Town Meeting

3-1-12

TOWN MEETING

3/1/12

Precursors:

- SAB – tonight.
- Staff Mtg – no.

Announcements:

- Mindset! TONIGHT, tomorrow & Sat in the Auditorium, 7:30pm. $5 – benefit for NOVAM. There will be cupcakes and strobelights and blacklights.

Motions:

- Funding for computer science class – Quinn. Motion previously TABLED. HBW Computer Science would like $100 to pay for hosting a website and other expenses. – Motion tabled again
- (From discussion below) Starting immediately the Sky High Lab is closed during Town Meeting. Motion previously TABLED – It's a flashy motion to get people to come to TM. All of the computers in the Library are taken right now so if you wanted to get work done you might not be able to do it if the Lab was closed. You wouldn't be able to get work done in the Sky High Lab either. You can always ask people to move in the Sky High Lab. This would be to let people know what they are doing is not OK and that they are not being used productively. Over the past week Terri and Tech Cadre have been spending hours cleaning up the lab, while people are going in and gaming whenever they want. The main issue is the misuse of computers, specifically the trash and the pulled wires. There were two computers that were basically unusable during testing because people were playing around with them. People have been using the computers in ways to make them unusable to other people. The people who are doing this to computers are those that are not here. If people don't do this stuff in TM then they can still do it at other times. This is showing the worst examples of HBW. Instead of being here they are doing whatever they want in the lab and leaving it unusable to others. Using these motions for flash is not the answer. There are better ways of changing the behavior than by shutting it down. The people in the computer lab need to be better informed about this. Everyone does know that these are the expectations and these are the rules. The computer lab is often an intimidating environment with it being loud and active. The computer lab is meant for instructional use. It might be a better to have a discussion with individual TAs. HBW's job is not to mother the people in the computer lab. Sky High Lab should stay open because if it is shut people will have a harder time getting work done and finding computers. The issue is not the gaming but the fact that the lab is trashed, the settings have been adjusted, computers trashed, and wires messed with, and it's been noisy. If the problems can be addressed then we won't need to take the computer lab away. A lot of the gamers are middle schoolers, so it makes sense to have the middle school TAs talk to their students. There will still be people doing this no matter what we say. These computers are not yours they belong to the schools. If you are caught violating the rules you should get a warning. There is a disconnect between what we say are the rules and what we enforce as the rules. Instead of putting the onus on the TAs we should put it on the students. If there are students who use the computer lab a lot then they should take responsibility for it and volunteer to talk to students about cleaning up the trash and taking care of the lab. Tech Cadre could take care of it, but there are only 3 students in tech cadre who meet 3 blocks a week. It's good that some people in the computer lab showed up to this discussion because they should take the initiative to come and spread the word of what is discussed here. Those who use the lab should spread the word about maintaining it for all. The gaming is not as bad as the lab getting trashed. If people damage the equipment they should help fix it. A compromise for the TA discussion: The gamers should help figure out the rules to be announced and what the TAs should say. They should make a new set of rules. The issue of space in the Sky High Lab is still in existence. The gaming is an issue as it slows down the network. It takes forever for pages to load and the gaming has some of the blame for it. Another student states that the games don't slow the network down that much. The idea of the people who use the computer lab a lot drafting the rules and talking to TAs is a good one but TAs need to jumpstart it. Could we block out those sites. A) No, and b) Blocking sites doesn't work anyway – **Friendly Amendment** – TAs will talk to students after establishment and first meeting of committee on the Computer Lab issue. And to bring attention to the issue. The Computer Lab will be closed next week at Town Meeting. PASSED

- Technology Committee – Casey. There should be a small working group of people to look at technology use as a whole at this school, and to try and figure out the best ways to put and to use computers. This would look at iPad use and laptop use. Terri and Liz would be on the committee. If you are interested in working on the committee sign up outside the main office. They would have a proposal by the week after spring break. PASSED
- A capella group – Casey – Tabled
- Committee – This would establish a committee based on the idea that the people who use the computer lab should have a say in how it is run. This would meet TA next week in Eleanor's room. PASSED

Discussion:

- Allocation "budgeting" – middle school as a block – Casey. – Tabled
- Superintendent's Proposed Budget, Implications for HBW. – Tabled

Chair: Will Hubbert

Co-Chair: Robi Rahman

Secretary: John Ponder White/Amanda Hayes