

Town Meeting

1-15-15

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors

- SAB - Salome (11th) reported that items discussed included the winter weather and next year's calendar and budget. One specific item was that next year's winter break will likely be a full two weeks, but this means there will be no Columbus Day holiday and probably no parent teacher conferences for elementary schools.
- Staff meeting- none

Announcements

- Celebration for the Middle School Mural, "Chains" will take place this Friday starting at 3:00 (middle school G block classes will end early).
- Architects designing the HB Wilson building will give a presentation at Town Meeting on Jan. 29.
- Course requests forms will be distributed during TA on Thurs, Feb 5. TA and TM will switch times that week, and 6th and 9th graders will be piloting a partly electronic form of requesting courses on their personal devices.
- HB Enrollment Increase update: Casey spoke about the meeting she, Graham and Frank had with school board representatives last Friday. They proposed adding 50 students to the school immediately for next September but seemed open to doing it more gradually, specifically to adding to the 6th and 9th grades over several years. No decision is expected before next week's lottery, but it will probably come soon and will not require a vote or specific announcement by the school board.

Consent Items - none

Motions - none

Discussions

- BLPC (tabled from last week): Casey spoke about the formation of the Building Level Planning Committee for the new HB building. It will include about 20 people, including 3 -5 faculty, and be the first to have student representatives: ideally one each from high school and middle school. Casey said they anticipate these representatives will be self-nominated.
 - o Erin (10th) said she thought it was important that the student representatives be active in school activities such as Frisbee or theater.
 - o Adam (6th) asked if the selection would be competitive and based on grades or other criteria.
 - o Casey answered that they hoped the process would be more self-selective. If there are many volunteers they will probably pick names out of a hat, but the students on the committee have to be conscientious representatives of the entire student body.
 - o Eliza (11th) asked about the time commitment. Casey answered that it would be approx. 20 2-hour meetings over a year (none during summer), and that seniors would therefore not be eligible.
 - o Nick (11th) asked what day of the week meetings would be held. Casey answered that they don't know yet, but that the school board will officially appoint members to the board, probably by early March.
 - o Amanda (12th) asked if they will be looking for board candidates only in Town Meeting or elsewhere. Casey said it would start in Town Meeting and then possible be announced by English teachers as well.
- Winter Safety (tabled from last week): Casey said that the superintendent was now choosing to err on the side of caution after last week's weather problems but in general advised everyone to be careful when walking or driving in bad weather.
- New Class offering: Jennifer Goen presented an idea she has been working on for "Advanced Reading and Writing for Content Area." She is approaching this both as a teacher and as the National Honor Society sponsor and has noticed a need voiced by alumni for better preparation for college level reading and writing requirements. It would be an ideal choice for students not planning on majoring in English who are already strong in and interested in other subject areas. It would allow students to reach forward and backward:

learning to do research reading and writing in math, science, etc., and also to work backward under a content area teacher with underclassmen/women. It would be a full-year course (not an independent study), taught by an English teacher or librarian, with a different focus/goal for each of the four quarters, and assisted by a content area teacher (ideally not more than one student per content area teacher).

- o Dan asked what would have to give to make this happen.
- o Jennifer answered that often there has been a journalism course (sometimes taught by the librarian), and that this new course would replace journalism. It has been added to the new Program of Studies so that students can select it in February.
- o Olivia (12th) said she thought it sounded wonderful and wished it had been available to her.
- o Christine (12th) asked if it would be available next year. Jennifer said yes, it has been added to the Program of Studies.
- o Nana (11th) said that she had been disappointed that there were no writing electives this year so she thought it was a good idea. She asked if the content area could be covered by someone outside the school, but Jennifer answered that she thought HB teachers could cover almost any subject area (i.e. something like media studies could be covered by the sociology teacher).
- o Jennifer added that she is meeting with teachers next week to further brainstorm the idea.

Chair: Amanda Hayes

Co-Chair: Bennett Weinschenk

Secretary: Emma McPhail-Snyder