

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, December 12, 2011
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, SusanMary Redinger, Piali De, PattyWenger, Kirsten Wright

Absent: Maureen Babcock

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

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting as amended.

VOTE (3/0) to accept

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the minutes of the November 28th meeting as amended.

VOTE (3/0) to accept

Student Report

Nick George reported that a Beatles theme concert was being held at The Bromfield School. The Bromfield School Council will hold “spirit week” which will include “Harry Potter Comfy/Casual on Wednesday and Blue and White spirit on Friday. The School Council is looking forward to their upcoming meeting with the School Committee this Friday.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly reported that the MSBA Statement of Interest is due by January 11th. We are waiting for quotes from the engineering firms. The SOI will require a vote of the School Committee and Board of Selectman and the town must be willing to agree to funding the project, with reimbursement to follow. Joseph Connelly shared with the committee a letter sent to George Rameriz, Executive Vice President of Mass Development that included the Harvard Public Schools Annual Reports for school years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Also included with the letter were financial reports outlining Devens charges for FY07 through FY11. Dr. Connelly called attention to the letters in the School Committee packets that were mailed to Bromfield students that helped at the shelter during the power outage in October. Their actions provided much good will in the community.

School Committee Report

Kirsten Wright reported that the DEAC met last week. DEAC discussed the need to restructure their membership due to Ayer and Shirley becoming regionalized. DEAC is seeking legal advice and working on restructuring the DEAC group to have fair representation from Ayer, Shirley and Harvard now that Ayer and Shirley are a regional school system. The Bromfield School Council will meet tomorrow. They have been discussing the “Get Real” program, graduation requirements and a grade 6 survey.

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee will meet next week. Piali De reported that TBS has approved 4 of 7 of the NEASC standard reports and have two more to present.

Keith Cheveralls reported that the December 14th meeting of the Quad Board was cancelled. The committee may not need to meet to discuss the Trinity Financial proposal until after the new year. The School Committee will meet with the Student Council at 7:00 this coming Friday. The Student Council welcomes questions from the School Committee to be answered at the meeting. Keith reported that the NSBA – National Conference is being held in Boston this year and he would like put in a placeholder for \$625 for anyone who would like to attend. Keith and SusanMary are interested in attending. Keith reported that Joe Connelly and Mark Force attended the Capital meeting held December 1st and did a fabulous job presenting the capital request for FY13. George McKenna said the Capital Plan and Investment Committee will need more time to review request and will be revisiting requests.

2011/12 School Closure Days – contingency plan decision

The committee discussed three options presented for building an adequate number of potential poor weather cancellation days into this year's school calendar.

Option 1 adds June 20th, June 21st and June 22nd as additional school cancellation days and provides for 8 make up days.

Option 2 adds January 13th as a make-up day, which was originally schedule as a no school day by making it an early release day. This allows for four additional make up days without going past June 22nd.

Option 3 allows for January 13th to be scheduled as a full day of school so that the four additional school cancellation days can be identified without going beyond June 22nd. This option would transfer the teacher professional development day to the day following the last day of school.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we accept Option 1 to keep January 13th as a day off for professional development and use the days in June should we need them. Notify parents that if we need additional days past eight they will be taken from April vacation.

VOTED (5/0) to accept the motion.

FY12 Budget update

Lorraine Leonard reviewed the FY12 budget with updated Special Education and Facilities costs. At present the budget surplus is \$207,580. Facilities cost will eat into surplus and we will need to update the fuel and electricity lines several time over the winter months. We may be able to see a savings in these lines when we switch to gas. Joe asked that we look into delaying the work on the library controllers until we have a better idea of our budget.

District Wide Technology Plan – first reading

Members of the Technology Subcommittee as well as consultant Bob Tucker from MESPA presented the three year Technology Plan. The plan included a detailed list of hardware and software needs and the financial plan showing the costs (\$362,257) spread over one, two or three years. The committee supported the upgrades to the network, but asked for more clarification on how hardware acquisitions could be linked to the types of skills it will allow to be taught to reach the National Education Technology Standards for students. The committee will get together with Joe to better clarify the link from equipment to educational outcome.

District Administrative Structure Update

Dr. Connelly presented and reviewed with the committee the "Harvard School Committee Administrative Restructuring Subcommittee Report" which contains a collection of data on the advantages and disadvantages of the four possible administrative models. After discussion the committee decided that the three possible models for consideration are: Part-time Superintendent/flexible work schedule, school union/job share with Boxborough, Full time

superintendent. Keith Cheveralls asked the subcommittee to look into the details of a flexible, part-time work agreement and report back to the full committee on January 9th where they would hopefully be ready to make a decision and take a vote.

Policy B - tabled to January 9, 2012 meeting

Future Agenda Items

Mid-term review of School Improvement Plans

MASBA

Trinity Financial

Commentary

Patty Wenger – technology plan is amazing plan and thanked all involved.

Pilai De – Unbelievable amount of work, hard decision making, we will get through it.

SusanMary Redinger – thanked Joe for the budget, technology plan, administrative model – unbelievable what you have processed and accomplished.

Keith Cheveralls – Thanked fellow members – it is an absolute pleasuring working with you. This committee is moving the district forward incredibly.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

VOTE (5/0)

Respectfully submitted

Mary Zadroga

Recording Secretary