

Town Meeting

4-23-15

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors

- Staff meeting: Frank reported that they had held a very nice staff meeting this week.

Announcements

- The committee to evaluate the future of HB will meet at H block in Rebecca's room today.

Consent Items

- Bill asked consent to hire Angelisa Gillyard to do choreography for the upcoming spring concert: \$800 for 3 weeks, working with 5 classes. Angelisa previously did choreography for us for "Footloose." **Consent granted** unanimously.

Discussions

- Luke (9th) brought up the idea of a more self-directed PE, an alternative for kids who don't enjoy regular PE. He suggested that students be allowed to follow some proscribed program of exercise instead of participating in the normal PE activities.
 - o Questions as to how it would function logistically: simultaneously? different blocks?
 - o Frank said that the PE teachers already worked with students individually when necessary due to injuries, etc. He also added that it had been a long-standing "rule" that Town Meeting not have any jurisdiction over curriculum. Town Meeting could certainly discuss the issue and suggest ideas, but that was all.
 - o Marie (11th) asked if it were possible to get exemptions from PE due to participation in sports, but Frank clarified that the school board does not allow that.
 - o Emma (12th) suggested that if there were much lee-way in terms of PE participation, very few students would probably choose to participate.
 - o John (6th) asked Luke if he intended his ideas to apply only to high school students, and Luke answered that he hoped it would be available for middle school kids as well.
 - o Bill commented that students enduring PE was part of a human conflict we all must wrestle with: having to participate in exercise when we would all rather not.
 - o Brooke (8th) said that a lot of what goes on in PE has to do more with learning things like team work, and that it's not just exercise, and Paul agreed, saying it provides valuable learning.
 - o Casey said that Luke had come to her about his idea, and when she discussed it briefly with Sally and Stefan, they seemed open to the idea of maybe trying at some point to make one block of PE more self-directed.
 - o Zoe (12th) asked about health units, and Luke answered that those shouldn't be effected.
 - o Lizzie (12th) said that PE provided a good way to learn about sports and activities one might not normally try, adding that she had found she loved running through PE.
- Lizzie then began a new discussion, promising to be brief (!): namely, with the selection of a new principal (round of applause for Casey), should "Frank the Tank" be recreated in the form of "Case the Ace" as signs posted around the school this morning indicated, or as "Case the Mace," as several of the signs had been changed to read.
 - o Santi (11th) rose quickly to his feet and took responsibility for changing the signs and delivered an impassioned oratory on why "Mace" was a more fitting continuation of the symbol of power represented by the tank, a clear instrument of war. He added that the iteration of "Case the Ace" included an awkward glottal stop which would be avoided in "Case the Mace."
 - o Eleanor then rose just as quickly to point out that "great kings and queens of old didn't necessarily have rhyming monikers."

- o Various people then spoke, voicing support of or against an added consonant.
- o Liz then stated that while she appreciated the concern from a linguistic standpoint, the glottal stop was, in fact, not present in “Case the Ace,” since the “the” would obviously be pronounced more as a “thee.”
- o [Lizzie at this point apologized for starting such a passionate debate.]
- o Margaret (12th) said that forced nicknames don’t work, so it was silly to try to decide this by decree at Town Meeting.
- o Brad (12th) echoed her thoughts, saying that a free market model of economics was the best, and a variety of names should be tried and discarded until the market settles on the best one.
- o Luke (9th) suggested “Case THINE Ace.”
- o Emma (12th) said that we should allow whatever happens to happen, and that the true outcome will become clear when the new senior class welcomes the school during the first day assembly.
- o Bill said we should remain an “alternative” school where a variety of nicknames could flourish, and more importantly, he told everyone who didn’t know already that a video of Casey *as a student* attending HB had been posted on the HB Facebook page.
- o A motion was made to close the speakers’ list and let events take care of themselves; it passed and the topic was let rest.

Motions

- Emma (12th) said that the senior class hoped to hold their senior auction next Friday (May 1) and hoped to move TA to before lunch that day in order to ensure better participation. Brief discussion followed, and it was decided to present these as two separate motions: the first was to hold the auction on the 1st, and that **motion passed** unanimously.
- o The second motion was then to change the schedule on the 1st to A, B, TA, lunch, C, D, E, and G.
- o Eleanor said that TA in the afternoon on Friday was a good time for activities, and she preferred that it stay that way.
- o Lizzie said that the seniors felt that doing it earlier would ensure enough kids stayed to clean up.
- o Eleanor said that this was part of the problem: the expectation should be that everyone stayed to clean up no matter what time of day it was.
- o Various people then spoke about the pros and cons, debating which time of day would ensure greater participation and therefore more fundraising.
- o Michelle said that TA was not considered “free time” for middle schoolers, and that it would be hard for them to transition back to “school time” after a prolonged break in the day.
- o Bill said that the kids who want to come will come, and that doing it during the normal TA time will provide a challenging adventure for the seniors.
- o Kendall (12th) mentioned that kids who leave for sports are disadvantaged and can’t partake in Friday TA activities.
- o Casey said that there were already two schedule changes planned for next week: the change of TA on Tuesday to allow for the guest speaker (for Students Against Sexual Violence), and on Thursday the early release for the TM allocation session. Changes are particularly difficult for part-time staff, and adding another to next week would be prohibitive.
- o Emma then responded to Michelle’s comment, saying that the auction was usually, and had originally been scheduled for, Tuesday’s TA, but that the seniors had been forced to change it to accommodate the guest speaker.
- o Eleanor said that if we’re going to discount Friday TA as non-useable time, then we ought to rethink the Friday TA in general.
- o Motion made and passed [thank you!] to close the speakers’ list.
- o **Motion restated and failed to pass.**

Chair: Nathaniel Klein

Co-Chair: Erin Lammie

Secretary: Jacob Hall