

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Tyrell, Superintendent  
Joy Turpie, Assistant Superintendent  
David Twombly, Director of Operations  
Margaret Ollerhead, Policy Coordinator  
Maureen Robishaw, Superintendent Secretary

- 1.0 Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Kevin Richardson at 7:10 p.m. at Hull High School Auditorium, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda  
**Motion:** Catherine Bowes                      **Second:** Stephanie Peters  
Moved to approve agenda as presented.  
**Vote:** 4-0-0
- 3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items  
None
- 4.0 Student Representative  
None
- 5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report  
None
- 6.0 Approval of Minutes  
None
- 7.0 Business Items – Superintendent  
7.1 FY10 Budget Public Hearing  
Dr. Tyrell reviewed the budget process.

Kevin Richardson said the goal of the Committee is to get as close to the \$13 million budget as possible. Additional revenue to the town would come from employees who have agreed to a wage freeze and the

increase in health insurance split would be a savings to the town. Kristen Evans noted that the money being saved by the wage freezes and insurance split would go back to direct teaching.

Catherine Crawford, William Tramontana, and Anna Karski, Memorial School Council Members, discussed a letter sent to School Committee and Superintendent on April 9, 2009. Ms. Crawford read the letter. Mr. Tramontana voiced his concern about having no library and no foreign language classes at the Memorial School next year.

Jack Wholey a Quincy Massachusetts resident asked why the amount of money slated for special education teachers and paraprofessional at the Jacobs School is more than the other two schools.

Judith Kuehn, Director of Student Services, responded that the Jacobs School has 600 students, two in-house programs, includes grades pre-school through grades five; Memorial School only has 32 students on IEP's. There are 12 paraprofessionals at the Jacobs School, two paraprofessionals at the Memorial School and three at Hull High School.

Jack Wholey asked about the special education transportation costs.

Judy Kuehn responded preschool students, out-of-district students and in-town student transportation costs are included in this line item.

Jack Wholey asked who teaches technology at the high school.

Dr. Tyrell responded that the two business department teachers teach technology.

Jack Wholey asked about the cost of legal expenses.

Kevin Richardson responded this includes contract negotiations and grievance items.

Jack Wholey asked about the elementary adoption program.

Dr. Tyrell responded that this item would be pulled from the budget.

Jack Wholey noted the administrative costs.

William Tramontana, Memorial School Council, asked why the salaries at the Jacobs School and High School have increased when the Memorial School salaries have decreased.

Dr. Tyrell responded that previous cuts have been made at the Memorial School for FYY09 and new hires replacing staff that resigned were done at a lower salary.

Budget public hearing ended at 7:49 p.m.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Kristen Evans

Moved that the School Committee approve a budget in the amount of \$13,652,474 to maintain the level of services in the Hull Public Schools and in the alternative, should financial constraints require a reduction in services, to approve reduced service budgets in the amount of \$11, 493,000 or greater dependent on final financial information.

**Vote:** 4-0-0

## 7.2 Full Day Kindergarten Fee Structure Discussion – Ms. Christine Cappadona

Christine Cappadona, L.M. Jacobs School Assistant Principal, presented the following:

- Proposing to charge tuition for having a full day kindergarten program
- Tuition proposal for full day kindergarten is based on the guidelines from the kindergarten grant
- Possible fee schedules
  - Full tuition capped at \$3,000 – no charge for free or reduced lunch students
  - Full tuition capped at \$3,000 – no charge for free lunch students, small free for students on reduced lunch program

- Full tuition capped at \$3,600 – no charge for free or reduced lunch students
  - Self supporting program would need the \$3,600 fee
  - Only have 44 students registered at this time for next year
  - Accommodate students if some parents do not want a full day program
  - Requested a decision in order to move forward and notify parents

Kristen Evans said we have had full day kindergarten for ten years with no cost to parents and in the current fiscal climate we need to charge reasonable fees to provide this program. Parents are waiting for a decision from School Committee on a full day kindergarten program.

Nancy Sullivan, Community Member, suggested charging a minimum fee of \$1,000 and a maximum fee of \$3,600 for a full day kindergarten program.

Anna Karski, Memorial School Council Member, requested clarification on the amount of money needed for the kindergarten program and she said it was premature for School Committee to vote on this item.

William Tramontana voiced his concern about the number of students that have registered for kindergarten so far. He asked if there was an outreach program to get more parents to register students in Hull Schools. Dr. Tyrell responded that corresponding to this group of children there was a low birth rate five years ago.

