

School Committee Minutes
Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, April 9, 2012
6:00 pm.

Members attending: Keith Cheveralls, Kirsten Wright, Piali De, SusanMary Redinger, Maureen Babcock, Joseph Connelly, and Lorraine Leonard

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Keith Cheveralls announced that any public comment on the Administrative Model would be held off until the agenda item came up.

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2012 meeting as presented

VOTE 4/0/1 Piali abstained due to absence from the meeting

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2012 meeting as presented

VOTE 5/0

Patty Wenger made a motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to approve the minutes from the April 2, 2012 meeting as presented

VOTE 5/0

Student Report

Caroline Mazzolla reported that report cards were issued on this past Thursday. Spring sports are well underway. The Senior Citizen luncheon was a great success with fabulous food prepared by Chef Paul and great music performed by the jazz ensemble. Students against Destructive Decisions will be hosting a dance. The Middle School Drama Club is performing "Japanese Tales" this weekend.

Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

SusanMary Redinger reported that the Master Plan Steering Committee has requested \$100,000 to fund Phase 2 of the Master Plan. In Phase 1 the Master Plan Steering Committee has identified Harvard as rural, green, small and smart. In Phase 2 the committee will be defining the scope and the implementation of the plan. SusanMary also reported that the HES School Council is working on their School Improvement Plan.

Kirsten Wright reported that the Bromfield School Council is meeting tomorrow at 3:00. Kirsten also reported that the Harvard School Trust Gala was fabulous. It was well attended and Chef Paul worked his magic once again.

Piali De reported that the NEASC Steering Committee will be meeting with the School Committee on April 29, 2012 in Room 393.

Patty Wenger reported that she met with Mark Force, Bill Blackwell and Joe Connelly about the solar array installation issues. It may be necessary to change the location of the solar array to the elementary school rather than the Bromfield. Bill Blackwell will attend a future meeting with details.

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAC will be sending out their 3rd survey. Responses are due by April 30th. The questions are almost identical to last years with just 2 questions being added. DEAC should have the results of the survey by mid-May.

Keith Cheveralls asked the committee to look over the message he crafted to the community for submission in the budget book for edits and feedback.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the message from the School Committee as amended for submission to the budget book.

VOTE 5/0

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly updated the committee on the 2012/2013 projected enrollments by grade level. The enrollment information was included to help the School Committee make the best decision regarding school choice openings for next year.

Dr. Connelly reported that a mold situation at HES was identified by OccuHealth in the sink area of a room in K-wing. The mold was not airborne and the area was encapsulated. The area will be fully remediated this summer. In the spirit of good cooperation Keith Cheveralls will update the Board of Health.

World of Difference

Davida Bagatelle introduced the World of Difference program which is a peer leadership program introduced by former Bromfield student Rachel Leicher. The program is built on the knowledge that the most important influence on the development of the attitudes and behaviors of young people is the attitudes and behaviors of one's peers. Building on this concept, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)'s Peer Training Program prepares young people to use the positive power of peer pressure to motivate other students to reflect upon their stereotypes and assumptions and take action against prejudice and bigotry in their schools and communities. Peer leaders Elizabeth Wilkey, Tola Myczkowska and Oliva Stoffel explained their individual experience with the program.

Second reading and vote on policy files

Concussion Head Injury – File JJIF

The Committee reviewed changes to the Concussion Policy as explained by Scott Hoffman. Hoffman noted that the new policy involves additional responsibilities for coaches and principals, but also for parents and students. The school web site will provide a link to a free on-line course which is mandatory in order to participate in sports activities. The Committee urged that school administration push to communicate this information to the school community.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the Concussion Policy JJIF as amended.

VOTE 5/0

School Meals Charge – File EFCA

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to approve the School Meals Change policy EFCA as presented.

VOTED (5/0)

Superintendent Evaluation

The committee reviewed and discussed the composite performance evaluation of Dr. Joseph Connelly. Members were pleased with Joe's performance this year and happy with the evaluation procedure, timeline and document. Dr. Connelly stated that the document is very close to what the state is looking for in their new teacher evaluation document.

Piali De made a motion and Patty Wenger seconded to accept the Superintendent performance evaluation as presented.

VOTED (5/0)

Boxborough School Union Proposal

Chairman, Keith Cheveralls explained that the school union proposal was initiated as one possible response to the need to look for savings in new ways, as the Finance Committee had directed all town departments to do. Four administrative models were looked at. In addition to the Boxborough Union model, three other models were considered. A part-time, a superintendent/principal, or full time administrative structure. The subcommittee developed a report dated December 12, 2011 with their findings. At that point the committee eliminated the superintendent/principal model, but continued to investigate the school union model and formed a community wide subcommittee to identify questions and find answers. During and after a public hearing on April 2nd on the Boxborough School Union Proposal, the committee has received consistently negative feedback about the proposal. Although the committee felt that the model might have financial savings in the absence of community support the committee did not feel it could go forward with the proposal.

Susan Mary Redigner made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that in light of the absence of community support and School Committee concerns with dissolving the union we not pursue a union agreement with Boxborough at this time.

VOTED (5/0)

Review and take action on School Choice for 2012-13

The committee reviewed and discussed enrollment projections for the 2012/2013. The discussion surrounded whether to accept choice students in kindergarten or higher grades. In the end the committee voted to approve the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Patty Wenger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move to accept the proposal the administration has recommended.

VOTED (3/1/1) Wenger, Wright and Redinger (Yes)
De (No) Cheveralls (abstained)

School Choice opening will be advertised with
4 slots in Kindergarten
4 slots in Grade 2
5 slots in Grade 6

Technology Phase 2 Purchase Plan

Mark Lavertue reported to the Committee that the schools have acquired most of the items in the first phase of the technology plan and collectively the school was ready to move ahead with the second phase of the project. If the equipment could be ordered now it will be guaranteed to be in place for professional development workshops and teacher training over the summer.

The committee reviewed the funding source as Devens and the FY12 budget. The committee also suggested sending home communication to promote awareness of how the new technology is being used in the classroom and also hosting a "technology night" to demonstrate how the new equipment enhances student learning.

Review ATM Warrant and speaking assignments for Capital Articles

Article 21 School Zone Sign – Piali

Article 22 Replace carpeting with vinyl tile – Kirsten

Article 23 Ongoing Energy Project – Patty

Article 24 Alarm System – Piali

Article 25 Pond Road Paving Area – Keith

Article 26 Tennis Court Lighting and Resurfacing - SusanMary

Future Agenda Items

School Committee Self Evaluation

Executive Session

Bill Blackwell

Strategic Plan Report Card

School Improvement Plan

Piali De made a motion and SusanMary seconded to adjourn the meeting at
9:17 p.m.

VOTED (5/0)

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Zadroga
Recording Secretary