

Town Meeting

10-10-13

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors

- SAB – No.
- Staff Meeting – No.

Announcements

- Volunteers needed to help with Blood Donor Drive on November 5th. See Vanessa.
- H2O for Life 5K Race for Life on November 2nd at Tuckahoe. Registration is now open online. Need Volunteers (water stations, conducting runners) – including a rocking singer!!! See Cecilia.
- Middle School Girls – the Office of Minority Achievement is sponsoring its annual Girls' Leadership Conference on 10/26. If you are interested in attending, please see Jen H in room 205 asap.

Motions

- Outside Teacher Request for Rock Walk, Bill V-E. Geology is a big part of the Earth Space curriculum. This year we would like to hire a professor of Geology from NOVA to hold a rock walk on the Billy Goat Trail for 150\$. This walk will be for Earth Space students and provides a local perspective on the geology of the area. Motion PASSED
- CRF Form policy revision. Will Hubbert. Will reviewed the VA Code and did not find anything that contradicts his belief that CRF forms shouldn't have a parent signature on them for high schoolers. This is a student's choice, and parents shouldn't be able to veto a student's schedule. However, parents SHOULD be involved in this discussion and we should include them in it. Not a good idea to exclude parents in the HBW community. If a kid lies to their parent, should they be here anyway? The Arena Scheduling is binding ... and parents do not sign off on that. Does Virginia or Arlington County Schools policy preclude us making this change? Answer is unclear. Administration has referred us to a part of the statute that doesn't seem to contain any mention of this issue. The VA Code mentions many things we are supposed to do but don't. We'll continue to try to clarify this in further Town Meetings. Can we have a nighttime Town Meeting for parents to weigh in? Maybe this could be raised in PAC? PAC doesn't have the power to vote on this, but it COULD be discussed. Counterpoint: just as parents don't in practice attend TM, students don't in practice attend PAC. A nighttime TM is the best setting to discuss this. Issue TABLED for more discussion.

Discussions

- Get a permanent German Teacher. All German classes are through Distance Learning. This is a change made by APS in the past few years. HBW was the last school to have a physical teacher. It's hard to learn a language through a computer program. This Distance Learning is difficult, and it puts the students at a disadvantage. Unfortunately, this is an allocation issue, and it's hard to justify hiring a full-time German teacher. If you're interested in having a German teacher, this SHOULD be brought to allocation. A teacher comes in once a week, and the rest of the class is taught through computer programs. Maybe you could get native speakers to come in and speak? This has been done in the past for Russian, it was very successful program. Distance Learning is a community issue — other schools are also feeling this effect. There is a difference between conversation and teaching — teachers can't be replaced by speakers. County spending at other schools is VERY different from HBW spending. Budgeting is HARD! H-B Woodlawn puts .2 of teacher funding into Distance Learning in total — the county also pays for a

Supervisor who regulates the labs. Paying for German comes at a cost — we'll need to cut something else. Having parents come in is a *GOOD* idea. Maybe we can bring parents or advisors in through the Outside Teacher fund? Distance Learning is REALLY bad for languages — there are better classes to offer this for. If there's no teacher, there's no demand for a class — it's a vicious circle. SAB should also talk to representatives of other schools so that it doesn't just sound like "little HBW" having issues — numbers matters here. This isn't a localized issue.

Chair: Jules Cohen

Co-Chair: Eli Spiliotopoulos

Secretary: Will Hubbert