

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

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 6:31 p.m. remotely, via Go-To-Meeting.

Ms. Fleming explained remote participation protocols for this meeting.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Lucas Patenaude

Second: Ernest Minelli

Move to approve the January 25, 2021 as presented.

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

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: David Twombly

Move to approve the following minutes as presented:

- December 28, 2020 Regular Meeting
- January 11, 2021 Regular Meeting
- January 13, 2021 Budget Subcommittee Meeting

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

5.0 Superintendent's Business Items

5.1 Structured Learning Time

Ms. Kuehn stated that there are new Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations that went into effect on January 19, 2021. She said hybrid models must provide a minimum of 35 hours of live instruction over a 10-school day period and students must have the opportunity for live

instruction with their teachers every day. She said we are way over that number. She said the original SLT regulations included office hours and check-in time, which was an error in the original collection. She said live means the combination of in-person and remote synchronous instruction. She said this new data collection period is the last week in January and the first week in February. Mr. Twombly gave kudo's to us for being in compliance because a lot of schools couldn't get to 35 hours.

5.2 COVID-19 Update

COVID vaccines – Ms. Kuehn said the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) is advocating with the governor to get the vaccines expedited and the school nurses could administer them immediately. Mid-February is what the Board of Health thinks we should get the vaccines so hopefully that will stay the same.

Pool Testing – Ms. Kuehn stated that she is still exploring pool testing but in the meantime the Rockland Superintendent is working with South Shore Hospital to do PCR tests and turn around tests in 24-48 hours. She said our nurses could administer the tests. On remote Wednesday the nurses are going to Rockland to learn how to do this.

Increase In-person Learning Grades 6 – 12 - Mr. Hrivnak, Memorial School principal, had a microphone issue so Ms. Kuehn updated the Committee on the increase in in-person learning at the Memorial School, which included having all grade 8 hybrid students come to school 4 days a week beginning Monday, February 1st. She said Mr. Hrivnak is interviewing for a position to make it so grades 6 and 7 can have a staggered come back. She said we will monitor how it is working out safety wise before bringing back more students. Mr. Hrivnak added the resource room is working for the students who are using it, so more need to use it. Ms. Nicole Nosek, Hull High School principal, updated the Committee on the groups coming back to 4 day in-person learning at the high school. She said the TIDES and WAVES students are already back and on February 1st students on IEP's and 504's have been invited back and as of now 14 of the 30 students have accepted. She will then work to get other students back.

Brian Mullin, HTA co-president, read a statement saying the HTA stance is not it is not the right time to return students, he talked about the need for pool testing and the vaccine coming and testing close contacts because young people can be asymptomatic. He also said we are in the middle of a surge with 8% still in red. He said these are enough reasons to not bring students back. He continued saying teaching is much better in person and the goal is to get them back but we are right on the horizon. He said the middle school has more room and classes stay together and don't comingle, they also have fewer cases. He then said there is not enough planning for the middle school to go back and some union members have heard teachers are scared. He then recommended looking at this again after February vacation. He also said that another proposition is to move April vacation to earlier in the year to have more kids back.

Committee members asked the Superintendent and principals questions regarding students coming back to school and there was a discussion about increasing in-person learning at the middle and high schools. After the discussion Ms. Fleming asked Ms. Kuehn if School Committee needs to take a vote on students coming back to school. Ms. Kuehn said no, this is our plan and I am advocating keeping our plan.

Intramurals – Mr. Scott Paine, Athletic Director, said that intramural are up and running 6 days a week, Monday – Saturday. He said there are 40 to 45 students every day. They use the fitness

room, and there are 5 coaches and the girls and boys are separate. Kids who show up are asking for more. Football players are looking to get out on the field. The reception has been very positive. When asked, Mr. Paine said the MIAA is coming out with guidelines for Fall 2 sports, which will include football, indoor track (run outdoors), sideline cheerleading and volleyball. Mr. Twombly asked Mr. Paine to come back to the next School Committee meeting to tell us what happened with the MIAA.

Flu Vaccine – Ms. Kuehn said there is very little flu this year due to mask wearing so the state removed the requirement of the vaccine to concentrate on COVID vaccines.

5.3 FY22 Administration Preliminary Budget

Ms. Kuehn told the Committee that this is a level services budget, except for the addition of a technical assistant for help teachers in the classroom, because of all the new technology used because of the remote learning due to COVID. This person will also help the current IT department with work orders and other IT necessities. Also a maintenance person, which will be needed due to COVID ventilation issues. The Town Manager told Mr. DeGennaro he is hoping for a 2% increase in town department budgets but have a list of cuts in case we don't get that much. Ms. Kuehn and Mr. DeGennaro gave a presentation of the FY22 Administrator's Preliminary Budget, which included the following:

- Our vision
- Our mission
- FY22 budget priorities
- COVID-19
- FY22 budget comparison
- Source of funds
- FY22 budget by major category
- Next steps

Committee members thanked the budget team for the comprehensive presentation and budget book. Mr. Twombly asked about the job description of the tech person. Ms. Kuehn said we would discuss it during the technology presentation, she added that we lost a tech position a few years ago but this position would be a combination. Mr. Twombly added that this is a valuable position and can become pricy.

6.0 School Committee Business Items

6.1 Policy JJI – Student Athletics

Ms. Fleming said she reached out to counsel and she and Ms. Kuehn agree that we could have a subcommittee look into this policy if need be in the future, if everyone agrees. Committee members agreed.

7.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: David Twombly

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

JLIAA Teacher-Student Relations

JLIAB Staff-Student Relations

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

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Sub-committees – vote to change member on HTA Negotiations sub-committees

Ms. Fleming said she has been a member of the HTA negotiations when Mr. Patenaude stepped down. She said it has been rewarding but time consuming and she is stepping down. She said as Chair she is an ex-officio member of every Committee. She asked for a replacement. Mr. Twombly said he is on the subcommittee but there needs to be two members. Ms. Peters asked to get an updated list of subcommittees before anyone offers to take over on the HTA subcommittees.

Mr. Minelli said custodian negotiations were held today to establish ground rules and set a schedule of three more meetings.

8.2 Donations

None

9.0 New Business

None

10.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Ms. Peters said she would like the high school to be honoring seniors for winter sports, maybe an article or spotlight in the newspaper. She also wants to get the seniors back for end of year social activities with social distancing. Ms. Nosek said she is working on senior activities like we traditionally do.

11.0 Adjournment

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Stephanie Peters

Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm.

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

These Minutes of a meeting of
the Hull School Committee were
approved and adopted by the
Committee on February 9, 2021

Lucas Patenaude, Secretary
Hull School Committee