

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 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 6:32 p.m. remotely, via Go-To-Meeting.

Ms. Fleming explained remote participation protocols for this meeting.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: David Twombly

Move to approve the March 8, 2021 as presented.

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

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: Lucas Patenaude

Move to approve the following minutes as presented:

- February 22, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

5.0 Superintendent's Business Items

5.1 Galileo Assessment Systems

Dr. Mary Merrigan, Instructional Coach, gave an update on the Galileo assessment system that is being implemented in Hull Public Schools in grades 1-8. She said Galileo works with Massachusetts assessment and is fully aligned with MCAS, it mirrors test items. The rollout is in English language arts and mathematics and benchmarks are for all students in hybrid and remote.

There was a follow up in February so teachers can look at these results to see what to do for the final benchmark in June. Dr. Merrigan said the teachers have been great and it is a benefit for students and tolls for our teachers. Committee members asked questions, which Mary answered. She was asked to come back in the fall.

5.2 COVID-19 Update

Pooled testing – Ms. Keegan, head nurse, said that grades 8 and 9 are being piloted and the three nurses went to Watertown to shadow the nurse as she did pooled testing there. They have gotten the kinks ironed out after a few months of testing. Ms. Striglio, Memorial School nurse, said the first tests were administered this morning to grade 8 staff and students. Maggie Ollerhead came with her laptop and scanner and checked in each participant. Ms. Striglio, Ms. Ollerhead and a substitute nurse tested 18 students and 6 teachers with 5 to 8 swabs per pool. The students and staff did their own swabbing and all took instruction very well. She said next Monday's pool will have more and we hope to get the results in 24-48 hours. She said if a pool comes back positive we will PCR test the people in that particular pool. Ms. Roach, Hull High School nurse, said 47 people were tested at the high school and all but 5 teachers were in the pools because we are not putting more than two teachers in each pool. She said as more people sign up we will get more staff. She said there were a few minor glitches but for the most part it went very well. Ms. Kuehn said that Ms. Ollerhead has done a lot of work to set this up and we will continue to pilot 8th and 9th grade and then add more grades. She said there was a parent forum a few weeks ago.

Teacher Vaccinations – Ms. Kuehn said that she and the School Committee believe the health and safety of our staff is ultimate and Haley has been helping her peers set up appointments to be vaccinated. Ms. Kuehn said some have been vaccinated and she is advocating thru Manet Community Health and Senator Patrick O'Connor and Representative Joan Meschino along with other south shore towns.

Potential Board of Elementary & Secondary Education Vote on Remote and Hybrid Models – Ms. Kuehn announced that as of today April 5th all students in elementary schools in Massachusetts will go to school 5 days a week in-person. She said there will be more news to follow on middle and high schools but in Hull we are ready for the 5 days.

5.3 FY22 Budget Discussion

Special Education – Ms. Kristen Ryan, Director of Student Services, presented the FY22 proposed special education budget, which included the following:

- Continuum of instructional supports and interventions
- HPS continuum of services
- Prek-12 special education budget breakdown
- Special education expenses

Ms. Ryan answered questions from Committee members.

Mr. DeGennaro reminded the Committee that the next School Committee meeting will be the joint meeting with the Advisory Board on March 22.

5.4 HTA MCAS Testing Resolution

Ms. Kuehn explained that the HTA sent her a resolution for a moratorium on MCAS testing for this spring. She said in the packet is the resolution with some suggested changes for the Committee to vote on. Ms. Peters stated that she is a big believer in testing our students but this year, not so much. She said she does not mind putting it off. Mr. Twombly agreed that this year

we could pass on MCAS and he would have no problem if the Committee wants to pass on this. Ms. Fleming said with the state coming out on Friday and pushing back the MCAS dates she said she thinks kicking the can down the road because she wants to see other districts go first. When asked how many days of testing there would be Ms. Nosek, Hull High School principal, stated 11th, 10th and 9th science would be grade 9, 2 days in June, grade 10 – 2 days ELA, 2 days math, grade 11 2 days ELA and 2 days math plus AP testing. The month of May would be all testing. She also said the graduation requirements are still passing MCAS to graduate. Mr. Minelli said he is in favor of on task instruction whether we vote tonight or next meeting. Let's say I would be willing to sign on to this. Mr. Mullen, HTA co-president, said other towns already signed off. Ms. Fleming said she doesn't want to opt out of taking the MCAS. She said she would rather wait and see. She said teachers are already teaching what is on the MCAS. Mr. Mullen said this doesn't change any patterns of teaching; it is really a petition and can't really change anything. Ms. Fleming said I would rather have the state do something in the long run. Ms. Cappadona, Jacobs School principal, said we had the conversation as administrators and because we have Galileo and the data is real time this changes what this year looks like. She said the teachers are teaching to the standards but there is some loss of learning from last March thru June and now only in school 4 days a week.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: David Twombly

Move to endorse and support the HTA MCAS Testing resolution.

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

Nays: Jennifer Fleming

5.5 Superintendent's Formative Assessment

Ms. Kuehn discussed her formative assessment, which is step 4 in the evaluation cycle, and included the following goals and evidence:

Goal one:

- I will partner with the leadership team to establish and implement a COVID-19 district wide re-opening plan that consistently prioritizes the safety and health of students and staff and over time increases opportunities for in-person learning for all students across the district.

Goal Two

- I will partner with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business to manage the FY21 budget during a pandemic, develop an FY22 level services budget as well as prepare for anticipated continued expenses related to the pandemic that may impact FY22 budget.

Goal Three

- I will partner with the Assistant Superintendent and Sub-Committees of the School Committee to strategize and negotiate successful contracts with the following bargaining units during a pandemic: Hull Teachers Association, Hull Teachers Association Paraprofessionals, Hull School Secretary Association, Hull Nurses and Hull School Custodians.

Goal Four

- I will strengthen the use of data across the district to inform decision-making which supports the 2019-2025 Hull Public Schools Strategic Plan.

Committee members did not have any adjustments to Ms. Kuehn's goals. They thanked her for her hard work.

5.6 MARS Consulting Group Update

Ms. Kuehn updated the Committee by reminding them that MARS finished their report in May of 2020 and the next step is to set up meeting on April 7th with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Minelli suggested having another meeting before April vacation because parents may be on

vacation the week of our second April meeting. Ms. Kuehn said there will be another meeting for staff.

Ms. Kuehn also told the Committee that the Board of Selectmen voted to move Town Meeting to May 8th on the Turf Field.

6.0 Old Business Items

6.1 Ms. Fleming asked about the Environmental Group coming to a future meeting. Mr. Patenaude said he would be more than happy to reach out. Mr. Twombly suggested having them attend a meeting after April vacation.

6.2 Donations

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Lucas Patenaude

Move to accept the following donation:

- \$500 from Hull High School Baseball Alumni to purchase HHS fitness room equipment
- \$1,000 from Hull High School Football Alumni to purchase HHS fitness room equipment

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

7.0 New Business

None

8.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Ms. Peters said she saw an announcement on Facebook that Mr. Patenaude would not be running for a second term. She said he kept us on target and she will miss him on the Committee. Mr. Patenaude said he has decided not to run for a second term but it was great working with all of you. He added, there are no solutions, there are only tradeoffs.

9.0 Executive Session

Motion: Jennifer Fleming

Second: David Twombly

To enter into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss negotiation strategy with respect to collective bargaining (HTA & Custodians). An open meeting may have a detrimental effect. The Committee did not reconvene in Open Session.

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

10.0 Adjournment

Attachments:

1. FY22 Proposed Special Education Budget

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull School Committee were approved and adopted by the Committee on April 5, 2021

Lucas Patenaude, Secretary
Hull School Committee