SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
BROMFIELD MEDIA CENTER - 7:00 P. M.
NOVEMBER 13, 2007

Members attending: Virginia Justicz, Stuart Sklar, Willie Wickman, Will Verbits, and
Superintendent Thomas Jefferson

Members absent: None

Willie Wickman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

The School Committee met with the Board of Selectmen to fill a School Committee
vacancy due to the resignation of Jeff Shaw. Two residents, Keith Chervalls and Wade
Holtzman, were present to make a brief statement of their interest in filling the vacancy.
Lucy Wallace, Selectmen Chair, read a statement of interest submitted by Brian
Stevens, who was on travel. After the candidates’ statements of interest, the Selectmen
and School Committee held a question and answer time with the two candidates
present at the meeting, followed by a vote of the Selectmen and School Committee.
Brian Stevens received the majority vote.

The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Sklar) to add New Business as an
agenda item to follow the FY08 Budget. The Committee VOTED 4/0 to accept.

Reports from the Committee included:

• Student representatives reported boys’ and girls’ soccer teams are moving into
the semi-finals, and the field hockey team is the league champions. The
Bromfield School held a mock lockdown with successful results. The Veterans’
Day luncheon and Coffee House were both a success.

• Strategic Planning Committee – The Strategic Planning Survey will be distributed
this month. The survey will be available to all students and at Town Hall, Public
Library and Senior Center. 21st Century Skills from the Strategic Planning
materials that is a roadmap for assessment was shared with the Committee.

• Harvard Elementary School Council – A letter sent to School Committee and
teachers from a former teacher was discussed with the Council. In an initial
budget discussion it was suggested a Smart Board for each classroom and the
possibility of Shaw Trust funds used for playgrounds updating and 2nd floor
ventilation.

• Suburban Coalition – The repeal of Commonwealth income tax is in the
legislature for vote to be placed on the referendum ballot. Beacon Hill Breakfast
is scheduled for April 7th at 9 A.M.
• School Starting Time Study Committee – The November 27th meeting will be spent finalizing the recent survey.

• Finance Committee Composition Committee – Thursday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. a public input meeting will be held regarding selection process and term limits for Finance Committee members.

• Special Education Task Force Committee – Using the Acton Public Schools document on special education, the committee is continuing their work to develop a similar document for Harvard.

• Special Education Independent Audit Subcommittee – Meeting November 19.

• Superintendent Report – The Bromfield School administration has updated the newsletter sent to parents. An enrollment update was presented to the Committee that will serve as a basis for staffing projections for the upcoming year.

The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Justicz) to accept donations and gifts from the Harvard Schools Trust and Harvard PTO as presented. The Committee VOTED 4/0 to accept.

The FY08 School Budget was reviewed. The motion was made (Sklar) and seconded (Verbits) to transfer $115,535 from the elementary school, to Special Education in the amount of $69,160 and the balance to Bromfield. The Committee VOTED 4/0 to accept.

Following a discussion of dates and times to begin the FY09 budget process, the School Committee agreed to hold budget work sessions. The work sessions will begin at 5 P.M. in the Faculty Room at Bromfield on December 3 and 5.

A town-wide mailing will be prepared for distribution before the holidays.

Willie will prepare a draft of information she received at the MASC/MASS conference and distribute to the Committee.

The Committee shared commentary on the recent Middle School drama, Fall Fête, the MASC forum, students’ interaction with Committee through Student Advisory Council, and the sport teams.

The Committee signed warrants.

The motion was made (Verbits) and seconded (Justicz) to adjourn. The Committee VOTED 4/0 (Virginia Justicz, yes; Stuart Sklar, yes; Will Verbits, yes; and Willie Wickman, yes) to accept.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.