

Town Meeting

4-29-14

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(In the Gym for Allocation)

Announcements

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- Eleanor Reed: (greeted by applause) Yearbook orders, last week for pre-order form is this week.
- Tempest and Oliver tickets on sale at the same time, both shows upcoming.
- Zoe: Writer's Society. First meeting this week at lunch, writers show up, would you?

Motions

- Frank Haltiwanger: People going to be hired this spring, hiring committees to be approved: Full time for Social Studies teacher, English teacher. Part-time for Math, Spanish, Reading, Special Education. Motion PASSED unanimously.
- TEACHER ALLOCATION – Frank: Allocation proposal agreed upon earlier at committee mtg last week. To be voted on. "Really good allocation year, no cuts." Approve "base" and vote on additions: Current Events, ASL, or Computer Science as possible new classes.
- Overview –
 - Base allocation: an increase of .5 in Math, an increase in Social Studies for HILT Geography class and another day of counseling added.
 - 0.5 is how much is available.
 - 0.2 is one class for 1 teacher, .4 two, .5 three, .6 four, 5th class, .8, 6 classes, 1.0
 - Will Senkus: 0.5 jump in Math – why not funding towards other places? Why do we care so much about Math? Isn't Language more important? Answer: HILT program, more students need more supportive Math courses.
 - Direct Question: Explain the counseling. Answer: Counselors currently there for three days. They are oversubscribed, don't have enough time in their schedule. So we need another day, it's just something which we see.
- Speakers on proposed changes –
 - Funding for German classes. There's been a cut to an already online class. Part-time teacher requested from money out of allocation to the World Languages dept.
 - Computer Science: useful, problem-solving skills and logic learned along with many real world skills. People should learn how to work with technology and computers. We need to learn more about Computer Science, because it's used to solve problems and is important.
 - Computer Science: Other schools offer it, we should match those offerings.
 - Computer Science – Mark Dodge. Graduates of HBW in college who want to be in Math fields, etc., say HBW did a great job, but they wish that they had gained programming experience like everyone else. It's assumed in a technical career that you have some of that, and so HBW should be providing that background.
 - Current Events: useful knowledge of the world for writing essays, expressing opinions, knowing things in conversations with people.
 - Computer Science: Important skill in modern age and Current Events will only require a 0.1 to fund thru Social Studies Dept. – or outside teacher could be done, for 0.1 thru semester for outside teacher fund.
 - ASL: some people have difficult learning foreign language. 1 in 5 people are dyslexic. ASL could be a good alternative for students who learn differently or are dyslexic – better for them.
 - ASL: many people want it, so why not fund it? We have other languages.
 - QUESTION to FRANK: How is County doing ASL class? Answer: Wakefield & W-L have ASL, but haven't been able to find a teacher. Central World Languages office is looking for an ASL teacher for Yorktown and HBW to share.
 - Current Events: could be offered as an English Elective.
 - Current Events: one thing to hear on news, but to have your own special opinion is something very special.

- ASL: what happens as more and more students sign up? Wouldn't we need more blocks then? How would World Languages Dept be affected? Unknown, no answer.
- ASL: good to offer because it is useful for communicating with deaf people. 1 in 4 students are dyslexic, fits needs of community.
- Current Events: better suited as a full year course rather than as an English elective. We don't want just Sophomores to take it, it'd be easier for older students if it were a legit course. It should be its own thing.
- ASL: We could have deaf people at HBW, include them in our lives and society.
- Current Events: could be just a semester, in addition to what's going on, you learn how to express and analyze it.
- Computer Science: important class. Others are nice, but Computer Science is absolutely necessary. Computer-related stuff is the most quickly expanding field in America. Some students say they'll go to other schools if we don't offer a Computer Science course. What are we if we don't offer the right course?
- ASL: more of a necessity, considering there might be other people who can't take another language.
- Computer Science: this study could be very diverse with so many applications —security, humanitarian stuff.
- Computer Science: used in many professional fields, a skill which sticks with you for rest of life — world runs on computers, there needs to be someone to run them.
- MOTION to close the speakers list. There are objections, but the motion is PASSED.
 - Current Events: Stupid people talk about politics and it is insulting. We should have a current events class because of this.
 - Computer Science: We need to remain a competitive High School, we need to teach computer science so that our kids can get accepted into colleges.
 - Computer Science: It doesn't just deal with Math and Science, it works with Arts and Humanities also. It's a flexible, creative science.
- MOTION to start voting. Votes will be tallied, and then results announced in the afternoon. Motion is PASSED. Note: We want to rank possible new courses based on priority: ex. 1, 2, and 3.

Chair: Margaret Gorman

Co-Chair: Ellie Avery

Secretary: Aidan Walker