

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 14, 2009
7:00 P.M.

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

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

Minutes

Patty Wenger made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to approve the Minutes from the September 8, 2009 meeting as amended.
VOTED (4/0/1) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Abstain).

Interested Citizen's Commentary

Several parents commented regarding a bus route that was too lengthy. Dr. Jefferson explained this was due to an expanded number of kindergarten stops which are door to door. He had spoken with Gokey & Quinn, and they are able to provide an additional bus. The Committee discussed the option.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded that the Superintendent engage Gokey & Quinn to develop a proposal not to exceed \$199.00 per day to add another bus such that the transportation time for all our students be below 45 minutes. In the interim, while the proposal is being developed, the Superintendent will ask for an extra bus to immediately relieve the pressure on Bus #1.
VOTED (5/0/) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Policy

In accordance with policy, the Committee reviewed two out of state field trips.

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve the Modern European History and Arts classes' field trip to New York City.
VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion. . (Stu Sklar (Yes) Patty Wenger (Yes), Keith Cheveralls (Yes), Virginia Justicz (Yes), Piali De (Yes).

Student Reports

Gavin Arnold reported that Academic Bowl will participate in a televised tournament on WGBH. He will forward more information as it is available.

Carolyn Mazzola reported that Student Council dates are 10/9, 11/6 and 12/11 at 7:00 a.m. The Committee will email two dates where a majority of them can attend.

Molly O'Rourke-Friel reported that they had elected chairs.

School Committee Reports

Stu Sklar reported that he attended the Devens meeting, and he had nothing to report on Bromfield School Council.

Virginia Justicz reported that the final FinCom Survey will be ready to go next week. It's purpose is to determine how people feel about the level, quality of town services as well as rate how different departments are doing.

Patty Wenger reported HES Climate Survey had a 93% staff participation rate. They are in the process of collecting the data.

Keith Cheveralls invited Jen Benson to come to Harvard, and she is willing to do so. Keith will talk to other boards to arrange a combined visit.

House Bill 111 – Musical Instrument Sterilization

The Committee discussed House Bill 111. The Music Department currently disinfects mouth pieces and uses sterile wipes for the outside of instruments.

Piali De made a motion and Virginia Justicz seconded to authorize the Vice Chair to draft a letter to the Joint Committee and members of the Education Committee indicating their displeasure with the unfunded mandates of House Bill 111, Musical Instrument Sterilization.

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

Special Education Presentation

The Director of Special Education, Pamela DeGregorio, along with Kathleen Donnellan, Cheryl Temple, Elizabeth Egan and Joan Lyons, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Special Education Department.

The Chair informed that he had spoken to Glen Koocher and scheduled a training with the Committee for November 30th at 6:00 p.m. in the Bromfield Media Center. He will invite the School Councils to attend. The Committee may cancel the November 23rd meeting.

Future Agenda Items

Piali De will work with Jackie Smith on the electronic distribution of packets.
The Committee suggested the following agenda items:

Liaisons for Teacher Contract Negotiations
Guidelines and Timeframe for Budget Development
Follow up report on bus issue
Devens – Shirley School Plan

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to appoint Piali De and Stu Sklar to the negotiating subcommittee along with the Superintendent and a representative from the Board of Selectmen. They are charged to conduct negotiations and update the Committee as necessary.

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

Stu and Piali will meet and determine a timeline with School Counsel.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Jefferson reported that the water bacteria issue had been resolved. He further reported that the Lions' Fall Festival is scheduled for this weekend.

Executive Session

Virginia Justicz made a motion and Stu Sklar seconded that the School Committee enter into executive session, as authorized by Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws, at a meeting for which 48 hours notice has been given, for the purpose of discussing:

1. Non-union contract negotiations

Following the executive session, the Committee will reconvene into open session, for the sole purpose of adjourning.

ROLL CALL

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

Minutes submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary