

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Tyrell, Superintendent  
David Twombly, Director of Operations  
Margaret Ollerhead, Policy Coordinator (left meeting at 9:30 p.m.)  
Maureen Robishaw, Superintendent Secretary

1.0 Reorganization and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Kathleen Tyrell at 7:07 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.

Dr. Tyrell requested a moment of silence for our dear friend and beloved employee Charlie Feist.

Dr. Tyrell requested nominations for School Committee Chair.

**Motion:** Kristen Evans

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Moved to nominate Stephanie Peters as School Committee chair

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

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Kristen Evans

Moved to nominate Catherine Bowes as School Committee Vice Chair and Marianne Harte as School Committee Secretary

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

Stephanie Peters took her seat as new School Committee Chair.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Catherine Bowes

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Moved to approve agenda as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Student Representative

None

5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report

None

Kristen Evans requested Dr. Tyrell to update the School Committee about her meeting with Deborah McCarthy, HTA President today. Dr. Tyrell said she asked Deborah McCarthy in order to reduce the number of layoffs if Ms. McCarthy would ask the HTA to reconsider and give some financial concessions. Dr. Tyrell said that Ms. McCarthy would get back to her on Friday or the beginning of next week. Kristen Evans said she would like to clear up a note of confusion. She said the HTA contract could be opened at any time.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson                      **Second:** Marianne Hart

Moved to approve the following School Committee minutes as presented:

- o Monday, May 11, 2009 regular School Committee meeting
- o Monday, May 11, 2009 Executive Session minutes

**Vote:** 5-0-0

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 South Coastal Workforce Investment Board Grant – Mr. James Quatromoni

Mr. James Quatromoni, Athletic Director and Community Outreach Coordinator, presented the following information regarding the South Coastal Workforce Investment Board Grant that Hull Public School has received:

- o Purpose of grant
- o Background of the program
- o In-house plant maintenance program
- o New component
- o Coursework
- o Transferable Skills
- o Weekly activities
- o Mutually beneficial program

Mr. Quatromoni responded to School Committee questions.

7.2 Award of Extending Regular and Special Education Transportation Bid – Mr. David Twombly

Mr. David Twombly, Director of Operations, requested a motion to extend the regular transportation contract and the special education transportation contracts for the 2009-2010 school year. This is a three-year contract with a two-year extension. This is the second and last year of extending the contract.

School Committee asked the following questions:

Do we receive police reports if a van operator/bus driver receives a citation from the police department?  
Do transportation companies notify us if a citation is issued for a bus/van, or if there is an accident?

Could North River Bus Company, Cohasset School Department and Hingham School Department collaborate on school transportation?

What would the cost savings be on the transportation contract if the town provided a location to park the school buses?

Kristen Evans requested that the School Committee be given a proposal for some collaboration with other towns regarding transportation by September.

Parents/Community members asked the following questions:

Could you look into parking the school buses at N Street and Nantasket Avenue?

Can we place advertising inside or outside the buses to help reduce our transportation cost?

Will user fees be charged for transportation? Stephanie Peters responded that this was discussed in the spring and the Committee decided not to pursue that. We are pursuing kindergarten user fees and athletic user fees at the high school.

**Motion:** Marianne Hart

**Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to authorize the Director of Operations to extend the regular transportation contract with North River bus Company and the special education transportation contracts with Dunham Transportation Company and SCO Transportation Company for the 2009 -2010 school year.

**Vote;** 5-0-0

#### 7.3 Award of Food Service Bid – Mr. David Twombly

David Twombly, Director of Operations, said that he had worked with Atty. James Lampke, Town Counsel, on the Food Service contract. The contract was then forwarded to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Moved to award the food service contract as presented to Chartwells School Dining Services for a term of one (1) year with four (4) options of one (1) year renewals for up to a total of five (5) years subject to Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education approval. The first year of the contract will start on July 1, 2009 and if all renewal periods were exercised, will terminate on June 30, 2104.

#### 7.4 Full Day Kindergarten Fee Structure – Ms. Donna Tobin

Dr. Tyrell said that School Committee previously voted to institute user fees up to \$3,600 per student for a full day kindergarten program that will require a tuition based program, we would also have one (1) half-day session. She recommended the kindergarten fees be set at the meeting in order to move forward with notifying parents.

Donna Tobin, L.M. Jacobs School Principal, discussed the recommended sliding scale user fees for the full day kindergarten program and the FY2010 tuition policy. The guidelines were based on the kindergarten grant. She also discussed what is currently received from the current kindergarten grant and the number of projected kindergarten classes for next school year.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to cap the kindergarten user fees at \$2,500.

No second was made on this motion

School Committee Members discussion the following:

- Feedback from parents on full day or one-half day kindergarten program
- Curriculum for ½ day students
- Dollar amount of user fees

- Cost of tuition in surrounding communities and private schools
- Information to parents

**Motion:** Marianne Harte                      **Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to cap the kindergarten user fees at \$3,000

**Substitute Motion:** Kristen Evans    **Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to implement \$3,600 user fee for full day kindergarten program with the stipulation should additional dollars from the kindergarten grant be available the user fee amount can be reduced and parents will be notified.

