

School Committee Minutes
The Town Hall Meeting Room
Monday, August 22, 2011
5:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Patty Wenger

Keith Cheveralls called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Kirsten Wright made a motion and Piali De seconded to accept the minutes of the August 8th meeting as amended.

VOTE (3/0) to accept the motion (SusanMary Redinger abstained due to absence)

Superintendent Report

Dr. Connelly updated the committee on the status of existing vacancies. The guidance position is expected to be filled this week and final reference checks are being made to finalize the preschool teacher position. Without these positions being filled we are looking at \$57,000 in excess of the budget. Joe wanted to recognize Pam for the work she has done in saving the system money by eliminating two learning assistants. The Middle School Drop-In Center is moving forward with the help of Mark Force. Scott Hoffman and Jim O'Shea will highlight the program at the sixth grade orientation this week. MESPA has put together a proposal in order to work with us in developing a technology plan that will meet the needs of our system for the next 5 years. This work will be funded by the Educator Quality grant. The next step is to identify who will be on the committee, firm up dates and get going on the plan.

School Committee Reports

Maureen Babcock reported that DEAT is preparing a report on Vicksburg Square to be present to selectman at the August 24th meeting. Trinity Financial will be preset to answer questions.

Piali De reported that she spoke with Patty Wenger about the possibility of speaking with the Parks and Recreation Department about combining administrative functions. The Committee discussed their meeting time change to 5:30 and whether or not it would be possible as the cable committee was not able to guarantee filming at that time. The possible alternatives would be to return to 7:00 p.m. or train someone to turn equipment on and off, but would not allow for panning the camera. Keith will report back with a recommendation.

Keith Cheveralls presented on Miriam Shaw's life and generous financial support of the Harvard Public Schools. Keith agreed to write up a page for a hand out at the playground dedication.

Playground Recognition Proposal

Mary Day came to the meeting to finalize the proof for the playground sign to include major financial contributors and acknowledgement to all volunteers.

Piali De made the motion and SusanMary Redinger seconded to move that we authorize the Playground Committee to go forward to make the sign using our comments and suggestions.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Review and vote on goals for 2011/12. This will include a review of liaison and subcommittee assignments as needed.

Joseph Connelly reviewed the School Committee goals and offered suggestion on the formation of Subcommittees needed to accomplish the 2011/2012 goals. Some goals were assigned a liaison and other goals were assigned a subcommittee while other goals were assigned to the entire committee for oversight and completion.

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Piali De seconded to move that we officially adopt the goals as written and amended in the School Committee packet for 2011/2012.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

School Readiness Report

Joe Connelly presented the committee with the enrollment numbers, bus counts and the school facilities status.

Review and vote on proposed initiatives for inclusion in the Town's Master Plan process and documents. This will also include discussion and action on requirement of the Board of Selectmen to submit a five year strategic plan for the schools.

The Committee would like to add the following for submission to the RFP for the Town's Master Plan

1. Technology Infrastructure
2. Building needs – especially the K-Wing
3. Shared services with other towns
4. Learners of all ages, community enrichment, life, long learning

SusanMary will work with Joe Hutchinson to see the best way to move this forward.

FY11 Final School Budget Closeout

Lorraine Leonard read through the budget closeout for FY11. Joe Connelly reported deficits in the FY11 that should be watched for FY12.

Case Collaborative

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to move to appoint Joseph Connelly, Interim Superintendent as representative for the Harvard Public Schools to CASE Collaborative Board of Directors

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Commentary

SusanMary – looking forward to school starting

Kirsten- looking forward to students coming back

Keith – thank colleagues for working over the summer – accomplished a great deal.

Piali – feel like we are incredibly ready for the start of school, feels fabulous

Joe – positive vibes about having a good school opening.

Future Agenda Items

Community Education
Vicksburg Square

SusanMary Redinger made a motion and Kirsten Wright seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

VOTE (4/0) to accept the motion

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Zadroga