

Town Meeting

5-15-14

TOWN MEETING

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Precursors

- SAB – Wrap-up for year. Discussed what they are going to report to School Board members. Stress issues among students is one topic.
- Staff Meeting – No.

Announcements

- Hiring Update – Frank. We're in the midst of hiring, next week we'll have Social Studies and English committees. Math after that. We'll find out about the Assistant Principal next Friday.
- CIP Update – Frank. Superintendent proposed that the new Middle School be built at Wilson site, seven stories and that HBW stay where we are. Taylor parents did not like this and there has been pushback to the proposal. Currently, three members of the School Board want us to stay where we are and two are interested in moving us. We have the biggest green footprint in Arlington, so they'll be looking at it again in two years. Rhys thinks it would be cool to draft an open letter to ARLnow. Coordinate with the PAC?
- Literary Magazine on sale NOW! See Scrolly for details.
- Physics Fair TODAY @ F & G. Check it out for a "shocking" experience.
- Testing continues Monday and Tuesday next week. Please stay quiet in the halls for the sake of your fellow students.
- School Board Caucus TONIGHT and Saturday. If you enjoyed voting for County Board, check out this opportunity.
- Teen Network Board is looking for interns. Deadline to submit an application is June 1st. Check out details on Scrolly.
- APS to rebroadcast *It's Just Me*, about the integration of Arlington Schools. Frank and library both have copies.
- Writers' Society meeting tomorrow at lunch in Tom's room

Motions

- Jazz Band Requests \$200 from Outside Teacher Fund to pay two clinicians for a two-hour clinic – Carl. The guys were here last week and did great. Motion PASSED unanimously.
 - Outside Teacher Request – Bill P. Choreographer for choirs. Motion PASSED unanimously.
 - "De-Facto" motions changes. Theresa. Two motions (see handout):
 - 1. Drop the requirement for clubs to get TM approval
 - Where's the issue with approving clubs at Town Meeting? Too many clubs not getting Town Meeting approval. Don't want to squash creativity and effort. Also, same clubs keep getting approved year after year, making it a timesuck. People always bring clubs as announcements anyway. Mark kind of likes the through-TM process. Years ago, people had to bring bake sales to TM to approve them. Not anymore. Bill thinks that kids might create clubs that are negative, anti-HBW. Reminder – this motion would not *prohibit* folks from bringing any issue, including clubs, to TM. If there are unapproved clubs, are we turning a blind eye? You can still bring it to TM if there's a "fire Eleanor club." "Strongly suggested" to put in an announcement? Theresa would accept SHOULD. Important: we need to know about these clubs. Friendly amendment: Move clubs to "Consent Items": if there's any objection, it's moved down to Motions. Theresa does not accept.
- We're now discussing Mark's substitute motion: We're not going to say "your club can't meet if you didn't come to TM." No one's gonna shut you down. Bringing a club to TM to make people aware, make sure it's not controversial. Our goal is more people coming to Town Meeting. Does clubs as motions encourage attendance or deter it? Make sure kids are announcing things to the world? Coming to TM with clubs helps make it be the center of the school. Taking away a reason to come to TM would contribute to people disrespecting TM. Don't change policy because people aren't obeying the rule. But there are dumb laws. Making people come to TM to get approval for bake sales was dumb, so we changed it. Friendly Amendment: table this measure until the "Consent Items" is voted on and let Bill do his OT request next ...

Mark accepts.

- 2. Add in a "consent items" section to TM agenda to streamline motions that always get passed.
- Back to MOTION 2 – "Consent items." If we could compact TM and make agenda more relevant, there might be more attendance. School Board has consent items. Consent between Announcements and Motions. Chair goes through each Consent item. Person presents, Chair asks if there are any objects. If there's an objection, the item is moved to the bottom of the motions. If there is no objection, the item is "passed by consent" with no vote. Would include the forming of annual committees (hiring, scholarship, etc), Dances (if paperwork/date are done) and Outside Teacher (if money is available and teacher approved) Motion PASSED unanimously
- NOW back to Mark's substitute motion. Mark wants new clubs to be listed under Consent. BUT what if the club has been approved before? Clubs should only be voted on once. Club should not be exclusive and bringing it to TM means it's open to everyone. Clubs that are reforming do or do not have to get approval? Clubs who had already formed w/out TM approval? The purpose of TM is to be a governing body, so we shouldn't take power away. What to do about those clubs that go on w/out TM approval? Mark says we can invite them, but if they don't bring club to TM, that is okay. It gives us the opportunity to say "we didn't approve it" if it's controversial. If you haven't reformed the club within a year, you have to re-approve it. So – the motion is to have new clubs, or re-formed clubs, get approval through TM in the Consent Items section. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Discussions

- CIP. Margaret G, Rhys & Eleanor. Concern over an appropriate response to the ArlNow Letter to the editor. The parents in charge of our "unified voice" are not comfortable with a response. Frank agrees. You can't win online arguments, not an appropriate venue. We need to stay positive and we can't control every member of the community but we need to be careful about how we speak. We need to avoid being like "are you mad because you didn't get it???" ArlNow has a lot of trolls who delight in causing uproar. We acknowledge this as a community problem and we all need to make sacrifices. It kind of seems like we're not splitting or growing for now, so it's awesome. Don't be blind/trite in the way we view it, consider the APS community. Students want to draft a Letter to the Editor for ArlNow. Think outside of what the PAC has done. All the PAC did was pick the solution that wouldn't affect HBW. What works best for HBW? We could definitely be asked to move in the future. The building is not our program. BUT there has to be a plan in place so we can have a facility of equal or greater quality. If they build a 1300 seat school at Wilson and put us there, we would have to share with a program that has a different structure and different rules. That would not work well. Try and speak with one voice. It's not going to be productive, according to the PAC, to engage w/ARLnow. Get above that, don't engage there. What are we willing to give up? Rhys was talking about an open letter. Not comments, an open letter to ARLnow. Frank thinks that's fine. You can't win the internet. If you decide to go the ARLnow way, you've gotta be prepared; ARLnow doesn't make the decisions, The School Board does. "OF COURSE we're willing to move, we just wanna know what the plan is!" is what we should say. ARLnow shapes public opinion however, and they have a "very significant" readership. Look at the streetcar debate. The School Board reacts to public opinion, and right now the only voice they are seeing out there is that of the Taylor parents. We need to get the correct info out there if we want people to understand where we are coming from and not make assumptions. We need to put something out there! ARLnow is dismissed as social media by many but is viewed as legitimate by many others. Best thing to come out of parent work is a comprehensive list of facilities that we NEED in order to exist. That should be the starting point about anything we want discuss. Best point made: Submit a "Letter to the Editor" for ArlNow that has been edited/reviewed to maintain our "single voice" goal and then walk away. Do not respond to comments.
- TM is adjourned

Chair: Max Stempniewicz

Co-Chair: Elizabeth Barton

Secretary: Margaret Gorman