

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Stephanie Peters, Chair
Marianne Harte, Vice Chair
David Twombly, Secretary
Kristen Evans, Member
Eric Hipp, Member

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

The meeting was re-opened by Stephanie Peters at 8:18 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.

Motion: David Twombly **Second:** Marianne Harte
Move to approve the February 27, 2012 agenda as presented.
Vote: AYES: 5-0-0

Motion: David Twombly **Second:** Marianne Harte
Move to approve the following School Committee minutes:

- Monday, January 23, 2012 School Committee meeting with the following change:
 - Change spelling of *Zyperas* on page two under 7.1 to **Xypteras**
- Monday, January 30, 2012 School Committee Budget Subcommittee
- Thursday, February 9, 2012 Community Outreach Forum
- Thursday, February 9, 2012 School Committee meeting

Dr. Tyrell congratulated and thanked Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent, on her retirement.

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Health Advisory Council

Kathleen Keegan, Jacobs School nurse, discussed the new Health Advisory Committee. She invited a member of the School Committee to be part of this Committee. Eric Hipp volunteered to be on the Health Advisory Committee.

7.2 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
FY12	\$12,800,000

- The school department budget is almost 2.5% less than FY07.

- Class sizes have increased.

GRADE LEVEL	CLASS SIZE FY07	CLASS SIZE FY11	CLASS SIZE FY12
Kindergarten	17.2	26	21.66
Grade One	16.5	18.5	17.5
Grade Two	17.4	19.5	24.33
Grade Three	16.2	24	19.5
Grade Four	16.8	25.25	23.25
Grade Five	21	24.66	24
Grade Six	18.2	21.25	21
Grade Seven	17.4	30	24
Grade Eight	21.4	29	26

- We no longer offer foreign language at the Memorial Middle School.
- The following programs at Hull High School were eliminated:
 - Business
 - Industrial Technology/Shop
 - 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	ELIGIBLE FOR FREE & REDUCED LUNCH	PERCENT
Jacobs	185	35%
Memorial	104	40%
Hull High	138	38%

- We have 22 homeless students

- 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.
 - 39 Staff members have taken our Differentiated Instruction and Category 1 courses.
 - 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
 - We participated in Aquarion Water Company's Water Balancing Program installation, which assessed water usage 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 orders.
 - 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 Schools two of the past four years.
 - Hull High School has been named to the AP Honor Roll for expanding opportunity and improving performance for AP Students.
 - Hull High School has been nominated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education as a National Blue Ribbon School.

- Curriculum
 - We have standards-based elementary report cards.
 - We have implemented *Month-by-Month Phonics* in grades K-4.
 - We have implemented a new 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th 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 8th grade, positioning most students for more advanced high school mathematics courses.
 - MCAS review and preparation in the elementary, middle and high schools is now standard practice.
 - We have expanded the TBL program in the Memorial School and Hull High School.
 - We have implemented a puberty education program for 5th grade students and their parents.
 - We have implemented a social/emotional anti-bullying curriculum preK-grade 8.
 - SAT Prep courses are now offered during the school day.
 - The PSAT is given to all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students during the school day.
 - We continue to receive the South Shore Workforce Investment Board School Year Grant, which provides training and work experiences for eight (8) at-risk high school students.
- District Analysis and Review Tool Comparable Districts' Data for 2011

	2011 MCAS % Advanced/Proficient		2011 MCAS Growth	
	ELA	Math	ELA	Math
Adams-Cheshire	61%	44%	48.0	41.0
Avon	73%	62%	57.0	55.5
Central Berkshire	70%	55%	40.0	38.5
Fairhaven	74%	58%	40.0	39.0
Hull	74%	58%	52.0	45.5
Mohawk Trail	67%	59%	40.0	48.0
Oxford	64%	51%	42.0	50.0
Pioneer Valley	69%	55%	53.0	53.0
Quaboag Regional	63%	53%	45.0	57.0
Southern Berkshire	77%	53%	58.0	48.0
Spencer-E. Brookfield	61%	47%	31.0	39.0

- 2009-2011 MCAS Student Growth
 - Improvement in all grades 4 through 10 in English Language Arts.
 - Improvement in all grades except 7th in Mathematics
- Indicators Developed Spring 2010 to Demonstrate School Improvement 3-5 Year Targets
 - ◆ Jacobs School MCAS scores
 - English – Target 67% students in Advanced and Proficient
 - FY2009: 59%
 - FY2010: 61%
 - FY2011 68%