Dennis Blackall, Hull Board of Selectmen, asked if fees would only be charged under Budget A for kindergarten students. He suggested fees should be charged under both Budget A and Budget B.

Ann Connolly, Kindergarten teacher, stated that parents are not signing students up for kindergarten until they know if there will be a full day program.

Catherine Bowes said she has a problem charging for education and requested revisiting this issue when the fiscal climate changes.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Kristen Evans

Moved that Hull Public Schools will offer a full day kindergarten program in FY10 with a fee ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,600, exact amount to be determined with no fee for free lunch students and a sliding scale fee for students on reduced lunch with or without a debt exclusion.

**Vote:** 4-0-0

Dr. Tyrell said that after the Hull Public Schools knows what revenues will be available for FY10 a decision will be made on the cost of the kindergarten program. She also requested that Christine Cappadona notify the parents of the forty-four students that have registered for kindergarten that a fee will be charged for next school year for full day kindergarten.

### 7.3 User Fees for Sports and High School Activities discussion – Mr. Jonathan Ford

Mr. Jonathan Ford, Hull High School Principal, and Mr. James Quatromoni, Community Outreach Coordinator and Athletic Director, presented the following information:

- Flat fee of \$200 across the board no matter how many sports a student plays
- Reduced lunch athletic user fee of \$100
- Free lunch athletic user fee of \$50

- Offer payment plans
- Same user scale as summer school
- Extra activities would be a lower user fee
- All fees collected would go to the athletic program

School Committee requested Mr. Ford:

- Put together a detailed information packet for parents
- Get athletics students together and explain the user fees
- Notify eighth grade students of the user fee

James Quatromoni noted that there are issues that need to be addressed. Jonathan Ford said there needs to be a detailed policy, and expectations defined prior to implementation of user fees. He also acknowledged that this is just a starting point and asked if the fees structure could be looked at again in the future. Kristen Evans noted that the School Committee has the power to look at and change the fee structure when the fiscal climate changes.

Dennis Blackall, Hull Board of Selectmen, asked how many sport teams were at Hull High School and would the fees be imposed under both budget A and Budget B.

James Quatromoni responded that there are 15 sports and 27 teams at the high school. He said his suggestion would be to impose fees under both budget A and Budget B. Hull High School will not have the athletic program we have this year even with user fees.

Kevin Richardson requested tabling this item until the next School Committee meeting.

#### 8.0 New Business Items

Kevin Richardson congratulated Mikia Manley, Hull High School Junior, for winning the grand prize in the New England Patriot "Write on" Charitable Foundation. Mikia Manley said that seven (7) Hull High School students won prizes in the New England Patriot Scholarship. She said she won the grand prize and Monica McCall won third place. The following are the seven students that won scholarships: Mikia Manley, Monica McCall, Lauryn Kiander, Erin Hulverson, Kyle Wholey, Lauren Geary and Sara Benjamin.

Mikia Manley also spoke about the following items that will raise awareness for the May 18, 2009 debt exclusion vote:

- Tee shirts are available that say "don't rock the boat rock the vote" for \$6.00
- A walk will take place on May 10, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. throughout neighborhoods
- Free bracelets are available
- An exposition will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the high school gym to educate the public on all the programs that will be cut at Hull High School. A presentation on the cuts to the town library will be given and the fire department and police department will present cuts being made the each department.

Mr. Richardson requested an item regarding the New England Patriot Scholarship winners be placed on the next School Committee agenda.

#### 9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

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None

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Subcommittee Updates

- Building Committee

The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at Town Hall

- Budget Subcommittee

None

- Athletic Subcommittee

None

- Negotiations Subcommittee

None

11.0 Approval of Warrants

**Motion:** Catherine Bowes

**Second:** Stephanie Peters

Moved to approve the payment of school warrants as presented.

**Vote:** 4-0-0

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

- Stephanie Peters acknowledged a letter had been received by School Committees from the drama parents regarding the amount of money that has been raised by the drama students.
- Kristen Evans proposed forming a Committee beginning in June 2009 to discuss what the Hull School District needs will be going forward and what the school system should look like in three – five years. She said she would be willing to get this Committee up and running.

13.0 Executive Session

14.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 8:41 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining with union personnel and not to return to Open Session.

**Roll Call Vote:** AYES: Catherine Bowes, Stephanie Peters, Kevin Richardson, and Kristen Evans.