

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016

Eric Hipp, Chair (present)
Stephanie Peters, Vice Chair (present)
David Twombly, Secretary (present)
Marianne Harte, Member (present)
Kelley Huxtable, Member (present)

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools
Judith Kuehn, Assistant Superintendent
Matthew J. Gillis, Business Administrator
Maggie Ollerhead, Secretary to the Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Eric Hipp, Chair at 7:05 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the salute to the Flag.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Move to approve the January 25, 2016 agenda as presented.

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

4.0 Student Representative

- Semester 2 began today
- The Semi-formal will be held on Saturday, February 6th at the Memorial School. This year's theme is *James Bond*
- Some Juniors and Seniors are who are planning to enter the Military will be taking the ASVAB test on February 9th
- The Leave Your Mark Project continues this week with students staying after school to paint their bricks in the halls of Hull High.
- Seniors continue to receive their college acceptances and are working on Scholarship applications
- Hull High Theatre Arts auditions for *Xanadu* were held and the cast list has been released. The show will be held on April 1st and 2nd

- Cambridge artist David Fichter worked with art teacher Amanda Davis, her art classes and the Art Club to create a 9x50 foot mural in the high school cafeteria

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Stephanie Peters

Move to approve the following minutes as presented:

- Monday, October 19, 2015 regular meeting
- Monday, November 2, 2015 regular meeting
- Monday, December 7, 2015 regular meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

6.0 School Committee Business Items

6.1 Hull Community Walking Track and Turf Field Discussion

Mr. Hipp informed the Committee and community that this item is going to be on the agenda every week. He said that there is a small group that continues to meet. January 21 there was a meeting with Gale Associates to discuss Hull Public Schools program needs, which included Mr. Quatromoni, HHS Athletic Director and coaches of our sports teams. There will be a meeting with the heads of our town sports leagues on February 3, 2016. A meeting will be scheduled with the Town Manager and other town and community representatives. Representatives from Gale will be present at the February 9, 2016 School Committee meeting, at which time the Committee will decide how to move forward.

6.2 MSBA Statement of Interest - Memorial Middle School

Mr. Gillis explained that after the retro commissioning study last year for the Memorial School and Hull High School we have found that there are necessary fixed that need to be done at both schools. The estimated cost for each school is \$900,000 for masonry and window seals and unit ventilators. He said that in order to get funding from the state we need to set up a statement of interest through MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Authority). He added that fortunately for Hull, we have the reports from Thompson and Litchner, who MSBA knows and respects, and we could receive about 40% reimbursement, if approved. Mr. Gillis filled out two applications, one for each school and the School Committee has to vote to move this forward then the Board of Selectmen will have to vote. The Town Manager and Superintendent will have to sign off as well. Mr. Gillis added that there is little down side to start the process early, his recommendation is to consider this vote now so we get in the MSBA queue. The other necessary vote is to prioritize which building gets work first if we only get picked for one. Mr. Gillis informed the Committee that Thompson and Litchner prioritized the Memorial School and he concurs.

Dr. Tyrell and Mr. Gillis stated that most of the items on the list were not part of the original renovation project and were not done when the buildings were done. The Committee discussed the issues and the importance of keeping the buildings in good working order and safe for everyone. Mr. Gillis said that many of the smaller and less expensive items have been picked off the list and this will continue to happen.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Kelley Huxtable

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 25, 2016, prior to the closing date, the School Committee for the Town of Hull, in accordance with its charter, by-laws,

and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 10, 2016 for the Memorial Middle School located at 81 Central Avenue, Hull, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for the envelope related issues that meet the criteria for Priority #1 – “Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.” The school building needs masonry and building envelope repair work per the Thompson and Litchner report dated February 20, 2015; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Hull to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Vote: 5-0-0

6.3 MSBA Statement of Interest – Hull High School

Mr. Gillis explained that there needs to be two separate votes on the statement of interest to MSBA and then a final vote on which school is the priority if only one school is to be picked for funding. See item 6.2 for details.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Kelley Huxtable

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on January 25, 2016, prior to the closing date, the School Committee for the Town of Hull, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 10, 2016 for the Hull High School located at 180 Main Street, Hull, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for the envelope related issues that meet the criteria for Priority #1 – “Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.” The school building needs masonry and building envelope repair work per the Thompson and Litchner report dated February 20, 2015; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Hull to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Vote: 5-0-0

Mr. Gillis then asked the Committee to prioritize the schools based the recommendation from Thompson and Lithchter and on the building with the most need and to vote on the top priority.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Marianne Harte

Move to make the Memorial Middle School the first priority in our Statement of Interest application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.0 Superintendent's Business Items

Dr. Tyrell acknowledged Marianne Harte for her years of service and said it has been a pleasure working with her.

7.1 Narrowing the Achievement Gap

Ms. Kuehn gave a summary of the professional development that took place on January 12, 2016. She said the goal of the professional development was for every educator to understand accountability data for all students and subgroups and to identify at least one strategy to utilize with students to assist with narrowing proficiency gaps. She told the Committee that the agendas varied by school and she summarized the activities for each building as follows:

Jacobs School – gave an in depth explanation of accountability data and how it is calculated and where this data can be found on DESE website. The teachers were at computers which allowed them to actually follow the steps of reviewing the data. Ms. Cappadona, Jacobs School principal, gave the clear message that to narrow proficiency gaps teachers must continue to teach the curriculum with fidelity; implement the curriculum consistently across the grade levels; establish common assessments and use consistent instructional strategies. Ms. Kuehn added that going forward the staff will continue to address the issues in grade level meetings and the benchmark for end of year will be determined and student writing will be rated again.

Memorial School – Prior to the professional development afternoon, Mr. Hrivnak, Memorial School principal, had dedicated several faculty meetings and grade level meetings reviewing accountability data. Therefore, more time was available for educators to review data provided to them for individual students and identify strategies. Each grade level team took a deeper dive into the data and identified individual and group strengths and weaknesses; came up with new strategies and interventions for students and groups were identified and information for individual students was recorded on narrowing proficiency gap form. Ms. Kuehn added that going forward grade level teams and special educators 6-8 will review and update student strategies and interventions on narrowing gap form and individual learning plans on a regular basis.

Hull High School – Accountability data was reviewed along with additional data, including the number of students with disabilities and of those students with disabilities the number that are low income or living in poverty; average MCAS growth for low income students compared with other students and percentage of low income students by rand (most in the bottom third of class). Going forward the staff will continue the discussion and an acceptance that one size fits all for students is not appropriate – every student needs to get what they need when they need it.

Ms. Kuehn finished her presentation by stating the following important messages for the afternoon:

- Increased awareness of subgroups including the performance of male and female students
- Success for All students is important work and a priority for the district
- Every student crosses the finish line (mastering standards and earning a diploma)
- No blame environment

- Working in collaboration is important and valued
- Data indicates “waves of success” (to link with our new mural) which increases confidence and motivation of educators
- Raising the achievement for all students (high quality tier one instruction) will assist with narrowing achievement gap for subgroups
- Continue discussion of students living in poverty

The Committee asked questions and then thanked Ms. Kuehn for her presentation.

7.2 2016-2017 School Calendar

Dr. Tyrell informed the Committee that the 2016-2017 School Calendar that she is recommending starts before Labor Day. She noted that the full day professional development during the school year will be held on November 8, 2017, which is Presidential Election Day.

Motion: David Twombly **Second:** Stephanie Peters

Move to approve the 2015-2016 School calendar as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.3 FY17 Budget Discussion

Dr. Tyrell informed the Committee that over the next several meetings we will take various parts of the budget, including all three schools, special education, professional development and maintenance and utilities. Other than that, there are no changes to the budget since the last meeting.

8.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Stephanie Peters **Second:** David Twombly

Move to approve the following policies for first reading:

Policy H	Negotiations
Policy HA	Negotiations Goals
Policy HB	Negotiations Legal Status
Policy HD	School Committee Negotiating Powers and Duties
Policy HF	School Committee Negotiating Agent
Policy HP	Staff Job Actions

Vote: 5-0-0

9.0 Old Business Items

9.1 Sub-committees

- Mr. Hipp said time has been spend on working on the turf project
- Ms. Huxtable said the School Committee Goals subcommittee will be presenting the goals in the near future

9.2 Donations

Motion: Stephanie Peters **Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to accept the following donations as presented:

- \$630 from multiple donors (Sean Coates- deceased HHS music student) to Hull High School Music Department

Vote: 5-0-0

10.0 New Business

Ms. Huxtable asked about an internet policy. She was told that we have an internet policy in each handbook that is approved at a June meeting each year.

11.0 Approval of Warrants
None

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

- Mr. Hipp acknowledged Ms. Harte's letter in the Hull Times and said that he was glad that she decided early so others can come forward. Ms. Harte said she wanted to give people a chance and added that was well worth doing. She urged anyone with a real interest in our school to come forward. Mr. Hipp thanked her for her 9 years of service.
- At their last meeting School Committee offered School Business Administrator candidate Mr. David DeGennaro, who accepted the job and will be starting on March 14th.
- Hull of an Auction coming up on Sunday, January 31, 2016, tickets are \$20 each.

13.0 Executive Session

14.0 Adjournment

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: David Twombly

Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of negotiation strategy with the HTA (Teachers) and to discuss school security. An open meeting may have a detrimental effect. The Committee is not expected to reconvene in Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, Marianne Harte and Kelley Huxtable.

Attachments

1. MSBA Statement of Interest – Memorial School
2. MSBA Statement of Interest – Hull High School

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull School Committee were approved and adopted by the Committee on February 9, 2016.

David Twombly, Secretary
Hull School Committee