

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2008

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

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. Mr. Richardson requested a moment of silence for Mr. Charles Brennan, past School Committee member for twenty-seven years who passed away recently.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Kevin Richardson requested the following change:

- Move item 6.0 Approval of Minutes before item 11.0 Approval of Warrants

Motion: Catherine Bowes **Second:** Marianne Harte

Moved to approve agenda with requested change.

Vote: 5-0-0

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Student Representative

Mikia Manley, Principal Advisory Committee Member, reported on the following areas:

- Spring sports
- Winter sports banquet
- MCAS
- College acceptance
- DECA
- Forensics Team

Stephanie Peters requested an updated copy of the college acceptance list.

5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report

Gregory Cunningham, HTA representative, thanked the members of the HTA and School Committee negotiations team for working together to reach a fair and equitable contract.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

See below

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Technology Update – Ms. Judith Saide

Judi Saide, MIS Director, demonstrated a live conference with Deborah Jean Parson, Program Director of Pathways at South Shore Collaborative using the video conference system made possible through a grant from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. She worked with National Grid during the summer of 2006 to install a full fiber network. In the summer of 2008 all telephones in the Town of Hull will be operated over a fiber network. Ms. Saide said she would come back at a future meeting to demonstrate a virtual tour of Jacobs School and discuss the High School Microsoft Academy.

7.2 Approval of Field Trip – Ms. Angela Fontinha

Ms. Angela Fontinha, High School Teacher, and Senior Class Officers Kayla Dennett and Alex Chase, discussed and requested permission for members of the senior class to go to Washington, DC on May 16 – 19, 2008.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the high school senior Class trip to Washington DC on May 16 – 19, 2008.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.4 Approval of Field Trip – Mr. Gregory Cunningham

Gregory Cunningham, High School English Teacher, requested permission to bring two high school students to the National Catholic Forensic League Tournament in Appleton, WI on Thursday, May 22 – 26, 2008.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to approve attending the National Catholic Forensics League Tournament in Appleton, WI on Thursday, May 22-26, 2008.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.3 Approval of Field Trip – Ms. Barbara Smith

Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, on behalf of Barbara Smith said that two high school students have qualified to compete in the DECA competition in Atlanta, Georgia. He requested permission for Ms. Smith and the students to attend this competition on April 25 – 30, 2008.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Kristen Evans

Moved to approve attendance at the DECA competition in Atlanta, Georgia on April 25 – 30, 2008.

7.5 High School Course of Studies

Jonathan Ford, High School Principal presented the following changes in the 2008 – 2009 Program of Studies:

- Promotion requirements
- Grade point average

- Standardized / college entrance examination tests
- Course descriptions

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to approve the 2008-2009 Hull High School Course of Studies pending final budget approval.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.6 High School Valedictorian

Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, stated that after completing the process for Class Valedictorian two students had the identical GPA. Mr. Ford presented Judy Costa and Blaise Leeber as Co-valedictorian for the class of 2008. School Committee and Superintendent congratulated Ms. Costa and Mr. Leeber.

7.7 Recognition Award by the Massachusetts House of Representatives

Kevin Richardson read and presented Emma Holmes, a member of the Class of 2008 a certificate of congratulations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives in recognition of being chosen by the Jewish War Veterans as best exemplifying brotherhood in her daily activities.

7.8 School Calendar 2008 – 2009

Dr. Tyrell presented the 2008 – 2009 school calendar

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the 2008-2009 school calendar as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.9 High School Athletic and Activity Fee Discussion

7.10 Transportation Fee Discussion

The Committee began with discussing the cost of school lunch and the current deficit in the lunch program.

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: Stephanie Peters

Moved to increase the cost of school lunch at all schools by .50¢ effective September 2008.

Lunch prices are as follows:

- L.M. Jacobs School - \$2.50
- Memorial Middle School - \$2.75
- Hull High School - \$2.75
- Adult lunches - \$4.00

Vote: 5-0-0

School Committee requested principals communicate increase in lunch prices in weekly “blue notes”.

