

Town Meeting

2-16-12

TOWN MEETING

2/16/12

Precursors:

- SAB - no.
- Staff Mtg - no.

Announcements:

- HBW Wind Ensemble performing at WL tonight!
- Ultimate Frisbee begins next week, JV Varsity Tryouts on Monday. Next Wednesday 4-6pm for newbie practices. Any High school girls who want to play can come to dinner at Jojo's house on Friday.

Motions:

- Jam Club - Joe Rutowski. (Not present) Motion TABLED
- Middle School Dance. Eighth Graders want to hold a middle school dance on March 16th. They have sponsors and paperwork. Planning on giving percent of profits to cancer society and grade. 7:00 to 9:00pm. PASSED unanimously.
- Funding for computer science class. Quinn. Motion TABLED.

Discussion:

- Cherrydale Park Update - Frank. The equipment is the same as it was 15 years ago. Equipment cost 12,000 to 15,000 dollars. They are trying to raise money to redo the park. Thirty people went with Frank and Patty to clean it up. Hopefully another TA will go and clean it up in a few weeks. Mark Dickson's TA could possibly do it.
- Dance Issues - 1% of the dance money has to go to charity currently. If there are problems at the dance (Drinking, Substance Abuse, Violence, Inappropriate Behavior) a higher percentage of the money should go to charity. Puts all the blame on the organizing class. Maybe the percentage should be raised a little bit anyway. A lot of times problems come from people who don't go to HBW. Charity as a punishment is not really giving. Dances are getting worse and it can't all be blamed on outsiders. It might be better to treat charity and behaviors as separate problems. It's not just outsiders or the people who you wouldn't expect and it makes teachers really uncomfortable when they see students in school Monday morning who were exhibiting bad behavior Friday night. Peer-monitor from fellow students and stop protecting the dancers. Charity shouldn't be a punishment. It shouldn't be the teacher's decision how much goes to charity. Maybe the inappropriate behavior shouldn't be allowed at middle school dances. Some students like the idea of giving money to charity. Charity should be at least ten percent as a base rate. Losing money is the punishment not charity but it motivates students to stop people. Teachers give up their time so they should be able to feel comfortable at the dances too. It could be difficult to define inappropriate dances and what is unacceptable. It's more the responsibility of the students than of the organizers. Parents could be called when the lewd behavior doesn't stop after a warning. A lot of teachers no longer chaperone dances because they feel uncomfortable. Some other students don't like it either. It makes people feel dirty. This latest dance was "okay", there was no obvious intoxication but a lot of dirty dancing. There was no clean-up crew which means that the senior class is being charged for the custodians' overtime. Do teachers have to get involved? Is there really inappropriate dancing, and is there clean up? As tickets are sold organizers can warn each students personally. Possible motion next week.
- Question about the future of Sky-High Lab. We will most likely be giving a classroom to Stratford, and have other needs (increasing numbers in Alg II and Spanish this year, new Social Studies class next year). The "room committee" will meet earlier this year than they usually do, fairly soon after the Superintendent's Budget is announced. Stay tuned.

Chair: Robi Rahman

Co-Chair: Ben Branman

Secretary: Caroline Pepin-Woods