

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools  
Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent  
Maggie Ollerhead, Policy Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Peters at 7:00 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

**Motion:** Marianne Harte                      **Second:** David Twombly

Move to approve the agenda as presented.

**Vote:** AYES: 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

**Motion:** David Twombly                      **Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to approve the Monday, January 24, 2011 School Committee minutes as presented.

**Vote:** AYES: 4-0-0

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Report on the Progress of Hull Public Schools

Dr. Tyrell presented the following information on the progress of the Hull Public Schools:

- Increased expectations with diminished resources
  - We have fewer dollars to spend on education than we had in FY07.

FISCAL YEAR	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET
FY07	\$13,105,919
FY08	\$13,105,919
FY09	\$12,770,000
FY10	\$11,876,872
FY11	\$12,500,000

- The school department budget is almost 5% less than FY07.

- Class sizes have increased.

GRADE LEVEL	CLASS SIZE FY07	CLASS SIZE FY11
Kindergarten	17.2	26
Grade One	16.5	18.5
Grade Two	17.4	19.5
Grade Three	16.2	24
Grade Four	16.8	25.25
Grade Five	21	24.66
Grade Six	18.2	21.25
Grade Seven	17.4	30
Grade Eight	21.4	29

- We no longer offer foreign language at the Memorial Middle School.
- The following programs at Hull High School were eliminated:
  - Business
  - Industrial Technology/Shop
  - Virtual High School
- The school budget does not support:
  - Athletics
  - Drama
  - Student Activities
- The percentage of children living at or below the federal poverty level is significant.

SCHOOL	ELIBIBLE FOR FREE & REDUCED LUNCH	ENROLLMENT	PERCENT
Jacobs	159	490	32.5%
Memorial	105	262	40.1%
Hull High	94	353	28.6%

- School Enrollment
  - The percentage of children residing in Hull who attend the Hull Public Schools continues to climb at all levels.
  - The number of students attending the Charter School has declined markedly.
  - The high school holds a highly effective open house for eighth grade students and their parents. As part of our recruitment effort, members of the high school staff visit all eighth grade classes.
  - We have a *Pirate for a Day* program, through which children enrolled in private and charter schools are invited to visit our schools. Our efforts are modeled after private school recruitment practices and timed to coincide with private school outreach activities.
- Teachers and Administrators
  - Staff is properly evaluated. All administrators take the Research for Better Teacher administrative course, *Observing and Analyzing Teaching*.
  - Approximately 1/3 of our teachers have participated in a Research for Better teaching course, *Studying Skillful Teaching*, which is the parallel course for teachers.

- We have mentoring programs for new teachers and administrators.
- We continue to recruit and retain effective teachers and administrators.
- Savings
  - Due to a reduction in staff, the business department has been reorganized. There is a team approach to assessing financial projections.
  - The South Shore Educational Collaborative now has programs in all three schools, resulting in tuition credits and a reduction in special education transportation costs.
  - We have reduced the school bus fleet by one bus, saving approximately \$55,000 annually.
  - We have increased the cost of school lunches, eliminating deficit spending in this area.
  - We now charge tuition for full-day kindergarten.
  - We have user fees for athletics and drama.
  - We rely heavily on the fund-raising efforts of the Boosters, the PTO, friends of Hull High School Theatre Arts and HASC.
- Facilities Improvement
  - The high school courtyard was loamed and hydro seeded and new benches were installed (thanks to the generosity of a Lowe's Home Improvement Grant and an Eagle Scout).
  - A new practice field in the rear of the high school was installed largely through a volunteer effort.
  - The exterior sides of the west, north and south of the Memorial School have been waterproofed.
  - The exterior of the gymnasium and the north side of the high school were waterproofed.
  - 87 windows at the Memorial School have been re-caulked.
  - New rooftop exhaust vents have been installed to improve air quality at the Memorial School.
  - We participated in Aquarion Water Company's Water Balancing Program Installation, which assessed water usage, installed more efficient aerators and bathroom fixtures resulting in water and sewer savings.
  - The temperature in all school buildings is set to meet minimum heating guidelines set by OSHA.
  - All buildings are kept clean, orderly and safe with very limited resources.
  - Routine maintenance is attended to in an expeditious manner.
  - SchoolDude is utilized for facilities scheduling and work.
  - We have contracted with a part-time HVAC Technician/energy Consultant who has made modifications to supplement the Energy Management systems that will result in energy savings.
  - We have an extended contract to purchase natural gas in the open market through a joint effort with South Shore Energy Collaborative, saving approximately 20% annually.
- Outside Reviews
  - The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has completed a very positive review of the Hull Public Schools in the areas of special education, civil rights, and English language learners.
  - Boston Magazine has ranked us among the 50 Best Massachusetts High School two of the past three years.
- Curriculum
  - We have standards-based elementary report cards.
  - We have implemented *Month-by Month Phonics* in grades K-4.
  - We have implemented a new 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies program - *History Alive*.
  - A new science program, Scott Foresmen, has been implemented in grades K-5.
  - We have consistent implementation of the English Language Arts program including reading strategy instruction in grades K-8, due in large part to the coordinated efforts of our part-time reading coaches.
  - Algebra I is now taught in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, positioning most students for more advanced high school mathematics courses.

- \*Unable to offer AP Euro because of reduced staffing

- Percentage of students attending 2-year and 4-year colleges
  - Target: Due to the economy, the target is to maintain or increase. As the economy improves, we will re-examine this target.
  - Class of 2009: 84%
  - Class of 2010: 90%

We continue to make every effort to improve academic programs for children, but quality programs require adequate resources.

David Twombly inquired about capital improvements. Dr. Tyrell responded that the administrative team is working on a capital improvement plan and she will present it at a future meeting.

Stephanie Peters requested placing the report on the progress of Hull Public School on the next School Committee agenda for further discussion. Ms. Peters also requested Dr. Tyrell's presentation be placed on the school website.

7.2 The Evan Henry Foundation for Autism Grant

Judith Kuehn, Director of Student Services, and Paula Coleman, Speech/Language Pathologist, presented the following information:

- \$5,000 was received for The Evan Henry Foundation for Autism grant
- \$2,000 will be used to purchase k-12 social pragmatic materials
- Six (6) staff members will have a two (2) day training in social pragmatic curriculum
- A five week after school life skill program

7.3 Closing the Early Literacy Gap for Students with Disabilities

Judith Kuehn, Director of Student Services, Stephanie Gomes, L. M. Jacobs School teacher, Elaine Menice, L.M. Jacobs School teacher, and Katie Perniola, L.M. Jacobs School teacher, presented the following information:

- Closing the Early Literacy Gap for Students with disabilities is a competitive grant
- \$5,000 was received for this grant
- Have applied for an additional \$10,000 to continue the work on this grant
- We were one out of 28 towns that received this grant
- Grant money will be used for bringing in speakers for parent workshops, follow-up visits with families
- Grant money was used to purchase books for nine families of pre-school and kindergarten children
- Teachers conduct home visits to present books and model literacy

8.0 New Business Items

Dr. Tyrell said that at the Memorial Middle School on February 7<sup>th</sup>, Assistant District Attorney Kristen Stone presented information to parents regarding bullying. Ms. Stone will also be making a presentation to middle school and high school students at a future date.

9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

**Motion:** David Twombly                      **Second:** Kristen Evans

Move to approve the following policies for first reading:

CHA                      Development of Procedures

CHB                      School Committee Review of Procedures (ALSO: BGD)

CHC	Procedures Dissemination
CHCA	Approval of Handbooks and Directives
CHCA-R	Approval of Handbooks and Directives
CHD	Administration in Policy Absence
CL	Administration Reports
CLA	Treatment of Outside Reports
CM	School District Annual Report

**VOTE:** AYES: 4-0-0

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Sub-committee Updates

None

10.2 Acceptance of Donations

None

11.0 Approval of Warrants

**Motion:** Marianne Harte                      **Second:** David Twombly

Move to approve school warrants, 19S, 294, 295, and 296 as presented.

**Vote:** AYES: 3-0-1 (Kristen Evans)

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

None

13.0 Executive Session

None

14.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** David Twombly                      **Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to adjourn School Committee meeting at 7:59 p.m.

**Vote:** AYES: 4-0-0