

Town Meeting

5-10-12

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors:

- SAB - Capital Improvement Plan (overcapacity)
- Staff Meeting - yes. SOL testing procedures, TA selection process, staff changes. Allocation update, HVAC this summer, Frisbee to TN, lots of upcoming field trips.

Announcements:

- HVAC work has begun. Lowest parking lot will be closed (soon) for duration of the school year. Plan ahead, you may need to park on neighboring streets, increasing time to get to school. (Or walk or bike)
- Scholarship Nominations coming next week - Liz. 4 scholarships available: nominate seniors!

Motions:

- Procedural motion - With no administrator or Seniors present, let's not do any controversial motions. PASSED
- Cover up profanity/obscenity on 2011 Sr. Wall/change to a heart - Jennifer & Bill. To replace profane word on 2011 Sr. wall with a heart. The "F" word. 2005 motion read. This motion doesn't apply - the "F" comment is anonymous, more of graffiti than Senior stuff. What about the F***? They got permission to write that. Concerns about censorship. Not good for people to see when they come into the building. First thing you see when someone comes up the stairs - in your face. It was a "statement." Let's keep it positive. Okay to cover up, but shouldn't re-write. By changing content, you are creating graffiti. It this detracting from free speech of Senior walls? PASSED
- Room Committee - Eleanor. Move to establish room committee: Stratford needs space, other changes. 1st meeting would be Thursday May 17 @ lunch in library. PASSED unanimously.
- In response to a series of motions regarding gaming in the computer labs, two motions, below. Brought by Joe. Computers being used to make .bat files to access sites, etc. normally blocked; sometimes files will shut down computers; TM agreement for bandwidth not being followed; fixing laptops will be a problem esp. as we are switching to laptops next year. The efforts to regulate computer activity earlier this year were admirable but have not worked. Gamers are trashing computers, going around server, being rude to people trying to use lab for work. There are a flurry of suggestions/motions at this point: Close the lab, get someone to monitor, upperclassmen be more proactive, etc. We can pass whatever we want, it won't be honored by the gamers. No one monitors. List of allowed games is just enabling game playing; should just ban all games. Banning games is county policy, we should not have given tacit approval by allowing "some" games. Other schools do not allow. huge misuse of computers, esp. gaming. Many students in middle school lab gaming/abusing privileges and people aren't able to do work: people shouldn't be gaming at school; older students should encourage younger students not to game. There is a sense of entitlement to use games; previous gentler TM initiatives to discourage/limit gaming not working. Rules established previously not being followed; very few people involved not present. Committee had good discussions but not a good way to enforce rules: peer monitoring not working. Discussions not working; gaming should be completely gotten rid of. After last TM votes, impossible to enforce: rules are really complicated; very hard for people to do work. Bring your own computer. This is not HBW, not verbum sap sat. Need stronger emphasis on peer enforcement. Peer enforcement is hard. Ask gamers their opinion. In other schools, teachers monitor. Ban gaming only on school computers, not personal devices. There are no repercussions, there should be a punishment system. Campaign for people to bring in their own devices/create a gaming club. This does affect bandwidth, but less of a problem than online ones. The priority is to the academic community.
- Move TM next week to High School Computer Lab (unless allocation is held next week, in which case, move it to lab the following week) - Mark Dodge. Eleanor makes friendly amendment to close MS computer lab at the same time. PASSED
- (Re)Ban Gaming (only on school computers) & lock computer lab until library computers are filled - Cora. Motion heavily modified then TABLED (see discussion, above).
- Motion to revise list and make consequences - Peter. TABLED.

Discussion:

- Senior Wall Appropriateness - Jennifer & Bill. Different wall quote by graduate Martine. Hammer, fists, word (p****). Promotes violence against women. Associates with images of rape. Overtly promoting sexual violence: has talked to person's old TA and Senior has said that it was a mistake to put on the wall. Suggest quoting it (b/c from a video). Lots of offensive stuff on wall. This is much more offensive than other stuff. Very clearly advocating sexual violence and should contact person who put it up. Though part of media can be interpreted very offensively. Quote will not have context in later years. Will be covered up temporarily until person is contacted
- HBW Tech Initiatives Committee meeting next Tuesday @ TA - Liz. Meeting in teacher lunchroom for future initiatives for technology at HBW.

Chair: Will Hubbert

Co-Chair: Ben Branman

Secretary: Amanda Hayes