

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, September 26, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A big thank you to George Rameriz and Maureen Babcock for arranging for the meeting to be hosted by MassDevelopment.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the minutes of the September 12th meeting as amended.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion (Kirsten Wright abstained due to absence)

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly informed the committee that due to need ELL services will be increased from one day to two days per week at a cost of approximately \$12,000. The bottom line available for unanticipated personnel needs is \$83,841.

In a hope to better track custodial over time hours and which organizations to bill, three (3) new school rental billing forms have been developed. In addition, the custodial overtime per hour rate has increased from \$30 to \$35 per hour.

The Technology Plan Committee hopes to present their plan to the School Committee by late November.

A list of extra-curricular and athletic stipends for the 2011/2012 school year was included in the packet for review. It was suggested that there may be some stipends missing for clubs that have been approved over the past few years. The HTA will look at current clubs and stipends and make a decision on what stipends will be added.

The Harvard Schools Trust provided the following grants to the schools
Nature's Classroom -\$1,400, Digi Block Math Program - \$3,900, I-Pad - \$609,
Model UN - \$1750, Library Carpet - \$269.95, Drama Society - \$750

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that with great gratitude approve the six grants that we have received from the Harvard Schools Trust.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

School Committee Reports

Kellie Carlucci, HTA President, updated the committee on the NEASC Accreditation schedule and timeline.

Piali De reported that the Policy Subcommittee met last Friday and is working on a detailed schedule to identify missing policies and policies that are a work in progress. The subcommittee will also review the oldest sections B, D, K & L as well as work on four new policies. Lastly, the subcommittee would like to develop a user friendly way to look at the policies on the web.

The budget subcommittee met and will be updating the committee with a detailed budget timeline at the next School Committee meeting.

Patty Wenger reported that DEAT is pleased with the information compiled and will send it to Trinity Financial with an invitation to set up a future meeting.

Maureen Babcock welcomed everyone to Devens. She reported that DEAC held their first meeting of the year and reviewed the School Committee accomplishments and the start of the school year. The DEAC needs a representative from the Ayer/Shirley region. DEAC will be inviting Trinity Financial to their next meeting.

Kirsten Wright reported that SEPAC will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and their focus will be on reorganization of leadership and updating the website.

SusanMary reported that HES School Council meet on September 13th with a very positive response to Dr. Linda Dwight's arrival. The Council is charged to find use for the World Language funds and what can be put into place. There is a lot of interest in the technology plan and getting it done right.

Lorraine Leonard presented the end of year financial report and asked for the committee to review the expenditure summary and authorize Chair, Keith Cheveralls and Superintendent, Joseph Connelly to sign the document.

Keith Cheveralls reported that at the "All Boards" meeting the Finance Committee announced the guidelines for all departments to develop a level service budget for the FY13. The Capital Plan and Investment Committee have begun a capital plan timeline which will be included with the budget timeline.

Welcome – Introduction to Devens – Mr. George Ramirez, Executive Director of Mass Development

Maureen Babcock introduced George Ramirez. Mr. Rameriz praised the partnership between MassDevelopment and the Harvard Public School which everyone is pleased with and proud of. On behalf of the board, Keith thanked George for hosting the meeting and extended an invitation to visit the schools as much as possible.

Project Adventure

Ms. Christine Reale and Ms. Barbi Kelley attended the meeting with a group of HES students to give a Project Adventure demonstration. The exercise that was demonstrated is designed to build trust and team work with the opportunity for follow up discussion to process feelings and reactions. The School Committee as well as other adult audience participation in the demonstration added to the fun!!

Review Administrative responses to 2011 DEAC survey

Dr. Connelly spoke to the 2011 DEAC survey and responded to the positive and negative comments from the survey and the administrative action plan put into place.

HES School Safety Entry System – funding option

Keith Cheveralls discussed the need for a higher level of security to be put into place at HES. The School Council had identified this as a priority in their school improvement plan.

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to authorize the Superintendent to the purchase and installation of a school safety entry system at Hildreth Elementary School as presented. Amount not to exceed \$8,191 coming from the School Building revolving account and the Shaw Trust Gift account.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to move that the School Committee authorize the chair of the School Committee to sign the end of the year report to DESE.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Review and approve HES & TBS 2011/2012 Student handbook

The committee reviewed the Bromfield and HES handbooks noting sections with outdated and/or missing or disputed information.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to approve The TBS and HES handbooks as presented with amendments being given to building administrators to use as they see fit.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Middle School Drop In Center

Joe Connelly reported the Middle School Drop In Center will open on Monday, October 3rd. The Middle School parents and students are excited about the program. Joe thanked Jim O'Shea, Judy Cavanaugh and Sharon Correnty for bring this vision to reality.

Future Agenda Items

MCAS results

Vicksburg Square proposal

Status of Goals

Commentary

Kirsten Wright – favorite School Committee meeting ever!

SusanMary Redinger – commended Dr. Dwight for her ownership of HES, and the amazing positive response by the parents and community.

Maureen Babcock– thanked Keith and Joe for crafting the agenda the way they did and thanked everyone for coming.

Patty Wenger – thanked the audience and Maureen Babcock.

Joseph Connelly – happy with the turn out.

Piali – fantastic meeting.

Keith – thanked Maureen Babcock for her active participation and for arranging this meeting and everyone for coming – most definitely the most fun meeting.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

VOTE (5/0) to accept the motion

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga