

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2007

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Richardson, Chair
Kristen Evans, Vice Chair
Stephanie Peters, Secretary
Catherine Bowes, Member
Marianne Harte, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Tyrell, Superintendent
Joy Turpie, Assistant Superintendent
Maria Hortaridis, Director of Finance
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 7:03 p.m. at Hull High School in the Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda
Motion: Catherine Bowes **Second:** Stephanie Peters
Moved to approve the School Committee agenda as presented.
Vote: 5-0-0
- 3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items
None
- 4.0 FY09 Budget Discussion – Mr. Phillip Lemnios, Town Manager
Mr. Phillip Lemnios, Town Manager discussed the following areas regarding the FY09 budget:
 - Budget schedule
 - Town Meeting schedule
 - Town-wide Financial Operations Committee
 - School Department Operation Task Force
 - Five-year revenue projections
 - Town expenses
 - Free cash
 - Health insurance costs
 - Retirement costs
 - Debt payments

School Committee Minutes

October 9, 2007

Page 2

5.0 Student Representative

Alexander Chase, Principal Advisory Committee Member, reported on the following areas:

- Fall sports
- School Council
- Remarkable atmosphere at Hull High School
- NBC sports crew filming the football game on Friday, October 5th
 - Appreciation of fans at the football game
 - Town of Hull was well represented at the football game

6.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report

Deborah McCarthy, HTA President,

- Thanked high school staff for going above and beyond to get ready for the football game on October 5th
- Thanked football coaches and football players for the great job during the football game
- Praised the high school band for the performance at the football game
- Discussed the positive MCAS data results for the 2007 school year
- Noted that a Jacobs School Health and Safety meeting was held last week

7.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to approve the Monday, September 10, 2007 School Committee minutes as presented.

Vote: 4-0-1 (Stephanie Peters)

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the Monday, September 24, 2007 School Committee minutes as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

8.0 Business Items – Superintendent

Dr. Tyrell shared the following “good news”:

- Welcomed Mary Ann Jackman as the Interim Assistant Principal at Jacobs School
- Congratulated everyone at Hull High School regarding the football game on October 5th
- Complemented Mr. Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, for initiating the October 25th open house for eighth grade students at Hull High School
- Delighted that the Hull School Department has received a \$39,000 grant for additional after-school activities.

8.1 MCAS Presentation – Dr. Joy Turpie

Assistant Superintendent Dr Joy Turpie presented the following MCAS information:

- Test given
 - ELA – grades 3 –8 and grade 10
 - Math – grades 3-8 and grade 10
 - Science and Technology – grades 5 and 8
- Percent of students in advanced and proficient
 - Grade 3: ELA 73 %, Math 78%
 - Grade 4: ELA 54%, Math 45%
 - Grade 5: ELA 76%, Math 49%, Science 64%
 - Grade 6: ELA 71%, Math 52%

- Grade 7: ELA 66%, Math 58%
- Grade 8: ELA 74%, Math 50 %, Science 16%
- Grade 10: ELA 79%, Math 76%
- Class of 2009 (grade 10) Math MCAS scores
 - Advanced: grade 8 (2005) 6% - grade 10 (2007) 39%
 - Proficient: grade 8 (2005) 20% - grade 10 (2007) 35%
 - Needs Improvement: grade 8 (2005) 38% - grade 10 (2007) 20%
 - Warning: grade 8 (2005) 36% - grade 10 (2007) 2%
- Plans for Kindergarten – Grade 5 students
- Plans for Middle School students
- Plans for Hull High School Students

Dr. Turpie also shared that Hull Public Schools received a competitive grant to fund after-school activities. The grant in the amount of \$39,382 will fund after-school math, ELA and enrichment programs for elementary and middle school students.

8.2 Revised Elementary Report Cards – Ms. Donna Tobin

Dr. Tyrell thanked and introduced the following Jacobs School Report Card Committee members: Ms. Christine Cappadona, Coordinator, Ms. Laurie Buttkus, Kindergarten Teachers, Ms. Emily Rosado, Grade One Teacher, Ms. Janet Donato, Grade Two Teacher, Ms. Joanne Simmons, Grade Three Teacher, Ms. Joan Lowry, Grade Four Teacher, Ms. Deborah McCarthy, Grade Five Teacher and Ms. Julia Hartley, Special Education Teacher.

Ms. Joan Lowry, Jacobs School Teacher discussed the initial stages of the Report Card Committee as follows:

- During the summer of 2007, kindergarten through grade five teachers came together to develop a standards based report card
- Samples of standards based report cards from other school districts were collected and shared
- Teachers from each grade level reviewed the MA State Curriculum Frameworks specific to their grade level
- Teachers came to the Committee meeting ready to work
- Goal of the Committee was to make sure the new Jacobs School report card aligned with the MA State Frameworks
- Committee Members made sure the language used was appropriate and was framework driven
- Progression of skills from one grade level to the next grade level was important
- A standards rating scale key using a number system would be used when grading report cards
- Grade four (4) and grade five (5) students would receive a number system (one through four) grading system as well as receiving a letter grading system in each subject to help with transition to the middle school

Ms. Donna Tobin, Jacobs School Principal, continued the discussion as follows:

- Committee came together as grade levels to discuss the report card
- Consistency across grade levels was discussed
- Committee looked at how each item on the report card will be scored as a numbering system (2's, 3's & 4's)
- Committee discussed consistency in the way students are assessed
- Training to help parents understand the transition of a grading system from a letter system to a number system.

Ms. Tobin responded to questions from School Committee.

8.3 Updated Pre-School Curriculum – Dr. Marguerite Rizzi

Dr. Rizzi thanked and introduced pre-school teachers Elaine Menice, Stephanie Gomes and Hull High School student Nancy Unis.

