

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015

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

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools
Judith Kuehn, Assistant Superintendent
Maggie Ollerhead, Secretary to the Superintendent

There was a moment of silence for long-time School Custodian, Walter Riviuccio.

Motion: Stephanie Peters **Second:** Michelle Lanner
Move to approve the February 23, 2015 agenda as presented.
Vote: 4-0-0

- Hull Theatre Arts has been rehearsing for Mary Poppins which will be presented March 13, 14 & 15, 2015
- Student Council has collected jeans for the Teens for Jeans Program
- 13 seniors took part in the Mass. AFL-CIO Scholarship exam on February 5, 2015
- Semi-formal will be held Saturday, February 28, 2015 and is a 1920's Las Vegas theme
- The ASVAB Military Career Exploration Exam will be administered to 12 students on March 10, 2015
- The Guidance Department is hosting a Junior Parent Evening on February 25 at 7:00 pm in the exhibition room
- Hull High's spring sports – baseball, softball, track & field, lacrosse and sailing will start in mid March
- The Senior Class of 2015 is still receiving college acceptance letters and are close to making decisions about next fall

5.0 Approval of Minutes

5.1 Release of Executive Session minutes

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

- Move to rescind the Executive Session vote of October 6, 2014 regarding the release of FY08 Executive Session minutes.
- Do not release the following FY08, FY09 and FY10 Executive Session minutes:
 - September 15, 2008 – 6:00 pm
 - September 15, 2008 – 8:25 pm
 - November 3, 2008
 - March 16, 2009
 - April 9, 2009
 - May 11, 2009
 - July 20, 2009
 - August 17, 2009
 - October 13, 2009
 - January 11, 2010
 - June 21, 2010
- Move to release the FY08, FY09 and FY10 Executive Session minutes with the following exceptions:
 - July 23, 2007 – 1 redaction
 - November 26, 2007 – 1 redaction
 - December 10, 2007 – 1 redaction
 - February 25, 2008 – 1 redaction
 - June 30, 2008 – 1 redaction
 - February 26, 2009 – 1 redaction
 - April 6, 2009 – 1 redaction
 - April 13, 2009 – 4 redactions

Vote: 4-0-0

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

Move to approve the following School Committee minutes.

- Monday, December 8, 2014 Regular Meeting

Vote: 4-0-0

6.0 Business Items – Superintendent

6.1 National Geographic Bee

Mr. Anthony Hrivnak, Memorial Middle School Principal, gave an overview of the second National Geographic Bee that was held recently at Memorial School. Mr. Timothy Young, grade six science teacher, organized the event. The event went 4 rounds in each classroom then each grade level then to a large school event after school. Finally there was an all school assembly with the top 10 students on stage using their iPads and displaying the activities on a large screen. The winner was Leah Boyd.

6.2 Hull High School Boosters Club

Mr. Greg Grey, Hull Boosters Club president, told the Committee that there is currently \$53,000 in the Boosters bank account and they are about to issue a check for \$10,000 to the Hull Public Schools for the Winter sports. Mr. James Quatromoni, Athletic Director, will be asking for an additional \$20,000 for the end of the year expenses leaving the Boosters with only \$23,000 left, which is a very low amount. Mr. Grey said that the Boosters have and will continue to fundraise but asked if the School Committee has plans to increase funds in the athletic department's budget.

Committee members responded by telling Mr. Grey that they fully support the Boosters Club and what the members are doing to help the school department and that each year they have been adding more funds to the athletic account and they are not planning on reducing the budget, but at this time, especially with the Town responsible for this year's snow removal costs coming from next year's budget, it is unlikely that there will be money added to the account. Committee members also encouraged the Boosters members to reach out to Representative Garrett Bradley and Senator Robert Hedlund and have their voices heard. The Committee thanked the Boosters members for coming and for all they do for our children.

6.3 Edward M. Kennedy Institute Field Trip

Dr. Tyrell told the Committee that the Hull High School senior class, along with juniors enrolled in AP U.S. History, will be taking a field trip to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute. She said that this is a wonderful opportunity for our students, as they will be participating in the final testing phase of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute *Senate Immersion Module* (SIM). Our students will assume the role of United States Senators and participate in an Immigration Reform debate. They will learn the content and context of this topic and they will also learn about the legislative process in general. It is important to note that only a small number of high schools will be invited to participate in this phase prior to the formal launching of the Institute programs later in the spring.

6.4 Daycare Update

Dr. Tyrell informed the Committee that she is hoping to open a daycare at the Jacobs School. She has hired someone who was a Hull High School student. She said that during the snow storms she was scheduled to come and meet with staff but that is now rescheduled to March 3, 2015, where interested parents will have the opportunity to come and meet with her and learn more about the program. Dr. Tyrell said that the program will fund itself and it will not cost the district anything. If we get enough children for this self funded program we will start it in the fall. She stated that her belief is that it is a way to retain staff. The less staff has to worry about daycare issues the more they will be able to concentrate and with a better work environment for our employees it makes for a better school system.

6.5 Storm Update

Dr. Tyrell stated that it has been a very difficult time with all the snow. She said that she truly appreciates all town departments for their efforts and the extra efforts of Kevin Campbell, Maintenance, along with all of the custodians; Arthur LaRochelle, Kevin McGonnigal, Joanne Marshall, Keith Connolly, Kevin Campbell, William Murphy, Laura Foley and Scott Saylor. She also thanked the Town Manager, the Building, Fire, Police and Highway departments, along with North River Bus Company and the student shovelers. She also thanked the parents and guardians for their cooperation and patience.

Dr. Tyrell explained the changes in some of the bus routes due to the high snow banks and lack of sidewalks. She also explained that companies have been brought in, along with our own custodial staff, to clear off the roofs of the schools.

Ms. Peters asked the Superintendent to explain the reason for students to be in school for 180 days. Dr. Tyrell explained that the law is that there is to be 900 hours of instructional time at the elementary level and 990 at the high school level. Middle schools can go either way and kindergarten only has to be in session for 450 hours. She said that because we have had ten (10) snow days we will be in school until June 30, 2015 and still have another day to make up to get to the 180 days. School will be in session on Saturday, March 7, 2015 to make up the extra day.

School Committee members thanked Dr. Tyrell and staff as well as the municipal government for all of their hard work. Mr. Hipp added that even though the School Committee hadn't met since December 8, 2014 because of all the storms they have been in constant communication with the Superintendent.

6.6 2015-2016 School Calendar

Dr. Tyrell informed the Committee that the 2015-2016 School Calendar that she is recommending starts before Labor Day with school not in session on Friday, September 4, 2015. Mr. Hipp said that his preference is to start school on August 24, 2015. Dr. Tyrell said that the teachers contract would not allow them to start school before the week before Labor Day and that a change would have to be negotiated with the teachers union.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

Move to approve the 2015-2016 School calendar as presented.

Vote: 3-1-0

6.7 District Review

Dr. Tyrell gave an overview of the District Review by stating that many outside groups have looked at the district and we have received many accolades including a 10 year accreditation from NEASC, a US National Blue Ribbon of Excellence at Hull High School, Level One status at the Jacobs School, U.S. News and World – silver medal. She stated that the district review team got a snapshot of what goes on because they had only 6 hours of observation in the classrooms, which allow an evaluator a taste of what is going on in the classroom and does not allow for wholesale judgments about elements of instruction. The Superintendent reminded the Committee that the district review was done almost 1 ½ years ago and many items have already been addressed because we are on a path of continuous improvement.

The review included the following categories:

- Strengths
 - Leadership and Governance
 - Assessment
 - Human Resources and Professional Development
 - Student Support
 - Financial and Asset Management
- Challenges and Areas for Growth
 - Leadership and Governance

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Human Resources and Professional Development
- Student Support
- Financial and Asset Management

6.8 FY16 Budget Discussion

Dr. Tyrell stated that the budget was already discussed during the Boosters agenda item. She stated that the School Committee was meeting with the Advisory Board on Monday, March 16, 2015. She informed the Committee that our budget is \$192,000 over the town manager's budget.

7.0 New Business
None

8.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

Move to approve the following policies for second reading:

Policy ADDA Background Checks

Policy GCCD Domestic Violence Leave Policy

Policy JH Student Absences and Excuses

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: David Twombly

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

Policy IHAA Supplement, Not Supplant

Policy JIE Pregnant/Parenting Students

Vote: 4-0-0

9.0 Old Business Items

9.1 Sub-Committees

- The School Committee Goals subcommittee will present the goals at a March School Committee meeting.

9.2 Acceptance of Donations

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

Moved to accept the following donation as presented:

- \$500 from Audrey Connor Foundation – to Jacobs School Music Department

Vote: 4-0-0

10.0 Approval of Warrants
None

11.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

12.0 Adjournment

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Michelle Lanner

Move to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Vote: 4-0-0

These Minutes of a meeting of the
Hull School Committee were
approved and adopted by the
Committee on March 9, 2015

Eric Hipp, Secretary
Hull School Committee