- Math – Target 66% students in Advanced and Proficient
 - FY2009: 58%
 - FY2010: 51%
 - FY2011 58%
- ◆ Memorial Middle School MCAS scores
 - English – Target 81% students in Advanced and Proficient
 - FY2009 75%
 - FY2010 67.3%
 - FY2011 74%
 - Math – Target 54% students in Advanced and Proficient
 - FY2009: 46%
 - FY2010: 56%
 - FY2011 50%
- ◆ High School 4-year completion rate – Target 94%
 - FY2008: 89% (state average=81%)
 - FY2009: 83% (state average=81%)
 - FY2010: 85.7% (state average =82.1%)
 - FY2011: 86.2% (state average=83.4%)
 - Drop-out rate – Target: at or below state average
 - Hull High School
 - Class of 2008 5.0% (state average-9.8%)
 - Class of 2009 9.2% (state average-9.4%)
 - Class of 2010 6.4% (state average-8.6%)
 - Class of 2011 3.1% (state average-7.2%)
- Five year adjusted cohort graduation rate – each year the DESE adjusts dropout rates based upon
 - 5 year graduation rate
 - Cohort graduation rate
- SAT scores – Target: Increase each by 10 points
 - Class of 2009
 - Reading: 485
 - Math: 491
 - Writing: 485
 - Class of 2010
 - Reading: 495
 - Math: 491
 - Writing: 484
 - Class of 2011
 - Reading: 498
 - Math: 512
 - Writing: 499
- AP Exams (number of AP tests being given = Target 100)
 - FY09: 81
 - FY10 74
 - FY11 76
 - FY12 129
- Average scores – Target 2.75
 - FY09: 2.4
 - FY10: 2.7

- FY11: 2.76
- 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%
 - Class of 2011: 89%

School Committee noted the following:

- Great improvements
 - Get information out to the public
 - Cable station channel 22
 - Tweets
 - Face book
 - School website
- 7.3 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mid-cycle Report
- Judith Kuehn, Director of Student Services, reviewed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Mid-cycle Review based on the onsite visit conducted on December 28, 2011. During the mid-cycle review, selected special education criteria were monitored to determine the Hull Public Schools' compliance with special education laws and regulations. The DESE found the district to be in compliance with all of the criteria monitored during the Mid-cycle Review. The Coordinated Program Review (CPR) will be scheduled during the 2014 – 2015 school year. The following special education criteria was monitored in the Mid-cycle review
- Criterion
 - Criterion Implemented
 - Criterion partially implemented or not implemented
 - Method(s) of investigation
 - Basis of Determination about criterion
 - If partially implemented or not implemented: (a) Required corrective action and timelines for implementation
 - Progress report due date and required elements

School Committee and Superintendent thanked and congratulated Ms. Kuehn on a job well done.

- 7.4 Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Mass Survey
- Dr. Tyrell explained that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be administering the Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) MASS Survey to educators from March 12, 2012 through April 6, 2012. School-based administrators and licensed teachers will be asked to complete the survey. There will be a separate and similar survey for district administrators. Survey results will only be available for those schools having a fifty percent (50%) participation rate. Dr. Tyrell hopes that the results of this survey will be a useful tool on our path of continuous improvement.

Stephanie Peters suggested Dr. Tyrell remind teachers about completing the TELL survey.

- 7.5 School Business Manager – Appointment
- Stephanie Peters said that at the Executive Session earlier in the evening, School Committee took a vote to appoint Daniel McGonagle at the Business Manager for the Hull Public Schools through December 31, 2012. The vote was four (4) to one (1). School Committee is pleased that Mr.

McGonagle hopefully will be working with us through the end of the year and the Committee has some work to do on his contract.

7.6 FY13 Budget Discussion

Dr. Tyrell noted that she had no new information to bring forward regarding the FY13 budget. This item is on the agenda so that if something comes up there would be an opportunity for discussion. Stephanie Peters said there was a fairly healthy discussion at the last School Committee meeting. She asked the other School Committee members if there are any further thoughts or actions on this issue. Ms. Peters said she has spoken to a few members of the Board of Selectmen about her feelings on the budget and where the Town is going as a whole. She reiterated that it is not about the number the School Committee received, it is about where we are going as a Town and if we are in a restoration situation, which it appears to be, then what are we restoring and why. She thinks it is important for the Board of Selectmen to have a discussion about where we are going as a town. She encouraged parents and community members if they feel education is a priority, they should contact the Board of Selectmen and let them know.

