

## Town Meeting

5-28-15

### TOWN MEETING

5/28/15

Precursors - none

Announcements

- Reminder for all students to sign up for TA for next year.

Consent Items - none

Motions

- Casey made a motion to convene a hiring committee next Thursday morning (6/4) to fill the assistant principal position, and to form hiring committees for a .4 computer science teacher, a .2 photo teacher and a .4 U.S. history teacher. She said that the goal was to have one student member from each grade and one faculty member from each department on the AP hiring committee. **Motion passed** unanimously.
- Eleanor made a motion to accept scheduling proposal C presented by Graham at the last Town Meeting. (Proposal C put the first TA of the week into the last block on Monday, Town Meeting into the first block on Tuesday, and the second TA into the second block on Thursday).
  - o Discussion began immediately on the pros and cons of schedule C, and Margaret made the comment that any proposal accepted could always be changed if it didn't work out. Frank then made a point of order that Town Meeting rules require a 2/3 vote to overturn any decision made at Town Meeting.
  - o Maggie said that an H block at the end of the day on Friday would be particularly hard to teach, but Eleanor countered that we shouldn't sell ourselves short: every other school teaches until the end of the day on Friday, and we should be able to handle being tired.
  - o Dan pointed out that the genesis of the proposals was to strengthen the TA structure and make it more meaningful for all grades, and he repeated the idea that any change voted in could later be undone if necessary. Alison and Blue (8<sup>th</sup>) echoed support for change and the idea of a more meaningful TA, with Alison saying that a Monday TA would allow a time for touching base before the week ahead. Nana (11<sup>th</sup>) agreed but questioned whether holding a more purposeful TA during the last block on Monday would disadvantage students who leave early for sports.
  - o Caroline (9<sup>th</sup>) said that she thought high school students would still choose to leave school during an end-of-day TA, even on Monday, and said that she, too, thought it unfair to sports participants.
  - o Beza (9<sup>th</sup>) said she thought it would be easier to attend an H block class on Monday than on Friday.
  - o Dave said he was sensing a disappointing lack of enthusiasm for trying something new. He suggested the motion be amended to allow for a one-quarter "trial run" of the new schedule and then have a revote - eliminating the need for a 2/3 majority revocation.
  - o Catherine acknowledged that teaching during H block could be difficult and encouraged the community as a whole to help deal with that issue: to self-discipline so that there would be less mayhem in the halls and a greater respect for what was going on in the classrooms.
  - o John (6<sup>th</sup>) said that TAs were supposed to be fun, and that was why it would be good to keep TA at the end of the day on Friday.
  - o Michelle said that one of the cool things about being at HB was the ability to have discussions about these kinds of decisions. But she, too, was sensing a lot of negativity just at the idea of trying something new. She encouraged everyone to think about how little it would hurt just to try out something new and to be the creative school that H-B Woodlawn is supposed to be.
  - o Graham pointed out that with enrollment increasing, a Friday afternoon was not an optimal time for building our community and helping familiarize new students. He also pointed out that 67% of students now have an H block, so the idea that H block was free time for basically everyone was a misconception.
  - o Eleanor agreed to Dave's suggested amendment and the motion was restated: to accept proposed schedule C for a one quarter trial period in the fall to be followed by a reconsideration at Town Meeting at the end of the first quarter. The **motion passed** by a small margin.

Before the meeting adjourned, Frank announced that a hiring committee had met and chosen Dave Soles to fill the newly created part-time position of Academic Activities Coordinator.

Chair: Marie Johnson

Co-Chair: Ben Gessel

Secretary: Jacob Hall