

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, April 26, 2010
7:00 P.M.

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to approve the Minutes from the April 12, 2010 meeting as amended.

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

Student Report

Molly O'Rourke Friel reported that the Student Council will be submitting letters to the editor concerning athletic user fees. Two students came forward to serve on the calendar committee. Ryan Holmes reported that the Junior and Senior classes are preparing for AP exams.

Liaison and subcommittee report

Maureen Babcock report that DEAC will be meeting on Tuesday, April 13. The DEAC survey data will be presented to the Devens' community on May 18, 2010. Keith Cheveralls reported that the playground project is moving ahead nicely. The Capital Committee is meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 28 to review warrant articles for the town meeting. Keith reported that the underground oil tank at the elementary school will be extracted over summer vacation. Piali and Keith have policy section H& F and will review and revise. Virginia Justicz reported that the Long Range Planning Committee needs to be reinvigorated and possibly reconfigured. Stu Sklar reported that The Bromfield School Council would be speaking in favor of the override at the town meeting and the Suburban Coalition breakfast will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 27th.

Superintendent Report

Thomas Jefferson reported that the budget books for the town meeting were mailed to each household in Harvard and Devens. Tom has coffee hours, scheduled for April 29, at 9:00 a.m. at HES and April 30, at 7:45 a.m. at Bromfield. Babysitting for the town meeting will be provided by National Honor Society members from 9-4. Tom presented gifts for approval from the Harvard Schools Trust

\$2,227 - Math enrichment at HES

\$2,205 - The SAFE program.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded to accept the gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust.

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

Calendar Committee Charge & Appointments

Keith Cheveralls forwarded a charge document to Tom for the calendar committee. Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept as modified the charge of the School Calendar Subcommittee.

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

The committee will be made up of parent/community representatives, Bruce Leicher, Steve Kendall and Maureen Hopper as well as student representatives Molly O'Rourke Friel, Brenton Stoddart, and Bernadette Stadler. Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded that the committee appoint the 6 interested participants to the School Calendar/Religious Holiday Subcommittee with additional teachers and community members to be added in the future.

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

2010 Budget – Monthly Update

Lorraine Leonard gave the committee an update on the 2010 budget.

Kindergarten Choice

Due to lower than usual Harvard enrollment in the 2010/2011 Kindergarten class, the committee discussed the possibility of adding choice slots to either full or half day kindergarten. Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept into the choice program 3 full day and 4 half day kindergarten students to bring the class size to 14 per class.

VOTED (2/2) motion denied. (Stu Sklar (Yes) Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (No).

Stu Sklar made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to accept 3 children into the half day kindergarten program.

VOTED (3/1) to accept motion. (Stu Sklar (Yes) Keith Cheveralls (No), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

The committee discussed who would speak to specific articles at the town meeting. Piali De will speak to the retaining wall and fence at HES. Virginia Justicz will speak to the 1 ton pick-up. Stu Sklar will speak to the athletic user fee override. Keith Cheveralls will speak to mechanical upgrades.

Strategic Plan Status

Tom Jefferson presented a strategic plan update.

Future Agenda items

Long range planning committee

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

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

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary