

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

## MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

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

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools  
Diane Lassonde, Secretary to the Superintendent  
Maggie Ollerhead, Policy Coordinator

- 1.0 Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Stephanie Peters at 7:05 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:** David Twombly                               **Second:** Marianne Harte  
Move to approve the March 19, 2012 agenda as presented.  
**Vote:** AYES: 4-0-0
- 3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items  
None
- 4.0 Student Representative  
Lucas McKenzie High School Student Representative, reported on the following:  
  - Spring sports started this weekend.
  - The musical *Curtains* was performed at Hull High School Theatre Arts on 3/16 and 3/17 and was a great success except for the fire drill on Saturday afternoon.
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> grade class will be taking MCAS tests on 3/20.
  - Senior class government students will be taking a field trip to the JFK Library to work on a mock federal budget.
  - Term 3 ends in 2 weeks.
  - Class Cup Challenge is in progress with the seniors over the freshman by 1 point.
  - Seniors are starting to hear back from the colleges they applied to.
- 5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report  
None
- 6.0 Approval of Minutes  
**Motion:** David Twombly                               **Second:** Marianne Harte  
Move to approve the following School Committee minutes:  
  - Monday, February 27, 2012 School Committee meeting minutes.**Vote:** 4-0-0
- 7.0 Business Items – Superintendent  
Dr. Tyrell requested changing the order of the agenda by moving item 7.3 first in order to let the grade school children go home early and get the rest they need. There were no objections.

7.1 PTO Read-a-Thon winners for Memorial Middle School and L.M. Jacobs School - Mr. Anthony Hrivnak and Ms. Jean Penta

Dr. Tyrell presented the following information on the progress of the Hull Public Schools. This is a relatively new program for the middle school and the goal is to improve each year. The Read-a-Thon has been sponsored by the PTO for the last nine years.

- School-wide recognition assembly
- Top reader in each class came to school in a fire truck
- Top 5 readers in every grade played board games with the principals
- Classes with 100% participation had “No Homework Night”
- Jacob School
  - 178,503 total minutes read
  - Over 75% of students logged at least 120 minutes
  - Over \$3,000 raised
- Memorial Middle School
  - 59,685 minutes read
  - This averages to 247 minutes per student
  - \$416.22 raised (almost a 50% increase)
- Jacob School Top Readers
  - Kindergarten-Blaise Belmarsh
  - First Grade-Alexandra Hendrickson
  - Second Grade-Matthew Powers
  - Third Grade-Madeline Brown
  - Fourth Grade-Alyssa Healey
  - Fifth Grade-Sarah Ashley
- Memorial Middle School Top Readers
  - 6th Grade- Emily Menice (3,505 min)
  - 7th Grade-Jamie Froio (1,865 min)
  - 8th Grade-Trevor Fahey (3,795 min)

Stephanie Peters commented that there was also teacher participation with incentive prize of a Kindle for the winning teacher. She said the PTO has a goal to eventually bring this program to the high school. Eric Hipp said the program was enhanced by adding Christine Cappadona, the Assistant Principal as part of the prize incentive (she kissed a pig). Stephanie Peters congratulated all for their efforts. Dr. Tyrell thanked everyone for a job well done.

7.2 Update of High School Internships by Mr. James Quatromoni, Athletic Director and Community Outreach Coordinator

Mr. Quatromoni explained that students have the opportunity to be placed in an internship during regular school hours. There are 20 students participating in the School Day Internship Program this year. Students work at their internship Monday through Thursday and on Friday they meet in small groups to discuss the week. Each intern works on a presentation to discuss his/her placement and role in that work place. Mr. Quatromoni asked two student interns to present at the meeting. Each of these students has been working on their project or in their workplace for at least 2 years. Marianne Harte asked if there was an increase in students from last year. Mr. Quatromoni said that the program had increased.

- Presentation entitled *Hull High School Social Network* (HHS SN) was presented by Kevin Caulfield. Mr. Caulfield explained HHS SN allows for a Facebook-type experience geared towards learning and communication between students and teachers. Mr. Caulfield is training Jacqueline Riley to take over the project when he graduates, this June.

He emphasizes that students wanted a safe and secure place to correspond with each other. The site is also set up with a messaging center which enables tutoring when the need arises. Teachers can also start groups for the students where homework assignments will be posted and reviewed. Mr. Caulfield is in the process of setting up email accounts for each student “@hullhighschool.com” where they should have full access next year. Users may “flag” inappropriate content and it will be immediately removed. All new data appears on the Admin Dashboard and can be edited.

The following items were addressed by Mr. Caulfield;

- The system is for current Hull High School students and faculty.
- This program is unique. Mr. Devine said he is unaware of any other high school with this type of program.
- The program is in the testing process and is expected to launch before his graduation.

Dr. Tyrell thanked Mr. Caulfield for leaving Hull High School a much better place than when he came as a freshman.

- Presentation entitled *TBL Internship* was presented by Jessica Paula. Ms. Paula explained the Team Based Learning program and her duties. She helps the six students with disabilities in the program with day to day tasks. After three years of working with the TBL Program she is certain that she wants to go into Special Education. Some of the skills that she acquired are:
  - Techniques for working with children
  - Words in sign language
  - Patience and repetition is key
  - The importance of rewards

Ms. Paula felt that her internship helped with her college application process. On one of her applications she received a handwritten letter from the admissions counselor praising her for her internship work. School Committee thanked Ms. Paula for participating in the program. Dr. Tyrell told Ms. Paula that she would make a wonderful teacher and she is entering into one of the finest professions.

7.3 Memorial Middle School-*Writing Across the Curriculum* was presented by Mr. Anthony Hrivnak, Principal. *Writing Across the Curriculum* is a new program that started in February. They had a writing day which consists of 15 minutes of writing in each period. They hope to have four more days before the end of the year. This program will build fluency on a variety of topics. They will engage in debates and discussions on various topics. Teachers attended a professional development program, “The John Collins Writing Program” a model for *Writing Across the Curriculum* presented by Mr. Dembrowski. There will be another workshop on August 13, 2012. Next year we will continue this program with more writing days. School Committee thanked Mr. Hrivnak for explaining the program.

#### 7.4 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 indicated that they will go over the budget in front of the Advisory Board Meeting next Monday 3/26 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Tyrell indicated that the next hearing on the budget is a public budget hearing on April 9, 2012.

## 8.0 New Business Items

NEASC report final recommendations are in. We have 60 days to make report public. Mr. Michael Devine, High School Principal will make the document public within the next few days. There were 50 recommendations and we have about 35. Dr. Tyrell thanked everyone for a job well done. The standards were changed recently by NEASC and we were held to the new standards with only 14 months to adjust our current standards. David Twombly asked if these recommendations would make financial changes to the existing budget. It could affect the budget but we have time to address the needs. In 2 years some of the items need to be implemented with the rest being completed in 5 years. Marianne Harte asked if we need to comply with all the recommendations. Mr. Devine said there is criteria to select either completed or rejected. There is conditional rejection such as if an item had been fixed or rejected based on faculty recommendation. Eric Hipp asked when we would be receiving the final report. Mr. Devine said we may have the final answer before the budget hearing on April 9. Mr. Devine also asked us to remember that the Accreditation committee was very impressed by the school, the quality of the parents, etc. They even interviewed the students regarding the cleanliness of the school when an audit was not in progress.

Mr. Hipp also asked if we should hold off on the budget hearing until April 23, 2012 so we can review and discuss changes as needed. Stephanie Peters said that was a good suggestion and we could possibly use pieces of the report as leverage. We already have a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Plan and now we have NEASC. We can review and make a final recommendation to the Town or Board of Selectman. This way we will have more time. Dr. Tyrell suggested that we review the report first and have the budget hearing on the scheduled date but not vote on the budget that evening. This will give the committee time to digest the report and come back on April 23, 2012 and vote on the budget. She suggested that we get the vote in before the Town Meeting. She did not want to rush the people working on the report. David Twombly agreed with Dr. Tyrell's suggestion to keep the hearing on April 9, 2012, which will give the committee time to review the report and give us recommendations. Mr. Devine will report the results at the next School Committee meeting.

Blue Ribbon Application- Marianne Harte asked Mr. Devine how the application process was coming. Mr. Devine said the committee put together a top notch application and is hopeful that the US government will recognize the excellence we see every day. The application was submitted and we should find out in September or October. They have received the application and will email us if there are any errors or omission in it so we will have an opportunity to correct them.

Stephanie Peters commented on how wonderful the Nickelodeon 10 minute piece on Hull High School sports funding was. When the link is available it will be posted on the website and on cable TV.

## 9.0 School Committee Policy Issues – Policies EEAA to EEAEC-R, First Reading

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

Move to approve the following policies for First Reading:

Policy EEAA	Walkers and Riders
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Policy EEAE School Bus Safety Program

Policy EEAEA	Bus Driver Examination and Training
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Policy EEAECC Student Conduct on School Buses– also JICC

Policy EEAE-C-R      Student Conduct on School Buses – also JICC-R

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

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Sub-committee Updates

None

10.2 Acceptance of Donations

None

10.3 School Committee Goals

Stephanie Peters and Marianne Harte updated the 2010 – 2012 School Committee goals. There was a change to the curriculum section in the wording “walk through” changed to “peer observation program”. All agreed on this change and goals will be posted on the website. At the end of June they will revisit the goals.

11.0 Approval of Warrants

Stephanie explained to the group that before the meeting began Mr. Hipp had a conversation with her about the warrants. He did not think there was enough time to review the warrants and thought the process should be improved. He asked if the documents could be scanned and sent electronically. Dr. Tyrell explained that as the packets were very large that it would take many hours to scan and she did not want to add that time on to the staff. Ms. Peters explained that she did not like the idea of dropping the warrants off to individual homes as items could get lost. She made a suggestion that maybe on Monday they could be brought to the High School for the School Committee members to come early and sign before the meeting. She asked Mr. Hipp to make a proposal for his process improvements and submit it to the Budget Subcommittee for review.

**Motion:** David Twombly

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to approve school warrant #20S, 356,357,358, and 359 as presented.

**Vote:** 3-0-1(Eric Hipp)

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Stephanie Peters read a letter about Mickey McGonagle’s limitation on income. Ms. Peters stated the original vote on the contract was 4 to 1 pending a successful contract negotiation after the second meeting the vote was 3 to 2 to approve the proposed contract. Mr. McGonagle’s contract has not been signed yet. There was discussion about the fact that Mr. McGonagle has been working without a contract. Stephanie Peters has been in constant contact with the school department attorney who said it is good practice. Mr. McGonagle’s contract is through the end of the year. The schools attorney and town attorney believe we are proceeding as we should. An MTRS meeting is scheduled in April and they will help resolve this situation. In speaking with Mr. Toomey, he stated that the MTRS is fair and will make every effort to work things out. Mr. Twombly cautioned the committee to be aware that problems could arise if something happens. Dr. Tyrell wanted to make two things clear to the committee.

1. Mr. McGonagle worked hard and is a talented, valuable asset to the school district.

2. The Town of Hull has not paid one penny for services not rendered. Mr. McGonagle has worked more than he has been paid for.

Eric Hipp stated that he did not vote to approve the contract.

13.0 Executive Session

None

14.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** Marianne Harte

**Second:** David Twombly

Move to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 8:39 p.m.

**Vote:** 4-0-0