Nancy Unis shared her excitement about being enrolled in the high school childcare classes, her participation in the classroom and her working with the pre-school teachers.

Elaine Menice presented the following overview of the integrated preschool program:

- Three integrated pre-school classrooms are located at Hull High School
 - Two full day intensive classrooms with typically developing peers
 - Two one-half day moderate classrooms with typically developing peers
 - Three year old students in the morning session
 - Four year old students in the afternoon session
- Three pre-school teachers - Ms. Jean DiBartolomeo, Ms. Stephanie Gomes, and Ms. Elaine Menice
- Three pre-school paraprofessionals - Ms. Cheryl Fasano, Ms. Kelly Garafola, and Ms. Susan Regan
- High School students participation as positive role models while taking classes in the program
- Administrative staff includes Dr. Marguerite Rizzi, Dr. John Queally, Ms Donna Tobin and Mr. Jonathan Ford
- Students receive speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy
- Pre-school classroom schedule includes many group activities

Stephanie Gomes discussed the revised preschool curriculum as follows:

- Before entering kindergarten the student will be able to:
 - Find logical sources of information about a topic
 - Use composition in many activity areas
 - Use a wide variety of materials that encourage writing behaviors
 - Develop hand strength and coordination to grasp and control writing
 - Engage in sensory activities, such as, making letters in sand with finger paint or tracing over sandpaper letters
 - Verbally describe or represent through drawing the sequence in which events took place in a story
 - Make up a new ending to a familiar story or revise familiar published stories
 - Contribute to a group story
 - Dictate words or sentences to describe a story or an experience
- The student will correctly:
 - Produce a story or class book
 - Create new endings at circle time
 - Produce letters by tracing
 - Research a topic with help
 - Sequence events for a teacher
 - Arrange picture sequence cards in order

Catherine Bowes requested at a future meeting with kindergarten teachers to present what they provide to kindergarten students.

William Tramontana, parent, said preschool is a valuable program for students and gave kudos to all

School Committee Minutes

October 9, 2007

Page 5

Hull Schools preschool staff.

9.0 New Business Items

None

10.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the following policies for third reading / adoption:

Policy JK-R Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Policy JRA-R Student Records

Vote: 4-0-0 (Kristen Evans was out of the room during the vote)

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the following policies for third reading / adoption:

Policy KA School/Community Relations Goals

Policy KBA School/Parent Relations Goals

Policy KBE Relations with Parent Organizations

Policy KCB Community Involvement In Decision Making

Policy KCD Public Gifts To The Schools

Policy KDB Public's Right To Know

Policy KDD News Media Relations/News Releases

Policy KE Public Complaints

Policy KE-R Public Complaints

Policy KEB Public Complaints About School Personnel

Policy KEB-R Public Complaints About School Personnel

Policy KEC Public Complaints About the Curriculum Or Instructional Materials

Policy KEC-E Citizen's Request For Reconsideration Of Instructional Materials

Vote: 4-0-0

11.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Subcommittee Updates

- Building Committee

The Building Committee will meet on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at town hall.

- Budget Subcommittee

None

- Athletic Subcommittee

None

- Negotiations Subcommittee

None

Catherine Bowes asked about the status of the Donaldina Gately Committee. She said Roger Tirrell was painting a portrait of Ms. Gately but she had not received any updates on the status of the Committee. Deborah McCarthy, Memorial School Teacher said she would ask Fran Troy, who is also on the Committee to get in touch with Ms. Bowes regarding this issue.

Stephanie Peters and Catherine Bowes requested posting a Community Outreach Forum for Monday, October 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Hull High School second floor exhibition room. One of the topics for discussion would be foreign language at the Jacobs School. Ms. Peters requested a Connect Ed telephone call be made informing parents of this meeting and topic and information also be placed on Channel 22.

Catherine Bowes asked Dr. Tyrell for some input on an elementary foreign language (FLEX) program. Dr. Tyrell said she had some experience implementing such a program. She said this program can be valuable to children, but at what cost. Every time you add a program you need to subject a program or lengthen the school day. Instruction time in math, reading and other areas would have to be reduced. The cost of the program would be adding staff, the cost of the time, and materials for this program. Kristen Evans agreed with the loss of instruction time. She said the school system she works in reduced time in the FLEX program this school year. Catherine Bowes requested Dr. Tyrell to contact other school districts to ask if they have an elementary foreign language program and how this program was implemented.

Catherine Bowes asked Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, how he was getting the information out about the upcoming open house for eighth grade students at Hull High School. Mr. Ford responded that letters were being sent home to all eighth grade parents. He would also have an assembly with eighth grade students before the open house. Ms. Bowes requested letters also be sent to parents to eighth grade students attending school outside of Hull. She also suggested placing information on the Chamber of Commerce sign, getting the information to the press and on Channel 22.

12.0 Approval of Warrants
None

13.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members
Kristen Evans noted that the HASC Dinner is scheduled on Thursday, November 15, 2007 at Jake's Restaurant.

Catherine Bowes requested the MASC resolutions for the November 14, 2007 MASC conference be discussed and voted on by the Committee at the next meeting.

Ms. Bowes asked about when David Twombly, Director of Operations, would be presenting information on the preventive maintenance program. Dr. Tyrell responded that Mr. Twombly is working on this and would be present at a future meeting.

Stephanie Peters noted she had received a flyer that the MBTA will be sponsoring a train safety night. Dr. Tyrell said she had requested principals to send this notice home with students.

14.0 Executive Session
None

15.0 Adjournment
Motion: Kevin Richardson **Second:** Stephanie Peters
Moved to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:05 p.m.
Roll Call Vote: Catherine Bowes, Stephanie Peters, Kevin Richardson, Kristen Evans
and Marianne Harte