7.7 Capital Plan/Needs Assessment Committee

Stephanie Peters said she sent John Reilly, Board of Selectmen, an email based on the last School Committee meeting and asked him the following questions:

- Is the purpose of the Committee to study all buildings in town or to do an assessment of town hall? Mr. Reilly responded that the Committee is to do an assessment of all buildings within the town.
- What role are you looking to have Dr. Tyrell or a member of the School Committee play? Mr. Reilly responded, to represent the school interest when it comes to capital needs. He is envisioning this as a long-term Committee that comes together and does capital budget and he thought it would be a good idea if someone from the school is there.
- Will this Committee work on the capital budget/plan for the town for the future? Mr. Reilly responded yes, it is very much in its infancy state, but he was hoping to have the Committee together and issue a report annually at Town Meeting.
- How long do you foresee the Committee being established for? Mr. Reilly responded that he was not sure because it is in its infancy stages.

Ms. Peters said that Dr. Tyrell was appointed to this Committee but School Committee was concerned about the use of her time and if she should really be the one going to these Committee meetings. David Twombly said he would not mind being on this Committee. Eric Hipp said he thinks David Twombly would be the best person to serve on this committee as the representative of the School Committee. Stephanie Peters noted that she would be willing to serve as the alternate member.

Stephanie Peters, School Committee Chair, appointed David Twombly as the member to service on the Capital Planning Committee with Ms. Peters being the alternate member. All members were in agreement with this appointment. Ms. Peters said she would get back to John Reilly regarding this information.

8.0 New Business Items

Dr. Tyrell noted that there was a tentative School Committee meeting scheduled for March 5, 2012. It appears there is no business items for that meeting but School Committee may choose to go into Executive Session on that date. There will be no regular School Committee meeting on that date.

9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Marianne Harte

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

Policy EA	Support Services Goals
Policy EB	Safety Program
Policy EBAB	Pest Management Policy
Policy EBB	First Aid
Policy EBC	Emergency Plans
Policy EBCB	Fire Drills
Policy EBCB-E	Fire Drill Report
Policy EBCE	Emergency Closing
Policy EC	Buildings and Grounds Management
Policy ECA	Buildings and Grounds Security
Policy ECAA	Security
Policy ECAC	Vandalism
Policy ECB	Building and Grounds Maintenance
Policy ECB-R	Building and Grounds Maintenance
Policy ECD	Custodial Service
Policy ECE	Traffic and Parking Controls
Policy ECF	Energy Conservation
Policy EDB	Maintenance and Control of Textbooks and Instructional Materials and Equipment
Policy EDC	Authorized Use of School-Owned Materials
Policy EEA	Student Transportation Services

Vote: 5-0-0

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Sub-committee Updates

None

10.2 Acceptance of Donations

None

10.3 School Committee Goals

Stephanie Peters said Marianne Harte and herself are on the School Committee Sub-committee. She said this was an annual review of the 2010 – 2012 School Committee goals. She noted that action items have been added to each goal in draft form outlining what School Committee has done over the past year. The four School Committee goals for 2010 through 2012 include Curriculum, Fiscal Transparency, Communication and Human Resources.

School Committee action items:

- Update on vertical articulation subcommittee
- Fall 2012 MCAS presentation with specific action
- Quarterly updates on walk through initiatives
- Develop budget updates that are easy to read and be distributed to all members
- Annual update of grants and revolving funds
- June meeting update on 21st Century Schools
- Continue to explore social media
- Budget sub-committee will seek input from other board members on what types of reports they would like
- Establish annual agenda items for review of kindergarten and co-curriculum fees

- Look to expand use of social networks
- Utilize town calendar

Eric Hipp said he would like to see an addition goal for fiscal management with specific action items. He suggested that the School Committee take more affirmative action to try to manage the school department budget whether it is advocating through Town Manager and Board of Selectmen for additional percentage/funds or advocating to the town directly for additional funds for various programs.

Stephanie Peters said School Committee goals were voted on for a two-year basis and requested Eric Hipp to develop some language for specific action items in bullets for the information he would like included under the current goals. Ms. Peters requested School Committee goals be placed on the next meeting agenda.

11.0 Approval of Warrants

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Marianne Harte

Move to approve school warrant #18S, 350 and 351 as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Hull High School Quiz Night will be held at the Knight of Columbus hall on March 31, 2012.

Hull Theatre Arts will be presenting *Curtains* on March 16 and 17, 2012.

Adult Education program is ready for community members to sign-up for the programs.

13.0 Executive Session

None

14.0 Adjournment

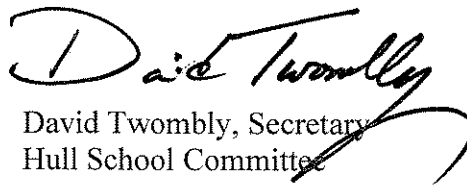
Motion: David Twombly

Second: Marianne Harte

Move to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9.42 p.m.

Vote: 5-0-0

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull School Committee were approved and adopted by the Committee on March 19, 2012.


David Twombly, Secretary
Hull School Committee