

## Town Meeting

2-7-13

### TOWN MEETING

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#### PRECURSORS

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- SAB. No.
- Staff Meeting. No.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- HBW Apparel is now available! Get your swag today!
- Donate to children in Afghanistan between now and Valentine's Day. Main Office or Eleanor's rm.
- Many internship opportunities available through Fatima's office (see Margaret Staeben).
- Seniors – Arlington Community Foundation Scholarships – get your application in today!
- NOVA Alexandria Open House on SATURDAY.
- Quiznet starts today! 3:30 Paul's Room

#### MOTIONS

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- Outside Speaker for Psych (Pablo) 200\$. PASSED
- Establish committee for discussing door policy. Do we even need TM approval? We make it a TM Committee so that if we adopt their proposal it is official HBW policy. PASSED
- Minecraft Club. Thursdays at H block, every other Thursday. Isn't there a ban on using school computers for gaming? No school resources would be used. We're asking students to bring their own laptop. Students would not be able to play if they didn't have their own access to internet. Suggestion, can they play on a LAN (local area network) rather than on the school network? Does it matter if they are on their own computers and just using wi-fi? We shouldn't flaunt school tech policies. PASSED

#### DISCUSSION

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- Senior Wall Quotes. We will eventually run out of wall space. How can we preserve the walls we have and what alternatives to we have once there are no more walls? Maybe projecting quotes on white wall space? That way the quotes stay on the walls, at least symbolically. This isn't necessary today, but we can save the idea for later.
- Reopening the Middle Earth lab at TM: The lab is only closed today because we don't have a person to monitor it today. Casey will look into having a "regular" person to cover the lab.
- Reopening locked doors. The consensus at the last Town Meeting where we discussed it was that we weren't happy about this, but we had to deal with it. Time has passed, tempers have cooled, and it's time to reevaluate this policy. This is actually a County ordinance and HBW/TM has no control over County directives. Locked doors are a big pain. It'd be nice to unlock the doors, but it's relatively small fry. In Sandy Hook, the doors were locked anyway, it didn't make them safer. Counterpoint: even if the doors don't make us safer, they help people feel secure. We have to be mindful of the fact that Sandy Hook was terribly traumatizing to many students and be respectful of that. Locking the doors has insulted the culture at HBW. These locked doors are both ideologically abhorrent and inconvenient. While the doors shouldn't necessarily be locked, it's still too soon. An "inconvenience" argument isn't going to be enough to sway the School Board. Even if the doors are locked, it's not changing HBW. It's only challenging us as a school. One student stated that most Middle schoolers aren't afraid of reopening the doors. We don't want to antagonize the School Board, but we shouldn't have to endure this. There are better ways to make people safe than locking the doors. Locking the doors is an impersonal solution to security. HBW has drafted

letters before; we have more power than you know. HBW has to pick its battles; we can't fight the county on every little thing. HBW's student government shouldn't cater to irrational fears. The entire school system is obeying this policy; it may be irrational but it is widespread. Students here need to be opening doors. Sometimes they act like jerks and don't open them. That is the problem, not the fact that they are locked. Deal with that. If you decide to write to the School Board, don't make it about HBW. Make it about all students. When the doors are locked, it serves as a reminder of the tragedy. We need to stop remembering and start healing. One student believes that most people aren't afraid of being shot up. He states that all you need to do is fight back and not be a coward. The grading policy had a student-led committee. We should emulate them. Picking battles is important. We're walking a fine line here. We don't want to seem offensive. Look, the door policy is stupid. No one is saying it isn't. But we should be careful in fighting this battle. This is more than HBW, it's also a parent issue. Motion to form a subcommittee to continue talking about this is passed, above.

Chair: Tori Auerhan

Co-Chair: David Reich

Secretary: Will Hubbert