

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY

Jennifer Fleming, Chair (present)
David Twombly, Vice Chair (present)
Lucas Patenaude, Secretary (present)
Ernest Minelli, Member (present)
Stephanie Peters, Member (present)

OTHERS PRESENT REMOTELY

Judy Kuehn, Superintendent of Schools
David DeGennaro, Business Administrator
Maggie Ollerhead, Secretary to the Superintendent

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Fleming, Chair at 5:16 p.m. remotely, via Go-To-Meeting.

Ms. Fleming explained remote participation protocols for this meeting.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: David Twombly

Move to approve the December 28, 2020 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Jennifer Fleming, David Twombly, Ernest Minelli, Lucas Patenaude and Stephanie Peters

3.0 Superintendent's Business Items

3.1 Winter Sports

Ms. Kuehn said that she stands by her decision to cancel winter sports for the same reasons that she stated at the December 14th School Committee. She said that she is not making the recommendation in a bubble as she had pointed out at the last meeting, with the spikes all around Massachusetts since Thanksgiving and now with Christmas she feels it is best for our students. She added that the Athletic Director, the Hull Board of Health, the school nurses and the high school administration all recommended not having winter sports and she could I possibly go against the recommendations of these professionals. Ms. Kuehn talked again about after school intermurals.

School Committee members asked questions predicting winter weather, intermural sports program, seniors and other teams in league playing. When asked about tracking social emotional mental health levels of students, Ms. Kuehn said there is an Engagement Committee trying to get more students back in the buildings. Ms. Nosek added that she has a great deal of concern on that very thing, she said there is an uptick in D's and F's and we need to work on getting more kids in

the building academically and we are worried about more kids not in schools because of quarantining. Ms. Fleming asked if it was fair to say any positive cases have not been at school sponsored but social gatherings. Mr. Paine said some cases were hockey related earlier on and college aged kids but we saw an uptick after Thanksgiving and now being indoors after Christmas with hands touching the ball and well within 6 feet, we don't have numbers yet on athletics.

Mr. DeGennaro said he supports the Superintendent's decision and she is trying to keep the whole district safe and not jeopardize education. He said it is not a decision she has made lightly.

Mr. Philip Lemnios, Town Manager, said he doesn't normally join a School Committee meeting but Ms. Kuehn and Mr. DeGennaro have been on the weekly department head calls since COVID and as a result of the last meeting, where the Superintendent and the two Board of Health nurses said they have received disparaging emails from community members, he decided to join the meeting. He said he wants all public positions to share one common goal, which is to safe guard those we deal with. He said the Town of Hull has gone into the red zone, with another holiday surge coming and a new strain of the virus, will all have an impact. He went on to say the best advice you are getting is from the public health nurses and the school nurses. He personally gives his support to the Superintendent.

Community members asked questions and made comments regarding Hull not participating in winter sports but kids will play elsewhere and asked what to tell their kids. School Committee members and the Superintendent fielded questions and comments. Ms. Peters said we are the only town on the South Shore whose elementary students go to school 4 full days a week and we are trying to get more of the kids in the other schools in the buildings for education. Mr. Minelli said we can only control certain factors and we need to keep our students in school. He said he supports the Superintendent and health officials. Ms. Kuehn said that she is happy to meet with any student and answer any questions. Ms. Fleming questioned the young students that play basketball, asking how do we reconcile that? Mr. Twombly said the youth groups are not using our facility, therefore that is out of our control. Ms. Fleming also asked about students who are only engaged to play sports and Mr. Paine said a lot of kids are multi sports so they will still need to be academically engaged to participate in fall 2 or spring sports.

Ms. Fleming cut off public comment.

The Committee discussed making a motion regarding winter sports. Ms. Fleming said she wanted a motion by the Committee on winter sports. Other Committee members disagreed that there needed to be a motion by School Committee.

Ms. Fleming made a motion to approve the Superintendent's decision regarding winter sports. Mr. Minelli said he would second the motion for discussion.

Mr. Twombly and Mr. Patenaude again voiced their opinion that it is the Superintendent's purview and she is responsible for making the decision regarding winter sports. Mr. Minelli agreed with Mr. Twombly and Mr. Patenaude. Ms. Fleming said she will sign the policy and regulation and going forward if we want to not vote and want the Superintendent to do it we can change that policy. She said she thinks that it is important. Ms. Fleming read policy JJI – Student Athletics. Ms. Peters reiterated that it is operational and is the authority of the Superintendent.

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: Ernie Minelli

Move to uphold the Superintendents decision regarding winter sports.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Ernest Minelli, Lucas Patenaude, David Twombly and Stephanie Peters
Nays: Jennifer Fleming

Mr. Twombly asked if the Committee was talking about the authority on policies JJI and JJI-R now or do it at the next meeting. He said his thought process is that we can once and for all put this item to rest. Ms. Kuehn said we do have to look at the policy and she doesn't think we have ever voted since 2008. She also asked what does participation mean? Ms. Fleming said she does think we need to take a look at it all.

11.0 Adjournment

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Jennifer Fleming

Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Roll call vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Jennifer Fleming, Ernest Minelli, Lucas Patenaude and Stephanie Peters

These Minutes of a meeting of
the Hull School Committee were
approved and adopted by the
Committee on January 25, 2021

Lucas Patenaude, Secretary
Hull School Committee