

Town Meeting

12-19-13

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors

- SAB – No.
- Staff Meeting – No.

Announcements

- YES – there are significant issues with the Arlington Schools network. You may have problems logging into wifi, printing, loading websites. And it is not you! Patience, above all.
- Sign up for English Electives TODAY (outside of Kelli's rm)
- Choral Concert TONIGHT @ 7:30 at Memorial Baptist Church.
- Over 500 new books and eBooks in the Library right now – read something good over break!
- Did you order HBW gear in November? See your TA TODAY to get your stuff.
- Help those in need! Go to the bake sale after Town Meeting to support a charity in the Dominican Republic.
- American Red Cross Club raised \$650 for Typhoon Relief in the Philippines!
- 129 pounds of food donations thus far ...

Motions

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- Outside Teacher money for English Electives – Catherine Frum. Frank says there is less outside teacher money this year than usual. Total of five periods to be taught. Catherine: classes offered include Cyberpunk, Hitchcock, Masters of Comedy. Motion PASSED unanimously
- Laptops in the flex room – Tori Auerhan. Tori wanted Theresa to withdraw the ban on using school laptops in the Flex room. She said the library was too noisy to work in and she depends on that room to complete college applications and do other work that requires concentration. Theresa was surprised by motion, since Tori had not asked about this previous to Town Meeting. She gave history of issue: In the Spring of 2011 the laptops placed in the room were being trashed. First, Theresa asked kids to report damage, she posted signs, there was no improvement after a month. She then removed the laptops from the room but allowed students to take them in – the damage continued for another month. Two laptops were rendered permanently out-of-service. Theresa then banned laptops in the room, ostensibly, for the rest of the year. The student reaction was surprising – a number of students actually liked having no laptops in there ... said it made the room quieter and easier to study in. Based on this, Theresa kept the ban in place. In 2012, the wifi was unlocked for students, creating a new issue – what to do about students who brought their own devices. Theresa left those out of the ban after talking with administrators and school staff, who indicated that the school did not have purview over privately owned devices. This has caused the Flex room to become “noisier” and more social again – Theresa has opened up her office to those who have asked when they need someplace quieter (or darker) to be in. Theresa said she was opposed to the motion as the Flex room is an extremely small space – a former storage area – and there simply has to be another place in the building to go for quiet when you need it. Several students said that is not the case – this is a fairly noisy place. One student asked if the loaner laptops had been trashed – the answer was a surprising no. Eleanor made the point that people are less likely to trash a laptop that has their name attached to it via checkout. She suggested allowing checked out laptops to be used in the room. Another student said it is not very “HB” to punish all for the actions of a few. Salome suggested that things have changed in the past few years ... and recommended a trial period, allowing laptops to be used in the Flex room again and seeing if it continues to be an issue. A teacher stated that they were not comfortable having Town Meeting mandate how Theresa runs the library, as she would not want her instructional space use mandated by Town Meeting. It was noted that Theresa has frequently brought library policy to Town

Meeting for input and transparency. Frank wants motion as a discussion. Tori agrees to table the motion. Motion TABLED

- Mural by Middle School – Faylinda. Near Chorus room and Band rooms heading downstairs. In conjunction with Hirschorn Museum. Work will start in January. Liz is looking forward to this, Frank is in support. Photographs are posted on the HBW website under curriculum. Motion PASSED unanimously

Discussions

- Parking for HBW & Stratford Communities – Frank. We will never have enough parking for all of our students and staff, but the signs have come down near the lowest lot, so now people can park in the "Stratford" area. No one on speakers list, moved on.
- Program of Studies 2014-15 and Course Requests for next year – Frank. "Current Events" class proposed. *Now* is the time to propose new things ... *before* the CRF process starts at the end of January.

Chair: Amanda Hayes

Co-Chair: Will Hubbert

Secretary: Tori Auerhan

Chair-in-Waiting: Tori Auerhan