

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT  
L.M. JACOBS SCHOOL LIBRARY  
HULL, MA 02045  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Twombly, Chair (present)  
Jennifer Fleming, Vice Chair (present)  
Ernest Minelli, Secretary (present)  
Kyle Conley, Member (present)  
Stephanie Peters, Member (present-arrived at 9:35 am)

OTHERS PRESENT

Judith Kuehn, Superintendent  
David DeGennaro, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Facilities

In the afternoon the following people arrived:

Nicole Nosek, Hull High School Principal  
Daniel Mastrogiacono, Hull High School Assistant Principal  
Anthony Hrivnak, Memorial School Principal  
Christine Cappadona, L.M. Jacobs School Principal  
Kyle Shaw, L.M. Jacobs School Assistant Principal  
Kristen Ryan, Director of Student Services  
Mary Merrigan, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

Call to Order

**Motion:** Jennifer Fleming

**Second:** Kyle Conley

Move to call the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the L.M. Jacobs Elementary School, Library, at 18 Harborview Road.

**Vote:** 4-0-0

1. In-person or virtual meetings or a combination

The Committee briefly discussed whether to hold meetings in-person, go virtual or do a combination. The group overwhelmingly endorsed continuing with in-person meetings at this time, with the option of using the auditorium in the event of anticipated large attendance for any specific meeting.

2. Masks, distancing, ventilation (CDC vs DESE)

The Committee discussed the following:

- Masks students/staff communicate to stakeholders
- Summer HVAC maintenance
- PCR testing
- Vaccination clinics

Ms. Kuehn stated that, according to DESE, at this time the decisions regarding masks, etc. would remain largely a local decision. Ms. Kuehn and Mr. DeGennaro provided an update of summer cleaning, which included power washing and HVAC maintenance. Walk-throughs of each building will be conducted. Any additional updates will be discussed at the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Kuehn went over the approximate vaccination rates for grades 7 – 12, which range from 52% to 68%.

Ms. Joanne Marshall, Jacobs School Head Custodian, addressed her perspective, bringing up some of the negative side effects of kids wearing masks for any prolonged period of time. She encouraged the School Committee to think about the students' point of view. She noted that there are both physical and mental health considerations as we contemplate what policies to adopt for the coming school year.

### 3. HTA conversations/observations with SC

Ms. Kuehn is open to Committee members being invited into the schools for specific visits. She said this represents a nice opportunity for even greater articulation. Ms. Conley offered to facilitate communication with HTA leaders and fellow Committee members embraced her enthusiasm for the topic. Ms. Kuehn stated that HTA Representative Report will be on every School Committee agenda, where they can share good news.

### 4. Student reps to get input on student perspective

The Committee agreed that having a regularly-scheduled agenda item for student input at our meetings would be helpful.

### 5. Appointment to Subcommittees

The committee appointed members to various subcommittees as listed:

- Budget Subcommittee - Stephanie Peters, Jennifer Fleming
- Custodian Negotiating Team – Ernie Minelli
- HTA Negotiating Team – David Twombly, Stephanie Peters
- Nurses Negotiating Team - Stephanie Peters, Ernie Minelli
- Paraprofessional Negotiating Team – Kyle Conley, David Twombly
- Secretaries Negotiating Team –Jennifer Fleming, David Twombly
- Capital Outlay Committee – Stephanie Peters
- Sustainability Committee – Jennifer Fleming
- Economic Development Committee – Ernie Minelli
- Best Educational Use of School Facilities (Ad-Hoc) Subcommittee –Jennifer Fleming, Ernie Minelli
- Anti-Racism Committee – Ernie Minelli, Kyle Conley

### 6. Open Contracts

Paraprofessionals, Nurses, Secretaries and Custodians are all up for renegotiations this year, as they contracts expired in 2021.

### 7. FY21 Budget Update – End of Year

David DeGennaro, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Facilities, described how there were some efficiency-oriented cost savings that we realized due to the changing realities of the 2020-

2021 academic year. He also noted that we paid the first year of the turf field bond. He noted our continued partnership with Wellspring to promote nutritional meal availability for the Hull community.

8. FY22 Budget – Hiring update

Ms. Kuehn said it is still early but we are in good shape so far with new hires. She said four long-term substitute teachers have been hired to fill various openings and many of the educators already hired have teaching experience in another district or in private school.

9. ESSER I, II, III overview/input on ESSER III

Ms. Kuehn when over the ESSER I and II proposed expenditures, which included calm classroom, toolbox, continuity for various programs to promote a positive learning environment, working with South Shore Youth Connections, using My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) to build student's strengths.

