

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS HULL,
MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Eric Hipp, Chair (present)
Stephanie Peters, Vice Chair (present)
Jennifer Fleming, Secretary (present)
Kelley Huxtable, Member (present)
David Twombly, Member (present)

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools
Judy Kuehn, Assistant Superintendent
David DeGennaro, Business Administrator
Maggie Ollerhead, Secretary to the Superintendent

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Tyrell, Superintendent at 6:04 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the Salute to the Flag.

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Reorganization

Dr. Tyrell opened nominations for chair. Mr. Twombly nominated Mr. Eric Hipp for chair, stating that it is important to keep the momentum going.

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Eric Hipp

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, Jennifer Fleming and Kelley Huxtable.

Mr. Hipp said he appreciated the nomination and would be honored to be the chair again, especially with the important year ahead replacing Dr. Tyrell.

Mr. Twombly nominated Ms. Stephanie Peters as Vice Chair, stating that this is important because Ms. Peters was part of the Committee to hire Dr. Tyrell.

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Kelley Huxtable

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, Jennifer Fleming and Kelley Huxtable.

Mr. Twombly nominated Ms. Jennifer Fleming as Secretary. Again, stating to keep momentum going.

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Kelley Huxtable

Move to approve Jennifer Fleming as secretary of the School Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, Jennifer Fleming and Kelley Huxtable.

7.2 School Choice

Each year, prior to June 1st, 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 at this time and recommended not participating. Dr. Tyrell also mentioned that currently, no towns on the south shore participate in school choice.

Ms. Peters stated that another town voted for school choice in limited grads. She said she would like to look into structuring it to be in certain grades here.

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: David Twombly

Move to not participate in school choice for the 2017-2018 school year.

Vote: 5-0-0

6.0 Business Items – School Committee

6.1 South Shore Vocational Technical Working Group

Ms. Hipp asked for volunteers to be members on the South Shore Vocational Technical working group. The SSVT committee suggested 2 School Committee members and 2 staff members be part of the working group. Mr. Twombly and Mr. Hipp volunteered as School Committee members and Dr. Tyrell as staff member.

6.2 Superintendent Search

Mr. Hipp stated that Dr. Tyrell has submitted her retirement letter and will be retiring effective August 1, 2017. He said that Dr. Tyrell made it very clear that she is willing to work with us. Mr. Hipp spoke with Glen Koocher from Massachusetts Association of School Committee's (MASC) today to discuss how to move forward in searching for the next Superintendent. Mr. Hipp referred to the document he emailed to Committee members regarding the different processes and procedures MASC uses to perform Superintendent searches, which range from a full service search to partial search to technical assistance. Mr. Hipp said there is a lot to think about and the Committee could take time to read the document and think about how to proceed. He also stated that Mr. Koocher offered to come to the June 5, 2017 School Committee meeting.

On a different topic, Mr. Peters told the Committee that at the HTA debate a few questions were raised and she wants to make sure the Committee is responding to the membership in public. One question was related to teachers getting paid a lump sum and some teachers wanting to get paid during the summer. Dr. Tyrell explained that she and Mr. Hipp brought up the issue to Phil Lemnios, Town Manager, and Michael Buckley, Town Accountant. Mr. Buckley came to a negotiations meeting with teachers to explain the issues, including the payroll companies concern that not all employees would get paid in the same manner. They made a two part agreement, which was added to the teacher's contract. All teachers (100%) would be required to do direct deposit and 80% of teachers had to request getting paid slower during the summer. Two teachers did not sign up for direct deposit but said that if that was the only holdout they would switch to direct deposit. Of the 96 teachers on staff only 5

teachers signed up to get paid over the summer and 91 teachers did not sign up.

The other issue brought up at the HTA debate was online courses. Dr. Tyrell said that in FY17 there were thirty-one course reimbursement requests and zero were denied. In FY16 of the twenty-one requests two were denied because the colleges were not on the list of accepted schools. One was from a chiropractic college that did not meet our mission and the other was a third party and not accredited. Dr. Tyrell said there is an extensive list and we accept two on-line courses per year. If not on the list, course reimbursements are taken on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Tyrell said she met with the HTA in 2015 or 2016 and came up with an extensive list and schools need to be accredited and courses in the teachers major. Ms. Peters thanked Dr. Tyrell for her explanations and clearing up any misinformation and encouraged the community to contact any School Committee member or the Superintendent with any questions in the future to get the correct information regarding the schools.

13.0 Executive Session

Adjournment

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Eric Hipp

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:46 p.m. for the purpose of negotiation strategy with the HTA (Paraprofessionals) and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (future Superintendent.) An open meeting may have a detrimental effect. The Committee is not expected to reconvene in Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: David Twombly, Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, Jennifer Fleming and Kelley Huxtable.

These Minutes of a meeting of the Hull
School Committee were approved and
adopted by the Committee on June 19, 2017

Jennifer Fleming, Secretary
Hull School Committee