

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

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

Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent of Schools
Judith Kuehn, Assistant Superintendent
Matthew J. Gillis, Business Administrator
Maggie Ollerhead, Secretary to the Superintendent

The meeting was called to order by Eric Hipp, Chair at 7:11 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the salute to the Flag.

Motion: Stephanie Peters **Second:** Marianne Harte
Move to approve the February 9, 2016 agenda as presented.
Vote: 5-0-0

- The mural was completed at the end of January. He recommended that community members go see it.
- Semi-formal was February 6th. The theme was James Bond. Joseph Coffey was voted king and Kaler Diemer was queen.
- The Mock Trial team is undefeated.
- Winter sports and third term are winding down.

Ms. Ann Gilbert, third grade teacher, presented a petition signed by all teachers stating that they are 100% for the negotiation team. Ms. Tracey Mitchell, grade four teacher, also

stated that the teachers fully support the HTA negotiation team by settling a fair contract as soon as possible. Ms. Karissa Connors, high school English teacher, said the teachers are looking to settle a fair contract with a cost of living adjustment, adding that teachers spend a lot of time and energy here and want to feel value. Ms. Amanda Davis, high school art teacher, said she supports the HTA and granting the HTA what they want in their proposal. She added that there is a 3% cost of living in Massachusetts and she wants the Committee to allow teachers to have a longer lunch and more money.

Mr. Hipp said that he would not comment on specifics but agreed that the contract should be settled and that is why the School Committee filed for mediation. Ms. Harte added, we are all willing to make this work.

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Kelley Huxtable

Move to approve the following minutes with the following changes:

- Monday, December 14, 2015 regular meeting – (replace the word *Stantec* with the word *Gale* in agenda item 6.2), (change the word *Dt.* to the word *Dr.* in 7.1)
- Monday, January 4, 2016 executive session meeting
- Monday, January 25, 2016 regular meeting
- Monday, January 25, 2016 executive session meeting

Vote: 5-0-0

Ms. Huxtable questioned the sentence *The Committee will look into the peanut free issue at the Jacobs School in the future* in the minutes from Monday, January 4, 2016 regular meeting. Mr. Hipp invited Ms. Huxtable to propose new language and postponed the approval of the minutes until the next meeting, allowing time from Ms. Huxtable to pen something.

7.0 School Committee Business Items

7.1 Hull Community Walking Track and Turf Field Discussion

Mr. John Perry, Gale Associates representative, gave a presentation on the pros and cons of natural grass vs synthetic turf. He proposed a synthetic field because of usage and quality of what will be sustained. He said he is not a turf salesman, he is here to give the Committee a lesson on synthetic. He said that synthetic turf would increase the usage of the field by 2 or 3 times, including playing after rain events and winter. Mr. Perry stated that the concrete and drainage construction will last for years. They will strip off the top soil and build it back up with a carpet that should last between 10 and 15 years.

Mr. Perry stated that the maintenance for grass is approximately \$30,000 per year including: mowing, watering, irrigation, fertilizer, and line marking and a limited amount of field use. A synthetic field labor is from \$1,000 to \$2,000 depending on how often you push the pellets around and the field use is increased by 300%. Course of action 1: Natural turf, can't play for 2 years, renovation every 6 years at \$40,000. Net worth value of \$808,000, nvp at year 14 \$1,1312 million. Course of action 2: Synthetic turf, initial cost \$800,000 no loss of use, replace carpet every 15 years. Net worth value \$812,134, nvp at year 14 \$1.092 million.

Mr. Perry discussed environmental/health concerns. Staff infections survive on both natural grass and synthetic turf indoors for multiple days but outdoor survival rate is much lower than grass. He showed several links to safety related reports. The water quality study is ongoing with full spectrum testing – organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, metals, etc. Environmental advantages include on fertilizer run off as with grass because no application of fertilizer, no application of pesticides, water savings and reduced nitrogen. Also, the turf can be recycled after the 15 years and the infill put back in place. Mr. Perry discussed alternative infill's that were a lot more expensive and either abrasive or float to the surface and could be blown into the ocean.

Mr. Perry said that they are right on schedule and will have permitting documents tomorrow; a meeting with the Conservation Commission is scheduled for February 23, 2016. Meetings were already held with the Planning Board, DPW, Town Manager and the Light Plant last Thursday. He said that the project could be ready to go out to bid by the end of February or early March. Things will be in place by the May Town Meeting and if everything works out they can start right after.

Mr. Perry answered Committee and community member's questions and concerns, which included the following:

- The town has done what they can to maintain the current field; a brand new grass field is going to break down if you have 200 to 300 uses per year. We have between 400 to 450 uses because of our lack of fields.
- New grass fields need 3 full seasons to rest, all away games would cost approximately \$20,000 for busses, etc. for high school sports alone.
- The Committee agreed that natural grass is not sustainable.
- There is an 8 year insurance policy, new carpet would be reinstalled in 12-15 years and cost approximately \$585,000.
- The fence, bleachers and scoreboard would not be replaced.
- Every school in our conference has synthetic fields.
- The working committee for the project picked crumb rubber because of the cost (this is bare bones now) and all of our neighbors have it. Mr. Perry does not recommend the alternative infill's because it is very windy at the high school and the other infills would get washed away very quickly.
- Is crumb rubber safe? Mr. Perry will send Committee members several studies from different people that were done on the health and safety of crumb rubber.
- The town will take some of our top soil from the current field to use for a cemetery project.
- Fairly simple project because we are not doing sewer or utilities so it should be straightforward.
- Maybe fundraising for the extras in the future but too much money and no time to fundraise for the project. The Boosters have not raised that much money all together.

Motion: David Twombly

Second: Stephanie Peters

Move to authorize Gale Associates to continue to move forward in the permitting process with this field design.

Vote: 4-1-0 Kelley Huxtable

8.0 Superintendent's Business Items

8.1 FY17 Budget Discussion

Mr. Matthew Gillis, School Business Administrator, presented the following:

Kindergarten – Mr. Gillis presented useful information regarding Hull's kindergarten program, including how to apply for reduced tuition. He said that there are three funding sources for the Full Day Kindergarten program, the general fund, the FDK tuition revolving fund and the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten grant. He outlined the FDK program costs. He concluded by asking the Committee whether to end tuition for full-day kindergarten or leave the tuition at \$3,000 for FY17. Mr. Gillis stated that there is only 1 part-day kindergartener at this time and of the 52 full-day students only 21 pay full tuition.

The Committee discussed the issues, which included the following:

- The inequity of a small group of parents paying the majority of the fees.
- If we went back to ½ days we would lose the paraprofessionals because they are there because of the grant.
- It could attract people to town because we have this resource.
- It is not feasible to make full-day kindergarten free at this point because it would cost \$65,000 and we don't have that money in the budget. Look into chipping away at it.

Athletics – Mr. James Quatromoni, Athletic Director, and Mr. Gillis presented the athletic program. They discussed participation, program expense history, total expenses, projected expenses, Booster's Club donations, sources of funding, current fees, collected fees, gate receipts and alternative fee schedule by adding \$25.00 per sport (except football and hockey) for discussion.

The Committee discussed the issues, which included the following:

- Fear of losing students because of cost.
- More students requesting waivers.
- Offering fewer teams is not in our student's best interest. We want all students to have the opportunity to play sports and need to try and keep the teams we have.
- Look into more co-ops.
- Raising fees is not the answer.

Maintenance – Mr. Gillis presented the maintenance budget. The topics included a brief history of operations and maintenance spending, recommended preventative maintenance and repairs from commissioning reports, samples of recent maintenance projects and next steps. Samples of recent maintenance projects included the following:

- Jacobs Elementary School
 - Applied waterproofing sealant to exterior brick
 - Installed demand control ventilation CO2 sensors to reduce heating and cooling costs
 - Replaced defective sidewalks and repointed front stairs
 - Replaced 22 of 30 gym lights LED bulbs 62.5% more efficient than original bulbs
 - Replaced most elevator electrical and mechanical controls
- Memorial Middle School
 - Installed a tank-less water heater system improving energy efficiency
 - Installed new energy efficient lights with motion sensors in the gymnasium
 - Installed new interior doors to the gymnasium and auditorium

- Installed 6 new operable windows in the auditorium
- Installed waterproofing sealants on exterior brick and block
- Installed new wheelchair lift by gymnasium stairs
- Cumulative significant repairs to sprinkler and fire alarm systems
- Masonry repairs to 3 of 4 sets of exterior stairs
- Repairs to roof and gutter systems
- Repairs to boiler and hot water system
- Repairs to rooftop units and air handling units
- Increased preventative maintenance for HVAC equipment
- Hull High School
 - Installed new HVAC master controls
 - Installed new energy efficient lights with motion sensors in the gymnasium
 - Installed new caulking/weather stripping on windows
 - Installed new scoreboard for game field (with many thanks to Booster's efforts and donations)
 - Replaced A/C systems for 2 computer classrooms
 - Replaced unit ventilator
 - Masonry repairs to entrance
 - Replace and upgrade auditorium lighting to LED
 - Boiler repairs, hot water pump repairs
 - Roof top unit repairs and preventative maintenance
 - Library, office area, exhibition room and auditorium RTU (significant repairs)
 - Preventative maintenance and repairs to classroom unit ventilators
 - Repairs to exterior of greenhouse
- System Wide Improvements
 - Contracted with part-time HVAC Technician who has made modifications to our systems that have reduced our energy consumption and maintained equipment extending its useful life
 - School Dude software used for scheduling space, HVAC and work orders
 - Heat temperature is set to minimum OSHA guidelines
 - Collaborative procurement of natural gas
 - Buildings are kept clean, orderly and maintained in a timely manner
 - Changed bathroom fixtures to reduce water and sewer consumption
- Anticipated Maintenance Projects
 - Replace heat exchanger in Jacobs 2nd hot water storage tank
 - Overhaul 5 hot water pumps at HHS and then add Glycol (antifreeze) to building heating system
 - Repairs needed to MMS auditorium rooftop unit AC
 - Replace six auditorium inoperable windows at MMS
 - Restripe parking areas at HHS and MMS
 - Replace 2003 pickup truck and plow
- Capital Projects
 - Update multiyear capital budget
 - Explore MSBA funding for major repairs to HHS and MMS
 - Explore other capital funding grant programs

Ms. Harte thanked Mr. Gillis for his presentations and for his time in Hull. Mr. Gillis thanked Dr. Tyrell, the School Committee and all the administrators. He said he thinks we

will be happy with Mr. DeGennaro. He said he met with him this afternoon and that we can call him with anything.

8.2 College Board Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll 2015

Dr. Tyrell read the letter she received along with the award. It read, The College Board is announcing the 2015 Gaston Caperton Opportunity Honor Roll , a list of 130 districts across the U.S. that are being recognized for creating opportunities for traditionally underrepresented students. The districts featured on the have expanded access to higher education by providing students with rigorous academic offerings and innovative college-preparation programs. Districts on the honor roll demonstrate significant and consistent growth in the number of underrepresented and low-income students taking college-level courses, and applying to four or more colleges. There is no application to be on the Honor Roll; instead the College Board looks across multiple data sets to identify recipients. To be included in the Honor Roll, districts must have:

1. Increased the number of underrepresented students who took the SAT;
2. Increased the number of underrepresented students who took an AP course and exam;
3. Increased the number of underrepresented students who were on-track for college, as demonstrated by scoring 1550+ on the SAT;
4. Increased the number of underrepresented students who scored a 3+ on an AP Exam; and
5. Increased the number of underrepresented students who sent their SAT scores to at least four colleges.

9.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Stephanie Peters

Second: Marianne Harte

Move to approve the following policies for second reading:

Policy H Negotiations

Policy HA Negotiations Goals

Policy HB Negotiations Legal Status

Policy HD School Committee Negotiating Powers and Duties

Policy HF School Committee Negotiating Agent

Policy HP Staff Job Actions

Vote: 5-0-0

10.0 Old Business Items

10.1 Sub-committees

- Mr. Hipp said the working group on the turf project has been meeting a lot. They met last week and will be meeting again next week.
- Ms. Huxtable said she started the School Committee Goals and will send them out.
- HTA negotiations subcommittee met with a mediator last week and will meet with the HTA on February 24, 2016.

10.2 Donations

None

11.0 New Business

Drug Story Theater - February 11, 2016 the entire community is invited to the high school at 7:00 pm to see teens discuss drug addiction. It is a free event.

Hull High School Quiz Night will be held on

- David Twombly, Secretary
Hull School Committee