Ms. Kuehn said she is actively working on the ESSER III component and will seek community input from stakeholder via a survey in anticipation of the upcoming October 4<sup>th</sup> due date for submission. Mr. Twombly and Ms. Conley brought up professional "coaching" as a potential element of the ESSER III package for which we will be applying.

10. School Committee Meeting Dates

Ms. Kuehn stated that the School Committee meeting dates that were voted on during the school year need to be updated due to Rosh Hashanah and Juneteenth.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Jennifer Fleming

Move to approve the School Committee meeting dates for FY22 with the changes mentioned above.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

11. School Calendar Update

Ms. Kuehn stated that the 2021-2022 School Calendar needed to be updated due to changes in the HTA MOA that was voted on and approved.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Jennifer Fleming

Move to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar with the changes to early release days mentioned above.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Administrators arrived for lunch and to continue the meeting at 12:00 pm.

12. Memorial School Construction Update

Mr. DeGennaro updated the Committee on the Memorial School construction project with a roof and masonry construction overall timeline for some initial activities during the 2021-2022 academic year. He noted that we would be utilizing funds approved by Town Meeting for specific repairs at the Memorial School.

### 13. Ad Hoc & Liaison Committee Update

Ms. Kuehn updated the Committee on the Ad Hoc & Liaison Committee saying she and Mr. Minelli continue to serve on the Liaison Committee and they, along with Ms. Fleming, will be serving on the slightly larger Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Kuehn said there is a calendar with a timeline of future meetings, stating the first meeting is scheduled to be held on September 14, 2021. There will also be focus groups in an effort to maintain outreach and communication with various school and community stakeholders. Committee members asked questions and raised concerns, which included; maintaining the context of the overall situation (town buildings and school buildings), how abutters may be impacted by any prospective changes, creative considerations as we envision the future of instructional delivery K-12, what could we potentially offer in two building compared to three, this represents a 100-year plan and the realities of long-range future with new committee members representing various boards and new Town Manager, etc.

### 14. Professional Development Overview

Ms. Kuehn gave a brief overview of the scheduled professional development opportunities for the year. She said there will be a focus on equity and access to learning, specifically, listening to our students, hearing their voices, learning from them. Other professional development opportunities will include the high school Teachers as Scholars program, which includes two-day seminars where teachers choose topics of interest to them and bring it back to their school to share during staff meeting, with a focus on how teachers will incorporate this learning into their classroom. The district will also be resuming “Learning Walks” with two teams of four educators to focus on reviewing best teaching practices.

### 15. Curriculum & Assessment

Dr. Merrigan, Director of Curriculum and Assessment gave a brief update on curriculum and assessment, noting that McGraw-Hill met various indicators for the middle school population and we will be piloting their social studies curriculum. She also noted that 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be getting Chromebooks, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will maintain their iPads, Galileo is correlated to the Mass state standards, formative assessment shows what happens in the context of day-to-day learning and represents important information especially as teachers adjust their lesson plans to meet students’ needs. Dr. Merrigan will be attending the “Imagine Learning Partner Forum Conference” this year.

### 16. Summer Programs 2021

Ms. Ryan, Director of Student Services and Ms. Merrigan, gave an update on the different summer programs. Dr. Merrigan said students and teachers participated and were engaged in this summer’s learning program. She said there will be a summer boot camp the week of August 16, targeting middle school that may benefit from extra support. She stated 54 students used the high school fitness room this summer. Ms. Grosso, Hull High School Librarian, is working with specific students to engage in “credit recovery” to get back on track to graduate on time.

### 17. MMS Handbook Adoption

Mr. Tony Hrivnak, Memorial School Principal, presented the Memorial School Handbook for adoption. The summary of changes are as follows:

- Dates, names, and other routine edits that do not affect the meaning of the handbook have been made.
- The Table of Contents will update automatically once the changes are accepted.
- Page 2: The non-discrimination statement has been updated here and on other

- pages to improve consistency between the three schools.
- Page 3: References to iPads were changed to iPads/Chromebook throughout the handbook unless a section specifically referred to only one type of device.
- Page 14-17: The field trip policy was updated to reflect the most recent school committee policy.
- Page 22: The school cancellations and delayed openings text was updated to reflect current practices.
- Page 33: The Code of Conduct was updated to reflect recent changes to the high school Code of Conduct.
- Page 37: Text was updated to reflect the change to the Internet and Other Technology Resources Acceptable Use Policy and the Mobile Computing Device Acceptable Use Policy.
- Page 55: The Internet and Other Technology Resources Acceptable Use policy was update to reflect the most recent school committee policy.
- Page 76 and 77: The signature pages were updated to reflect due dates other changes previously mentioned.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Ernest Minelli

Move to approve the Memorial School 2021-2022 Handbook with the changes presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

#### 18. HHS Handbook Update

Mr. Daniel Mastrogiacomo, Hull High School Assistant Principal, presented one additional change to the 2021-2022 Hull High School Handbook that was changed after the Committee voted on the handbook in June.

The following change was made to the handbook:

~~Hats, Hoods, bandanas, sunglasses (worn anywhere on the head), and sweatbands are not to be worn in the building between the hours of 7:25 a.m. and 2:20 p.m. Students possessing hats during the day will have those hats confiscated.~~ Hats, Outdoor jackets and coats must be kept in the student's locker. Students required to attend detention may not wear the above-mentioned items until released from the program.

**Motion:** Jennifer Fleming

**Second:** David Twombly

Move to approve the Hull High School 2021-2022 Handbook with the change to the hat policy, as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

#### 19. NEASC Collaborative Conference Visit Report

Ms. Nicole Nosek, Hull High School Principal, provided an overview of the NEASC materials I the School Committee packet. She said now we focus on "formative" priority areas and in two years we will focus on "summative" accreditation. She said there is continued work to emphasize the "circles of attention" that emphasize past and present situations to help inform future choices for students.

## 20. School Improvement Plans

### Jacobs School – School Improvement Plan

Ms. Christine Cappadona, Jacobs School Principal, presented the L.M. Jacobs School Improvement Plan, which includes the following objectives and strategic plan for improvement:

- Improvement area one: student achievement
  - Objective: Strategically prepare all students for success in the present through consistent engagement in high-quality grade level instructional materials/strategies along with provision of appropriate scaffolds that make the work accessible.
- Improvement area two: behavioral health and social and emotional learning
  - Objective: Provide Social-Emotional support and learning prek-5.
- Improvement area three: curriculum and instruction
  - Objective: Continue the implementation of best practices to address the academic needs of students.
- Improvement area four: building operations
  - Objective: Update Protocols, addressing DESE & CDC guidelines and recommendations to ensure safety of all students and staff. Protocols will be revisited as necessary to address any changes.

### Memorial School – School Improvement Plan

Mr. Anthony Hrivnak, Memorial School Principal, presented the Memorial School Improvement Plan, which includes the following objectives and strategic plan for improvement:

- Improvement area one: family and community engagement
  - Objective: Improve communication between parents/guardians, the school and the community.
- Improvement area two: curriculum and instruction
  - Objective: Continue the implementation of best practices to address the academic needs of students.
- Improvement area three: Assessment
  - Objective: Using a data-drive process, apply Accelerated Learning methodology to close skills gaps.
- Improvement area four: school culture
  - Objective 1: Build student skills associated with Social and Emotional Learning
  - Objective 2: Develop awareness, design strategies, and implement instruction to promote equity.

### Hull High School – School Improvement Plan

Ms. Nicole Nosek, Hull High School Principal, presented the Hull High School Improvement Plan, which includes the following objectives and strategic plan for improvement:

- Improvement area one: teaching and learning
  - Objective: Review and revise the school's core values and beliefs about learning and develop a vision of the graduate that includes the attainment of transferrable skills, knowledge, understanding, and dispositions necessary for future success.
- Improvement area two: student achievement

- Objective: Create opportunities for students to participate in authentic learning experiences within the curriculum which support preparation for both college and career readiness.
- Improvement area three: behavioral health and social and emotional learning
  - Objective: Provide support to assist students in transitioning back into the post-pandemic, full-time school environment.
- Improvement area four: curriculum and instruction
  - Objective: Continue the process of writing curriculum maps in a common format for all courses in all subject areas that include units of study with guiding/essential questions, concepts, content and skills that eventually integrate the school's vision of the graduate.

#### 21. Childcare program

Mr. DeGennaro and Ms. Cappadona updated the Committee on their ideas for a before and after school program at the Jacobs School. Ms. Cappadona sent out a survey to see if there was interest in such a program and families are interested.

#### 22. Expansion of Community Outreach

Mr. Minelli asked that this item be on the agenda. He passed out a document with ideas outlining specific examples to expand community outreach. Ms. Kuehn indicated that these ideas would be taken under consideration for possible implementation in the future, based on input from the group.

#### 23. Executive Session

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Jennifer Fleming

Move to close open session at 3:03 pm and open in executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(3) – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

**Roll call vote:** Ayes David Twombly, Jennifer Fleming, Stephanie Peters, Kyle Conley and Ernest Minelli

Additional document:

- Memorial School Student Handbook

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull School Committee were approved and adopted by the Committee on October 4, 2021.

Ernest Minelli, Secretary  
Hull School Committee