

School Committee Minutes  
The Town Hall Meeting Room  
Tuesday, October 11, 2011  
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Kirsten Wright, Piali De, Patty Wenger, SusanMary Redinger, and Joseph Connelly. Absent: Maureen Babcock

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the minutes of the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

### **Student Report**

Student Council members Katie Chambers, Caroline Mazzola and Nick George reported that the Student Council had met with Dr. Connelly and the meeting was very helpful to get to know what is going on. Caroline Mazzola reported that the sports teams are doing well and that the field hockey team has a big game tomorrow. Katie Chambers reported that the school year is going very well and things are in full swing.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. Connelly reported that he had met with the Student Council and was impressed with the Councils well run meeting which was well represented, well focused and very productive. Dr. Connelly updated the committee on important dates relative to the town center sewer project which will cause substantial disruption to the bussing schedule during certain periods. The schools will use Edline, Connect Ed and the school website to keep everyone posted as to drop off and pick up changes that may occur as the project progresses. Dr. Connelly informed the committee that the MASBA opened up statement of interests to allow schools to submit additional Statement of Interest (SOI) to upgrade The Bromfield School Science labs. Joe will be working with Jim O'Shea to identify and investigate how to move forward to submit an SOI in order to upgrade the labs with a 45% state reimbursement. The deadline for submission is 1/12/2012. The Middle School Drop in Center has been activated as of October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special activities are planned. There will be weekly reminders to parents to help bolster participation.

### **School Committee Reports**

Patty Wenger reported that Joe, Patty and Kirsten met with the Superintendent and two School Committee members from Boxborough to discuss pro and cons of the Elementary/Job Sharing Administrative Organization Design. Boxborough is committed to exploring regionalization with Acton first which they will present at their annual town meeting next year. Boxborough is still interested in the job share proposal as well. The next meeting will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Harvard.

Piali De reported that TBS is diligently moving the NEASC process forward. Things are going according to schedule. Piali asked members to set aside Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for the "Visiting Team Reception Dinner".

Kirsten Wright report that:

SEPAC met on September 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss future meeting dates and topics. Linda Dwight and Colleen Nigus will attend the next SEPAC meeting to discuss the topics of allergies and bullying. SEPAC is also working toward revamping their website to make it more user friendly.

Kirsten reported that the Bromfield School Council has formed subcommittees and they have either met or are scheduled to meet. They will be sharing information about the new Health

and Wellness program to the School Committee in the next month or so. The Bromfield School new web site is up and running. Next School Council meeting is October 25<sup>th</sup>.

The next DEAC meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Devens Conference Center. Trinity Financial will be discussing the Vicksburg Square development proposal.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Hildreth School Council has not met.

The Master Plan Steering Committee is moving along with proposals.

Keith Cheveralls is working with Marie to schedule meetings for November 1<sup>st</sup> (BOS, Planning Board, and Devens Economic Analysis Team) and November 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Vicksburg Square proposal. The Technology Plan Committee reviewed staff surveys and the parent survey was sent out. Full agenda for tomorrow's meeting to see what we want our technology plan to involve.

### **Review and take action on proposed trips**

Bryce Mattie along with members of the Bromfield Model UN requested permission from the committee to participate in an International trip to Russia from March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint Petersburg International Model UN (SPIMUN). A comprehensive fund raising plan was presented to raise \$11,000 to offset conference costs. Ms. Mattie also discussed the process for selecting which members would be attending the trip. Dr. Connelly made it clear that the trip can be cancelled at any time due to developing world conditions that would result in international travel being inadvisable. Also the fund raising plan must generate at least \$11,000 to ensure all eligible students will not be excluded from this international field trip due to finances.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Model UN trip to Saint Petersburg, Russia noting the caveats brought up by the Superintendent.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Margaret McDoom requested permission from the committee to travel with French student from TBS to Quebec, Canada March 1, 2, 3<sup>rd</sup>. The cost of the trip would be approximately \$400.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Quebec trip as presented subject to the same caveats stipulated by the Superintendent.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Dr. Julie Horton requested permission to travel with TBS 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to Washington, DC March 14<sup>th</sup> through March 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the trip is \$710 and scholarships are available.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the Washington DC trip as present with the caveats stipulated by the Superintendent.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

### **TBS Chorus and Band Autumn Concert Presentation**

Tom Reynolds and Talia Mercandante passed out programs to their upcoming Choral and Band Autumn Concert. Tom thanked the committee for the opportunity of being on Sabbatical last year. Tom acknowledges his gratitude to Colin Myers and Talia Mercandante for holding things together in his absence. He said the band and chorus is off to the best start he has ever had. Bin Han, President of the Music Honor Society told the committee that the Music Honor Society started last year and currently has 18 members. They will be performing at the New England Festival in the spring.

**Harvard Energy and Advisory Committee – update on energy efficiency projects and analysis of energy consumption/utilization data**

Brian Smith from the Harvard Energy Advisory Group attended the meeting to report on the energy efficiency projects and reviewed the data and analysis with regard to consumption and utilization. The information is very encouraging as there is a significant decrease in the energy use at TBS.

**FY12 Budget – Year End Projection Report #1**

Lorraine Leonard presented the FY12 budget update as of September 30, 2011. Lorraine explained that there is currently a \$314,000 surplus due to an increase in Circuit Breaker reimbursement as well as a reduction in Collaborative tuitions and various salary changes.

**FY13 Budget and Financial Planning Overview (by budget subcommittee)**

**Review and approve HES & TBS 2011/2012 Student handbook**

Dr. Connelly informed the Committee that as of October 6<sup>th</sup> all budget holders now have their budget work pages and FY13 budget guidelines of a level service budget. Joe created a list of budget deadlines and what has to be done to meet the deadline. The committee set aside December 5 and December 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in either the TBS library or town hall meeting room to go over individual cost center budget requests.

**Future Agenda Items**

Health and Wellness Program

Update on goals

Review of School Improvement Plans

MCAS

**Commentary**

Kirsten Wright – visited the Minnow Cup on Friday and had a wonderful time.

Patty Wenger – very exciting night – a lot went on here.

Piali De – most fun of all 7 years on the committee – marvelous year – parents please step up for the Celebration Committee in need of a chair.

SusanMary Redinger – great having student reports back – great having kids here- robust education we provide is rewarding – enjoy the student presence throughout the year.

Joe Connelly – enjoyed himself at the Student Council meeting – they run a great meeting

Keith – Great night for the second meeting back to back – seems to suggest we are on the right track.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga