

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, November 28, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

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

No minutes reviewed.

Student Report

Nick George reported that tryouts for winter sports started today. Students are gearing up after the Thanksgiving break and look forward to the very busy, hard working months of November and December.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly acknowledges the tremendous effort put forth by all budget holders as well as central office staff in preparing the FY13 budget in its new format. School Committee members wished to express their thanks to all with a letter of appreciation. Joe also informed the committee that the town hall is looking for submission to the town report by January 3rd. SusanMary and Kirsten will put together a report for submission and approval at the January 9th School Committee meeting. Joe will notify all school administrators as well as Monty Tech about the submission deadline details. Dr. Connelly discussed the recent change in the law that allows absent members of public bodies to participate in meetings remotely. The Board of Selectman must approve the action in advance. The committee asked Joe to communicate with Tim Bragan that they would like the Board of Selectman to support this as an option.

School Committee Reports

SusanMary Redinger reported that the HES School Council has come up with a World Language proposal.

Piali De reported that the review of Policy Section B- School Committee Operations will be on the agenda December 12th.

Maureen Babcock reported that the next DEAC meeting is next Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00.

Keith Cheveralls reported that he attended the Vicksburg Square public hearing. The committee would like to prepare an analysis to have ready for the proposed Mass Development meeting with Harvard, Ayer, and Shirley on December 14th. Keith and SusanMary will work to crunch the numbers and Piali will work with SusanMary to come up with a draft on how the analysis will be done. The Committee is still waiting for a report from Mass Development indicating the funding source and the financial plan of educating additional students if the Vicksburg Square proposal is approved. The Committee will meet on Friday, December 16th to follow up. Dr. Connelly and Mark Force will attend the December 1st Capital Planning & Investment Committee meeting to present the school department capital requests.

The Municipal Building Facilities Manager Task Force has hired Galeota Associates to begin their inspection of town buildings to establish a detailed baseline condition report of key town buildings. The only school building to be included in this building inspection work is the Bromfield House. The associated cost for which approval is required is \$600.

SusanMary made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we appropriate the sum of \$600 to conduct an inspection of the Bromfield House for the purpose of a maintenance analysis.

VOTE (3/0)

2011/12 School Closure Days – contingency proposal and discussion.

Dr. Connelly shared with the committee a proposal to cope with the “School Closure” Days that exceed 5. It was recommended to reschedule January 13, 2012 as an early release day of school rather than a no school professional development day. The Committee discussed the proposal with emphasis on what is best for time and learning and one suggestion was to have a full day of school on January 13 and hold the professional development day after the 180 school days are completed. The committee came up with three possible contingency plans and asked Dr. Connelly to seek input and bring forward for December 12th to make final decisions. The three plans are to keep January 13th as a full professional development day, to make January 13th a full day of school, or make January 13 an early release/half professional development day.

2011 MCAS and other student/district assessment metrics

Principal Dwight and O’Shea presented the 2011 results of the grades 3 to 10 MCAS assessments. Harvard continues to do very well on MCAS scores. Dr. Connelly pointed out that although Harvard does very well the test helps to show areas where we can do better. Jim O’Shea pointed out the rising scores from third grade to tenth grade, meaning the longer students are in Harvard schools the better they perform. Of note 100 percent of Bromfield tenth graders passed the English/language arts section of the test for two years in a row. For the second straight year Harvard’s Bromfield School has been recognized by the College Board for broadening access to AP courses, while maintaining or improving the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Chairman Keith Cheveralls presented the AP Honor Certificate to Principal O’Shea.

FY13 first draft presentation and preliminary discussion

Dr. Connelly acquainted the committee with the newly designed zero based, level service FY13 budget book and budget analysis. The committee will meet with the individual cost center managers to go over their budgets on December 5th and December 8th.

Future Agenda Items

Policy Review – Section B
Vicksburg Square
Administrative Model
Technology Subcommittee
Annual Report

Commentary

Piali De – we are rocking and rolling – another great meeting
SusanMary Redinger – the bar has been raised
Keith Cheveralls – great job!!
Maureen Babcock – great to hear from the principals tonight and all they have accomplished

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE (3/0) to accept the motion
Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga