

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2007

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Richardson, Chair (present)
Kristen Evans, Vice Chair (absent)
Stephanie Peters, Secretary (present)
Catherine Bowes, Member (present)
Marianne Harte, Member (present)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Tyrell, Superintendent
Joy Turpie, Assistant Superintendent
Maria Hortaridis, Director of Finance
David Twombly, Director of Operations
Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent
Margaret Ollerhead, Policy Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kevin Richardson at 7:05 p.m. at Hull High School in the Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.

Kevin Richardson congratulated Dr. Marguerite Rizzi on her new position as Assistant Superintendent in the Stoughton School District. He also congratulated Mr. Joseph Doniger, students, parents, and staff for a job well done on the production of *Annie Get Your Gun*.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Kevin Richardson **Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the School Committee agenda with the following change:

- Remove item 7.1 – Sail Nantasket from the agenda and add this item to the January 14, 2007 agenda
- Change item 7.4 Update on implementation of After School Grants to item 7.1 on tonight's agenda

Vote: 4-0-0

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Student Representative

Eugene McGowan, Principal Advisory Committee Member, reported on the following areas:

- School Play *Annie Get Your Guns*
- National Honor Society students will be having a clothing and food drive
- Boys Basketball began the season on December 10, 2007

- Girls basketball will begin the season on December 11, 2007
- High school hockey team season will begin on December 12, 2007
- All three winter sports will have cheerleaders this year
- All sports information will now be posted on the town website

5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report

Deborah McCarthy, HTA President,

- Congratulated Dr. Marguerite Rizzi on her new position as Assistant Superintendent
- Acknowledged Mr. Joseph Doniger and Hull students on the great performance of *Annie Get Your Gun*
- Recognized former Hull High School student Jeffrey Kerr, with writing the movie *The Child King*

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the Tuesday, October 9, 2007 School Committee minutes (before going into Executive Session) as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion: Marianne Harte

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the Tuesday, October 9, 2007 School Committee Executive Session minutes as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Sail Nantasket

Postponed until the January 14, 2007 meeting

7.4 Update on Implementation of After School Grants

Dr. Marguerite Rizzi, Director of Student Services, presented the following overview of the After School Grant:

- Department of Education offered a limited number of competitive grants to fund after school and out of school time opportunities for academic support and enrichment
- Forty-eight out of one hundred forty-eight grant applications were funded
- Grant is in partnership with the South Shore Conservatory, Hull Public Library and Hull Lifesaving Museum
- Jacobs School will include: math masters, writer's workshop and enrichment activities
- Memorial Middle School will include: homework support, study skills, and activities of interest (music, art, physical education book clubs)
- Hull High School will include: summer courses, sports related health, fitness and nutrition, boat building and harbor exploration

Lynda Feeney, Memorial School Principal, discussed the following grants:

- Town of Hull and Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
 - Fund an after school program for 6th, 7th and 8th graders
 - Parent component
 - Guidance (goal setting)
 - Academic
 - Mentoring

- After School and Out-of –School Time Quality Grant
 - Fifth Grade
 - Math masters
 - Writer’s workshop
 - Homework club
 - Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade
 - Math / Academic Support
 - Enrichment – art, gym time, and guitar/string band

Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, discussed the details of the After School and Out-of School Time Grant for students in grades 9 –12

- Physical fitness program
 - Physiology of sport and exercise
 - Introduction to physical fitness and strength training
 - Introduction to group activities
 - Nutrition for health and sport
 - Physical fitness and strength training II
 - Cardiovascular physical activity
- Boat building program
 - Research and design
 - Construction
 - Harbor exploration

Dr. Rizzi, Ms. Feeney, and Mr. Ford answered questions from School Committee.

7.2 Summary Report – School Attending Children

Dr. Tyrell presented the following information regarding school attending children:

- During the past four year period the Town of Hull has seen a decrease in the number of all school attending children within the town.
- The number of all school attending children has decreased from 1509 pupils in 2004-2005 to 1430 pupils in 2007-2008 or 79 students.
- The decrease in students who attended the Hull Public Schools during this period was 73 students. Since there was a decrease in number of school eligible children it stands to reason that a comparable decrease in students attending the Hull Public Schools should have been expected.
- Between 2004 –2005 and 2005-2006 there was a dip of 3.2 percentage point in the number of school attending children enrolling the Hull Public Schools.
- There has been an upward trend during the past two school years.
- The gain is most noticeable at the Jacobs School. Although there has been a decline in the actual number of students attending the Jacobs School the percentage of school attending children has increased from 84.4% during the period of 2004-2005 to 86.2% in 2007-2008. A more significant gain has occurred during the past 3-year period.
- The percentage of students attending the Memorial School has remained relatively unchanged.
- After a drop in 2005-2006 the percentage of students attending Hull High School has started to trend upwards.
- The number of students attending vocational technical programs has been stable.
- There has been a significant decrease in the number of children and the percentage of children attending the Sough Shore Charter School.

Catherine Bowes asked which one of the school districts receives the money for a student who begins a school year in one school district and transfers to another school district during a school year. Dr. Tyrell said she would look into and respond to this question. Stephanie Peters requested placing the school attending report on the school website.

7.3 New Elementary Report Cards Update

Donna Tobin, Jacobs School Principal, discussed the following parent survey feedback results she received on the implementation of the new Jacobs School report card:

- Responses to the survey included parents of students in grade one through grade four
- Forty-seven parents/guardians responded to the survey
- Thirty surveys indicated it was very helpful to have the grade level standards on the report card
- Twenty-six survey results showed that there was significantly more information on the report card in relation to past report cards in assessing their child's progress
- Thirty surveys stated the report card adequately reflected their child's strengths and challenges
- Thirty surveys acknowledged parents were very satisfied with the new report card
- Survey responses also included changes parents would like to see included in the report card format.

7.5 Preventative Maintenance

David Twombly, Director of Operations and James Griffin, Facility Manager presented the following overview regarding the preventative maintenance plan:

- Annual Inspections
- Preventative Maintenance Contracts
- Other maintenance contracts
- Equipment without preventative maintenance contracts
- Preventative Maintenance Manual
- Physical Plant Assessment Manual
- Recommendations

Mr. Twombly said he would make a presentation on the School Dude program at a January 2008 meeting.

7.6 Preliminary FY09 Budget Discussion

Dr. Tyrell presented a maintenance budget (level service budget). She discussed the following budget areas:

- FY09 budget distribution
- Budget History
- FY09 Budget Drivers
- FY09 Maintenance Budget
- FY09 Budget Busters
- FY09 Budget Forecast

School Committee and Superintendent discussed additional meetings in January for budget discussion.

Discussion included having budget forums on Saturdays during January, taping Saturday budget meetings and encouraged community members to email the Committee regarding budget concerns.

7.7 Connect-Ed Test Telephone Call

Dr. Tyrell said that at a previous meeting a Committee member suggested that as an extra safety precaution the Superintendent perform a test Connect-Ed telephone call. She informed the Committee that a test Connect-Ed telephone call had been placed to parents/guardians and staff on December 6, 2007. The report from the Connect-Ed Company stated that sixty-two unsuccessful deliveries had been placed. Forty-two of those unsuccessful deliveries were telephone numbers reported as incorrect. School secretaries in each building are working with Judi Saide, MIS Director to correct these telephone numbers.

8.0 New Business Items

Kevin Richardson said that the Board of Selectmen at their November 20th meeting adopted a policy to better advance the town's legislative agenda on Beacon Hill. A central component to the process is for each Board and committee to identify his or her top three legislative objectives. He distributed the information to Committee members, and noted that the Committee would discuss their legislative objectives at the next January meeting.

Dr. Tyrell suggested the following two objectives that would translate into money for Hull:

- Transportation costs be included in circuit breaker money
- Circuit breaker be fully funded from seventy-five (75) percent to one hundred (100) percent

Marianne Harte noted that the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee is looking for officers. The Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2007 at Hull High School in the second floor exhibition room. She also invited all special education students between the ages of five to twelve to join the Pirate Basketball League starting in January.

Dr. Tyrell requested School Committee to take a vote to authorize her to hire a part-time special education administrator on a per diem basis to hold things together until a search is conducted for a permanent replacement for Dr. Rizzi.

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to authorize Dr. Tyrell to hire an independent contractor as a temporary Special Education Director until the position is filled.

Vote: 4-0-0

Dr. Tyrell stated for clarification purpose under the Education Reform Act the School Committee is responsible for hiring a Special Education Director.

.9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the following policies for second reading:

Policy JKA Discipline of Students with disabilities

Policy KBBA Non-Custodial Parents' Rights

Vote: 4-0-0

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Subcommittee Updates

School Finance Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. and the Town wide Finance Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. on the same evening. Both meetings will take place at Town Hall.

- Building Committee

The Building Committee will meet on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

- Budget Subcommittee

None

- Athletic Subcommittee

None

- Negotiations Subcommittee

None

11.0 Approval of Warrants

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to approve school warrants as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

The judging for the Hull Garden Club and the Hull PTO holiday door decorating contest will take place on December 15 and 16, 2007.

Catherine Bowes requested the Superintendent to give an updated on the letter the district received from the Office of Civil Rights. Dr. Tyrell said that a letter had been received from the Office of Civil Rights and that the district has taken proper affirmative action to address concerns regarding opportunities for female student athletes. The Office of Civil Rights also found insufficient evidence to support a finding that the district retaliated against the individual that filed the complaint.

13.0 Executive Session

14.0 Adjournment

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategies for litigation and collective bargaining and not to return to Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Catherine Bowes, Stephanie Peters, Kevin Richardson, and Marianne Harte