Transportation fee discussion:

- Budget deficit
- Revenue impact
- Number of students using buses at all schools
- Number of buses at Jacobs School
- Traffic pattern at Jacobs School

- Impact on Jacob School neighborhood

The Committee requested Dr. Tyrell and Donna Tobin, Jacobs School Principal, to meet with Police Chief Billings to discuss the following Jacobs School issues:

- Traffic pattern
- Structure traffic
- Foot traffic pattern

Parents, William Tramontana and Kathleen Carroll, discussed concerns about traffic and bus issues.

High School Athletic and Activity Fee Discussion;

- Number of students participating in athletics
- Least educational impact on students
- Student participation rate
- Help students stay in school
- Parents transporting students to athletic games
- Cost of administering PSAT exam to students

Transportation fees and athletic and activity fees will be discussed at a future meeting.

William Tramontana, parent, asked what cuts would be made from the FY09 budget. Dr. Tyrell responded that the \$12,770,000 that has been allocated for the FY09 budget would be presented at the April 14, 2008 meeting. A public hearing would take place at the April 28, 2008 meeting followed by a School Committee vote on the FY09 budget.

A Community Outreach Forum will be held for the discussion of school fees on Monday, April 7, 2008 in the Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room at 6:00 p.m. Catherine Bowes requested information on the affect athletic fees has had on other communities.

7.11 Town Meeting Article Discussion

Kevin Richardson said that articles of this nature have recently been passed in other communities. If this article passes at the May Town meeting in Hull, it would still have to be reviewed by the Attorney Generals Office.

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to support the Bylaw on the May, 2008 Town Meeting Article regarding creating areas around locations where children, the elderly and the mentally impaired regularly congregate in concentrated numbers wherein certain registered sex offenders are prohibited from loitering and establishing temporary or permanent residence.

Vote: 5-0-0

8.0 New Business Items

8.1 Discussion of Dedication of Rooms/Areas of Schools

At the last School Building Committee meeting, a suggestion was made to form a committee to discuss the process to name areas in school buildings. Kevin Richardson proposed putting together a committee that would include School Committee members, School Building Committee members, Town Manager and David Twombly. He said that there is a current School Committee policy in

place that would need to be followed. He also noted he would contact the Town Manager about setting up this committee.

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to appoint Stephanie Peters and Marianne Harte as School Committee members to the Special dedication of School Areas Subcommittee.

Vote: 5-0-0

Kevin Richardson said he wanted to address the issue of the Memorial School closing and becoming town offices. He asked Dr. Tyrell to discuss the information she had received from the Massachusetts School Building Association. Dr. Tyrell said this was a very complex issue and shared the following information:

- The MSBA must be notified six (6) months prior to any action of closing a school building.
- The MSBA has up to fifty (50) years to recapture a portion of the money the town received from the state for repairs to the Memorial Middle School.

Mr. Richardson said he would forward information to Philip Lemnios, Town Manager, to possibly set-up a task force.

Catherine Bowes requested the following items to be placed on a future agenda:

- Update on the status of the Strategic Plan
- Update on Terra Nova testing program

9.0 School Committee Policy Issues
None

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Subcommittee Updates

- Building Committee Budget Subcommittee
The Jacobs School is about eight (8) weeks ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Budget Subcommittee
None
- Athletic Subcommittee
None
- Negotiations Subcommittee
None

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the following School Committee minutes as presented:

- Monday, October 15, 2007 School Committee Goals Workshop
- Monday, November 19, 2007 School Committee Goals Workshop
- Monday, November 26, 2007 School Committee Executive Session
- Monday, December 10, 2007 School Committee Executive Session
- Thursday, December 20, 2007 School Committee Executive Session Secretary Negotiations
- Monday, January 7, 2008 School Committee meeting

- Monday, January 7, 2008 School Committee Executive Session
- Monday, January 14, 2008 School Committee Budget Workshop
- Monday, February 25, 2008 Community Outreach Forum
- Monday, February 25, 2008 School Committee meeting
- Monday, February 25, 2008 School Committee Executive Session

Vote: 5-0-0

11.0 Approval of Warrants

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Marianne Harte

Moved to approve school warrants as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

- Congratulation to Joseph Doniger and the Theatre Arts students and staff for the great production of *Grease*.
- Congratulations to Memorial Middle School student, Paul Dunphy, first runner-up in the Patriot Ledger Spelling Bee.

13.0 Executive Session

14.0 Adjournment

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Stephanie Peters

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

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