**Vote:** AYES: Catherine Bowes, Kristen Evans      NAYS: Stephanie Peters, Marianne Harte and Kevin Richardson

**Vote on Original Motion:** AYES: Marianne Harte, Catherine Bowes, Stephanie Peters and Kevin Richardson    NAYS: Kristen Evans

**Motion:** Marianne Harte                      **Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to skip the three readings and go right to the adoption of Policy IHBIA as presented

**Vote:** 5-0-0

7.5      User Fees for Sports and High School Activities Discussion – Mr. Jonathan Ford and Mr. James Quatromoni requested reactivating the Athletic Subcommittee to define user fee information and identify fees. Mr. Quatromoni also noted that the Hull Booster Club would help with funding the athletic program at Hull High School.

School Committee discussed:

- Mr. Quatromoni coming back to School Committee in July with athletic user fee schedule and any other information needed
- Importance of notifying and meet with parents and students regarding user fee
- Reestablishing Athletic Subcommittee
- Notice in the Hull Times and Channel 22 requesting interested community members to be on the Athletic Subcommittee
- Hull Boosters Club
- Keeping students engaged in school

Nancy Sullivan, Boosters Club president presented information regarding a recycling program being sponsored by the Boosters Club. Community members would be able to drop off electronic items on May 30, 2009 at “A” Street and Nantasket Avenue to be recycled. All money raised from this activity would go directly to the Hull Boosters Club.

7.6      School Choice

Dr. Tyrell said that each year School Committee members have to vote on School Choice. She recommended a no vote on this issue.

Kristen Evans requested a list of surrounding communities who participate in School Choice.

**Motion:** Marianne Harte                      **Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved that Hull Public Schools not participate in School Choice for the 2009 -2010 school year.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

#### 7.7 FY10 Budget

Dr. Tyrell thanked all the members of the community who did support the debt exclusion and for the hard work trying to get the debt exclusion passed. It is regrettable that lay-offs are necessary. Due to the wage freeze by administrators, secretaries, custodians, nurses and non-union employees, the health insurance percentage increase and kindergarten fees, the number of lay-offs has been reduced. Special Education expenses have been reduced by \$45,000, Jacobs School expenses have been reduced by \$85,000, Memorial School expenses reduced by \$17,000, Hull High School expenses reduced by \$327,000. and system wide expenses reduced by \$109,000. The following positions will be eliminated or reduced:

- 4.2 paraprofessionals
- 1.0 central office staff,
- 1.0 assistant principal at Memorial Middle School
- .2 physical therapist
- .5 secretary at the L.M. Jacobs School
- 5 library media specialist kindergarten – grade eight
- 1.0 guidance counselor kindergarten – grade eight
- 5.5 teachers at L.M. Jacobs School
- 1.0 Curriculum Coach at L.M. Jacobs School
- .6 physical education teacher kindergarten – grade eight
- .6 art teacher kindergarten – grade 8
- .6 music teacher kindergarten – grade 8
- 3.0 Memorial Middle School social studies teachers
- 1.0 Memorial Middle School foreign language teacher
- 2.0 Hull High School business teachers
- 1.0 Hull High School mathematics teacher will be transferred to the Memorial Middle School

A total of 15.8 teaching positions and 6.9 non-teaching positions have been cut from the 2009 -2010 school budget.

Dr. Tyrell also discussed class sizes and student schedules at each school.

Community members voiced concerns regarding:

- High school business department classes being eliminated
- Memorial Middle School social studies teachers being eliminated
- Curriculum coach at the Jacobs School
- Budget Study Committee
- Parent Caregivers group focusing on budget
- Parent involvement in schools
- Supplementing school budget

Kristen Evans stated that the first meeting of the Budget Study Review Committee would be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. School Committee will be soliciting parents and community members to be part of this committee. A letter will be sent to the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee requesting a member to participate on this Committee. Kristen Evans and Marianne Harte will represent School Committee on this committee.

A parent at the School Committee requested a representative from the Hull Teachers Union attend the next School Committee to discuss what the HTA is for and against.

8.0 New Business Items

Dr. Tyrell said that in the custodian contract there is a section regarding sick leave buy back when a custodian retires. She requested allowing Charlie Feist's estate to receive money for his unused sick leave.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second;** Marianne Harte

Moved to authorize paying Mr. Charles Feist's estate \$4,875 for his unused sick leave.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Tabled until the next School Committee meeting

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Subcommittee Updates

- Building Committee
  - Catherine Bowes requested inviting the School Building Committee to attend a future School Committee meeting to discuss budgetary issues regarding maintaining facilities.
- Budget Subcommittee
  - None
- Athletic Subcommittee
  - None
- Negotiations Subcommittee
  - None

11.0 Approval of Warrants

**Motion:** Catherine Bowes

**Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to approve the payment of school warrants as presented.

**Vote:** 4-0-0

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Catherine Bowes invited community members to sign-up on the website to receive Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board agendas and to attend meetings.

Kevin Richardson thanked the students for their involvement and efforts in "Save Our School"

13.0 Executive Session

14.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and not to return to Open Session.

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