

SCHOOL COMMITTEE HULL PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marianne Harte (present)  
Stephanie Peters (present)  
Eric Hipp (present)  
David Twombly, Member (present)  
Kelley Huxtable, Member (present)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools  
Diane Saniuk, Finance Coordinator

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tyrell, Superintendent at 6:00 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag. There was a moment of silence for retired teachers, Marion Fahey and Philip Maloney.

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Reorganization

Dr. Tyrell opened nominations for chair. Ms. Peters nominated Mr. Hipp for chair, recognizing his work as an advocate for the schools.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** David Twombly

Move to approve Eric Hipp as chair of the School Committee.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Mr. Hipp said he appreciates being nominated by Ms. Peters, understanding that while they always get along, they do not always see eye to eye. Ms. Harte stressed to Mr. Hipp to be ready for a lot of communication. She said that he will be inundated. Mr. Twombly reiterated the importance of the chair communicating with the rest of the board.

Ms. Peters nominated herself for vice chair. With Mr. Hipp's approval, she would like to take on the role of mentoring Ms. Huxtable. Ms. Huxtable nominated Mr. Twombly as vice chair saying he would be great in the position and would keep the board on the ball, especially with respect to the budget. Mr. Twombly said that he appreciated the nomination but thinks Ms. Peters would be a great vice chair, especially in mentoring Ms. Huxtable.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to approve Stephanie Peters as vice chair of the School Committee.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Ms. Peters nominates Mr. Twombly as secretary. She believes the outgoing chair deserves a year off and new members need a year to get used to the board before holding a position.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Marianne Harte

Move to approve David Twombly as secretary of the School Committee.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Eric Hipp took a moment to thank Michelle Lanner for her three years of service to the School Committee. He said that she was a real asset to the board, especially in HTA negotiations and in the development of the new teacher evaluation tool. He especially welcomed the educator perspective she brought to the board. He said that she will be missed. Mr. Hipp then welcomed Ms. Huxtable to the board. Ms. Huxtable thanked the board and said that she is humbled and excited to contribute.

Ms. Peters reiterated Mr. Hipp's comments and she proud of the fact that the board all gets along well, even when they disagree. She thanks Michelle Lanner for her service and notes the nature of the election is such that Michelle doesn't have a chance to say good bye and to thank everyone. Ms. Peters states she is looking forward to working with Ms. Huxtable and the new perspective she brings to the board.

Mr. Twombly agreed with Mr. Hipp and Ms. Peters saying that he is looking forward to working with Ms. Huxtable and thanked Ms. Lanner for her dedicated service.

Ms. Harte reiterates that the board will miss Michelle. She said that she worked really hard and her number one objective is always the children of the district. Ms. Harte said she is looking forward to working with Ms. Huxtable.

Dr. Tyrell said she was also looking forward to working with Ms. Huxtable and wished Ms. Lanner the best.

## 7.2 School Choice

Each year, prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, school districts must vote on whether or not to participate in school choice. Dr. Tyrell said that she did not think school choice makes sense for the Hull Public Schools and recommended not participating. Ms. Huxtable asks Dr. Tyrell for further explanation for the people that don't understand. Dr. Tyrell explains school choice as follows:

If we participate in school choice, students could enroll if we have seats available. If later the district changes its mind and decides not to participate in school choice, the Hull Public Schools would still be required to educate those children through grade 12. If we did participate, other surrounding districts would likely also participate. Our district is not convenient for other districts to send children here, but it is more likely that some of our students would choose to go to a surrounding town. Parents from Hull pass many schools on their way to work. Other districts do not pass the Hull Public Schools on their way anywhere.

Ms. Harte stressed that the district would only receive \$5,000 for each student that chooses to come from another district. This has the potential to be very costly,

especially for children with special needs.

Mr. Hipp mentioned that while he sees more positives than negatives with school choice, he will vote against it in light of the issues in town with space availability. If the school department does end up losing the Memorial Middle School to the town, we would be in a real space crunch.

Dr. Tyrell also mentioned that currently, no towns on the south shore participate in school choice. The Avon school district is the closest district that participates and they actually have more students choice in than they do students from Avon.

**Motion:** David Twombly     **Second:** Stephanie Peters  
Move to not participate in school choice for 2015-2016.  
**Vote:** 5-0-0

Dr. Tyrell took a moment to congratulate the girls track team, a joint team with Cohasset, for being the South Shore League Champions.

## 11.0 Executive Session

## 12.0 Adjournment

**Motion:** Eric Hipp                      **Second:** Stephanie Peters

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of negotiation strategy with the HTA (teachers & paraprofessionals), non-union negotiation strategy and litigation strategy. An open meeting may have a detrimental effect. The Committee is not expected to reconvene in Open Session.

**Roll Call Vote:** Ayes: Stephanie Peters, Marianne Harte, David Twombly, Eric Hipp and Kelley Huxtable.

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull School Committee were approved and adopted by the Committee on June 1, 2015

David Twombly, Secretary  
Hull School Committee