Hill. The school council will host breakfast for the Bromfield staff on January 29, 2010 to show appreciation for all of their efforts that resulted in a top rating in US News and World Report. Stu brought the committee up to date on discussions with school council members regarding the possible changes to the athletic user fee structure. The proposal to redo the user fees to a flat fee of \$225 per sport with an individual cap of \$600 per student (excluding skiing and hockey). To do this \$138,000 would need to be funded through the omnibus budget. As a possible solution \$138,000 could be put on as a warrant article with the understanding that the money will be used for Athletic programs in future years

Keith Cheveralls reported that Policy Section I “Curriculum and Instruction” has been cleaned up and after input from stakeholders will be ready for the School Committee as a first reading. Keith updated the committee on the capital plan and that in the future routine maintenance (anything under \$10K) will not be considered for capital expenditures.

Superintendent Report

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept 3 gifts as describe by the superintendent.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept an anonymous gift for field trips at Bromfield.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Elementary School Play space project discussion

The HES School Council representatives, Deb Barton and Cindy Buhner discussed with the committee the process to move forward with the development of a new play structure at Harvard Elementary School. With a target date for project completion March 2011, financials would have to be in place by September 2010 with a breakdown of costs and funding sources. Suggestions for committee input included Parks and Recreation, PTO, Harvard Family Association, Council on Aging, HTA, Highway Department, Rich Nota., Barbie Kelly, Dr. Jefferson and Lorraine Leonard. Maureen Babcock recommended using the resources available through vendor contact.

Budget

In moving forward with the budget, Keith Cheveralls proposed another budget forum, outside to a regular meeting, to look more closely on the revenue side of the budget. It was decided that another meeting would be scheduled before January 25, 2010.

Annual Report

Stu Sklar made a motion and Piali De seconded to authorize the vice chair to submit the annual report pending any last minute updates.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

School Calendar

Calendar review and possibilities discussed. Dr. Jefferson will come to the February 8, 2010 meeting with a proposed 2010/2011 school calendar

Bus Route Data Review

Suggest continuing the provision of the additional bus. Two pieces of data to collect for planning would be average number of stops, and average number of miles per route. Continue to give school committee periodic bus updates.

General Store application

The School Committee had no concern and was comfortable with the General Store being granted a liquor license. The superintendent will send a written response.

Future Agenda Item

Succession Planning

Revenue

Renaming Harvard Elementary School

School Committee goals

Piali De made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to adjourn. All in favor.

Adjourned 10:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary