

## Town Meeting

3-21-13

**TOWN MEETING****3/21/13**PRECURSORS

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- SAB.
- Staff Meeting. No. Staff met in departments and teams to discuss allocation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- Recognition: Congrats to Hannah Karlin (7<sup>th</sup> gr), Sophia Anderson (8<sup>th</sup> gr), Biruktawit Assefa (11<sup>th</sup> gr) for Top Science Fair Awards. Birdy received Best in Fair Grand Prize and was noted in an Arlington Public Schools News Release.
- Early Release on the Thursday we get back (4/4). Please stay after to help with teacher allocation (1:45 in the library). Your chance to have a say in how many teachers per department and/or class.
- Spring Formal tickets now on sale outside the cafeteria @ lunch.
- World Water Day TOMORROW.
- March Madness ongoing, need volunteers, see Stefan.
- Red Cross Blood Drive at HBW on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (Teacher Work Day, no school for students). Aged 17 and over – will you donate? Also need volunteers to help organize, paperwork, etc. No, you don't get to stick the teachers with needles. ☺
- "Sky and Dark". Come out the HBW tonight to see astronomical phenomena. 7-8pm. See Kathy Molina for more info.
- Order your Yearbooks TODAY – deadline is approaching and there may be very \*few\* available for purchase in June. \$35.
- Seniors – Many new scholarships available. See Fatima TODAY.
- Formals for Five – please donate gently used Prom dresses and accessories to this program held annually at W-L. Sale in late April. More info on scrolly TV.

MOTIONS

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- Senior Auction on Tuesday, 4/23 @ TA Time. No one present. Motion TABLED.
- Authorization for Allocation Committee to meet at 1:45 in Library on 4/4. This is the committee where students and teachers work to distribute our allocation of teachers across disciplines and classes. Looks like we will be down some  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a teacher next year. What do we cut but maintain our current staffing? Also a chance to propose new courses, like Art History and Intensified Chemistry. Another proposal to make all classes Intensified Chem (this has been tried with Bio – mixing regular and Intensified students in the same class). Listing classes as "Intensified" is something students request because they feel it looks good when applying for college as most colleges ask if the student took the "hardest classes available." Intensified classes are listed that way on transcript. Since we haven't offered Intensified Chem, it hasn't been an issue. Several teachers disagreed with the premise. Unlike AP, Intensified classes do not give you any extra credits, and HBW is already known for having high rigor in our courses, including at the "regular" level. There is no essential difference in grading policy for an Intensified course. Getting into college is about finding something you love and are really good at and highlighting that. We have lots of students getting into William and Mary and UVA. Last kid who got into Harvard was an Olympic-level athlete for fencing. General sense that listing things as Intensified means cutting down on the alternative options – like English electives. Good and bad parts about separating regular from higher performing students. Is there a big difference between an Intensified and regular class? Mark Dodge talked about how he doesn't teach Intensified Physics because he would have to drop some of the units he and the students enjoy to fit in a more prescribed curricula. Having some Intensified and some regular classes tends to hamstring our already tight schedule options, given that we are a small school. AP classes have tests at the end, scores sent to colleges. Intensified classes don't. One advantage is that if you have a real passion

for something, like Science, you can show colleges you have pursued that by taking the Intensified classes. Motion PASSED.

#### DISCUSSION

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- eBook loan policy. Need feedback! See attached Word Document. What type of devices are supported? Kindle Fire, most Android and Mac products. Need Google Play and/or Adobe 11.1 to run. Go to your app store and download Follett Digital Reader. All of this is free to students. Should not be too many check outs because there are not a lot of books. Librarian should be able to know good limits to be set of time of check out.

Chair: Julian Cohen

Co-Chair: Nick Som

Secretary: Matt Beckwith and Theresa Flynn