

## Town Meeting

2-24-15

### TOWN MEETING

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Precursors - none

#### Announcements

- "Guilty Conscience," HB's Cappies show, goes up this weekend in the Black Box. Tickets are available online or from Eleanor.
- The Librarian hiring committee will have its first meeting in the library today at lunchtime.

#### Consent Items

- Erin and Christine (both 10<sup>th</sup>) had posted a consent item concerning Cabaret. They were not at Town Meeting, so McKinley (10<sup>th</sup>) said that she knew they wanted to do a combined middle school/high school cabaret with the proceeds to benefit a charity supporting girls' education in the third world. Christine then arrived and said they did not yet have sponsor support so they were tabling it again.

#### Motions

- Margaret Staeben made a motion to officially discourage or ban activities during Town Meeting. She said that she sensed that more and more activities (play auditions, make-up tests, meetings, etc.) were being scheduled during TM. She said that she believed similar motions had probably been made and passed in the past but that they were no longer being followed.
  - o Dave Soles said he didn't think it should be an official motion because that went contrary to the idea behind TM being a voluntary activity. He said it was silly to make a motion saying the same thing that had been passed in the past.
  - o Eleanor said that as a new teacher she would not have known that TM was special if she had not come to TM and learned first-hand. Many teachers do not come and therefore probably have no real understanding that they shouldn't schedule things during TM.
  - o Frank said that not scheduling things during TM was a long-standing rule that seemed to be not standing very well at present. He said he will remind staff tomorrow during the staff meeting.
  - o Eleanor said that she was unhappy with how few students were attending TM this year and said that there seemed to be very little student investment in the decision making process. She suggested that special schedules for things like Turkey Bowl, etc., not be made by faculty. If students don't care enough to come to TM, then they will pay attention when fun things stop happening.
  - o Margaret withdrew the motion in favor of continuing discussion at later Town Meetings.
  - o Tom agreed that a new motion would probably be impossible to enforce but said he thinks there should be one, nonetheless - he's just not sure how to word it.
  - o Eleanor said that teachers should use the two TA times during the week to schedule things with students and leave the one TM slot free.
  - o Niles (6<sup>th</sup>) said that 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are required to go to TA, so TM is their only free block.
  - o Paul said we are paying the price of having TM during the first block of the day on Thursdays as it is such a convenient time for teachers to schedule things with students. He acknowledged that TA times are an option but pointed out that Friday's TA was essentially unusable because kids considered it free time at the end of the week.

#### Discussions

- Margaret S. brought up the live broadcasting of minutes and suggested that maybe TM might want to reconsider its decision. She said it is very hard to type coherent minutes while the meeting is going on, and it puts a lot of pressure on whomever is the secretary.
  - o Amanda (12th) said that she hadn't realized that what was being typed was actually going live simultaneously and said that maybe it would be better to just have the agenda broadcast live and the minutes added later.

o Liz asked if anyone anywhere could see the minutes or if they needed to log in. Margaret answered that the stream was open to anyone via a link on the HB homepage.

o Dave Soles said the discussion no doubt stemmed from the uncomfortable situation during the superintendent's presentation two weeks ago and suggested that some kind of sign be put on the top of the page reminding the secretary that his or her words were being broadcast.

· Eleanor brought up discussion of the Assassins game again. She said she had sent an email to the organizers wanting them to come discuss the issue but that none of them were here. She asked if anyone knew whether the email had even been seen, and Jacob (9<sup>th</sup>) said it had, but that there had been no response. Eleanor said she had been hopeful that there would be a discussion, but that she was certainly not going to beg people to attend.

Chair: Amanda Hayes

Co-Chair: Bennett Weinschenk

Secretary: Jacob Hall