

School Committee Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room  
Monday, April 12, 2010  
7:00 P.M.

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

**Minutes**

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Minutes from the March 15, 2010 meeting as amended.

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

**Review and approve**

The committee welcomed representatives to talk about out-of-state, overnight travel and the formation of the Bromfield Chess club. Julie Horton explained plans for the Class of 2012 to attend a Pawtucket Red Sox Game on June 17, 2010. Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the trip for the class of 2012.

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

Matthew Fiokos spoke about plans to start a Bromfield Chess Club after school on Wednesdays for one hour. Mr. Menin will serve as the faculty advisor. Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve The Bromfield Chess Club.

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

Terry Monette spoke about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade attending Natures Classroom, May 17-21. This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> year of participation in this unique educational experience. Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Natures Classroom.

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

The Committee was pleased to announce a contract agreement between the Harvard School Committee and the Harvard Teachers' Association. Piali De made and motion and Stu Sklar seconded to approve the tentative agreement reached between the Harvard Teachers' Association and the Harvard School Committee on March 30, 2010.

VOTED (4/0) to accept the motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes). Keith Cheverall recused from the vote.

### **Public Budget Hearing**

Dr. Thomas Jefferson gave a power point presentation overview of the FY11 omnibus budget. Lorraine Leonard explained that with the adjustments factored in as a result of the contract settlement, the FY11 budget reflects an increase. Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the revised FY11 Omnibus budget to \$11,094,861 reflecting all of the salary adjustments as a result of contract negotiations.

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

The Committee then discussed getting the budget book out to the community and individual responsibilities to write up reports for submission.

### **Student Report**

The student council is rallying to get all eligible students to vote at the town election as well as organizing speakers to speak in support of the user fee override at the town meeting. On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the class of 2012 is hosting a 5K race/walk in honor of Jesse Peterson. Members of the Student Council attended a day at the State House. The staff/senior basketball game was held April 9<sup>th</sup>. The School Committee asked to be invited to a student council meeting in the future.

### **Liaison and subcommittee report**

Stu Sklar reported that the Suburban Coalition breakfast will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. School Council will be choosing students to speak in favor of the override article at the town meeting.

Piali De handed the chair a draft a press release thanking all involved in successfully negotiating the new contract for the teachers.

Patty Wenger reported that the Energy Advisory Committee is on track to get things done at The Bromfield School. The Playground Committee is moving forward.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the DEAC meeting would be held April 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Jefferson reported that a new 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher has been hired and other appointments are being finalized. Plans are being made for summer professional development that will include a 5 day Understanding by Design training for Social Studies teachers K-12 as well as 2 day training for all teachers. In addition teachers are invited to take the Skillful Teacher Course as well as three in house trainings. The Harvard Schools Trust gala was held April 10<sup>th</sup> and tribute was paid to Michael McGarty for his years of service and dedication to The Bromfield School and the Town of Harvard. It was a wonderful evening. The Harvard Schools Trust granted \$450 to Will Blanchard for a water filtration system and \$580 for a contemporary literacy program. Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the gift with thanks.

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

### **Discussion on proposed 360\* evaluation of School Committee**

Keith Cheveralls introduced the concept to pursue a 360\* evaluation of the School Committee by all key stakeholders. It may be valuable to see how the committee is perceived by others.

### **Superintendent Performance Review**

Keith Cheveralls explained the process for which each member of the School Committee would read aloud their individual evaluation of the Superintendent based on the achievement of goals created for the 2009/2010 school year.

Piali made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the Superintendent's annual performance review for the school year 2009/2010.

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

### **School Calendar Subcommittee**

The Committee discussed the makeup of the calendar committee and how they would solicit participation as well as establish roles, responsibilities and structure for the committee. The committee will consist of 2 teachers, 2 students, 2 community members, 2 parents, Thomas Jefferson and Patty Wenger.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Revisit choice question from last meeting

List outstanding agenda items that need action

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

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

Adjourned 10:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary