

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, January 25, 2010  
7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Minutes**

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2010 meeting as amended.

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

**Student Report**

Gavin Arnold reported that the Snowball and the Snowflake dances were very successful and fun.

**Subcommittee Report**

Patty Wenger reported that there is a subcommittee being established for the purpose of HES playground. The parent climate survey subcommittee is moving forward soon. Stu Sklar reported that the School Council is wrapping up their request to the Finance Committee for consideration of an override in order that users fees stipends be paid out of the town budget.

Keith Cheveralls reported that DEAC is pursuing a satisfaction survey to see how things are going with Harvard educating Devens students. The survey will be ready for release in March. DEAC is looking for a successor to Rich Montuori and will be serviced in the interim by Meg Delorier, two or three days per week. Keith will be attending the Board of Health meeting on February 9, 2010 in order to update the board. Keith was invited to be a judge at the Bromfield Science Fair to be held February 5, 2010. Contributions from the board will be used to sponsor prizes to outstanding contributions.

**Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Jefferson reported that the Bromfield School Council hosted a breakfast for the Bromfield staff to show appreciation for their hard work in connection with Bromfield's recent recognition in the US News and World Report. A nice tribute was held for Ray Carignan, Bromfield custodian, who retired on January 29<sup>th</sup>. His successor will be announced soon. Dr. Jefferson updated the committee on the enrollment figures to date. No significant change.

**Recognition and Gifts**

Harvard Schools Trust – Star Party- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Harvard PTO – Principals Discretionary fund for both Bromfield and HES

Harvard School Trust – Books and materials.

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

### **Capital Planning & Investment**

The town will be sponsoring a charrette to collect data to better determine what would be the best use for the municipal buildings in town. The event will be led by two architects and will conclude with lunch, offered by Chef Paul and discussion.

### **Elementary School Re naming proposal**

Dr. Jeff Harris, along with Jared Wollaston from the Harvard Historical Society briefed the committee on the history of gifts given by the Hildreth family to the Town of Harvard.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the Harvard School Committee votes to rename the Harvard Elementary School, The Hildreth Elementary School. Have a plaque about the history and find the means to have a recognition plate posted so all can read about Hildreth history.  
VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

### **New Revenue Proposal**

Stu Sklar and Bruce Leicher gave a presentation on new revenue through local option local income tax. Discussion followed.

Piali De made a motion and Keith Cheveralls seconded to move to support a continued discussion of this option with other town boards and continued analysis and impact of this for the town of Harvard and to better understand the options and implication for local income tax.  
VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. Stu Sklar (Yes), Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

### **Succession Planning**

Keith Cheveralls is going to do more research regarding succession planning and come back to the committee at a later date.

### **Mass Development – Contract Revision**

Discussion was held with regard to the Devens contract. The preschool numbers do not reflect a need for the Devens facility at this time. The School Committee never took a vote on the use of the facility and the committee will look to amend the contract.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded that the School Committee authorize the chair to sign this amendment reflecting the fact that having done the diligence of preschool enrollment numbers in the near future the school committee decided it was not feasible to move to this facility.

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

### **Superintendent Job Description**

The committee discussed the superintendent job description and after minor change to bullet 10

Patty Wenger made a motion and Piali De seconded move to accept the superintendents second job description reading, dated January 25, 2010.

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

### **Future Agenda Items**

Friday morning brain storming sessions.

What mechanisms are in place to which curriculum is revised.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded move to adjourn at 9:45.

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

Minutes submitted,

Karen Shuttle  
Recording Secretary