

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018

Stephanie Peters, Chair (arrived 7:05 pm)  
David Twombly, Vice Chair (present)  
Lucas Patenaude, Secretary (present)  
Jennifer Fleming, Member (present)  
Eric Hipp, Member (present)

Michael Devine, Superintendent of Schools  
Judith Kuehn, Assistant Superintendent  
Dave DeGennaro, School Business Administrator  
Diane Saniuk, Finance Coordinator

- 1.0 Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by David Twombly, Vice Chair at 7:00 p.m. at Hull High School Second Floor Exhibition Room, 180 Main Street with the salute to the Flag.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda  
**Motion:** Lucas Patenaude **Second:** Jennifer Fleming  
Move to approve the October 15, 2018 agenda as presented.  
**Vote:** 4-0-0
- 3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items  
None
- 4.0 Student Representative  
Senior Marcus Kurciviez commented on the following:
- Homecoming Pep Rally and Dance
  - PSATS for Sophomores and Juniors
  - Girls Soccer games to benefit Breast Cancer Awareness and EM20 Memorial Scholarship Fund
  - A.P. English field trip to Huntington Theatre
  - Junior Class Chipotle Fundraiser
- 5.0 Approval of Minutes  
**Motion:** Jennifer Fleming **Second:** Eric Hipp  
Move to approve the following minutes as presented:
- Monday, October 1, 2018 Regular meeting
- Vote:** 4-0-0

6.0 Superintendent's Business Items

6.1 M.A.S.S. Academic Excellence Awards

Each year the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents provides an award to a senior from every school district in the Commonwealth. The criteria for the selection of this award include cumulative average, class rank, and leadership. This year Mr. Devine presented the award to Andrew DelGuidice. Mr. Devine read a long list of accomplishments during his high school years.

6.2 National School Development Council Awards

Mr. Devine presented the *National School Development Council (NSDC) Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning (NSDC) Awards* to Griffin Bezanson and Grace Waters after reading a list of their accomplishments during high school.

6.3 Memorial School Overnight Field Trip Request – Mr. Anthony Hrivnak

Mr. Anthony Hrivnak, Memorial Middle School Principal, requested permission for grade six students to attend an overnight field trip at the Museum of Science in Boston on Thursday, November 1, 2018 returning on Friday, November 2, 2018. This is an Annual request and event where students spend the night at the Museum of Science and return the following day. The per student cost of \$52 is defrayed by a grant from the Museum of Science and from the PTO.

**Motion:** Stephanie Peters

**Second:** Eric Hipp

Move to approve the overnight field trip to the Museum of Science

**Vote:** 5-0-0

6.4 MCAS Testing Presentation – Ms. Judith Kuehn

Ms. Kuehn began by praising the PreK-Grade12 effort of our dedicated teachers in reaching all students and stating that as a district we pride ourselves on looking at individual students and their needs.

Ms. Kuehn noted that beginning in 2019, all the assessments, with the exception of Science and Technology, will be taken electronically online. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have iPad and Chromebook carts to get them familiar with the technology.

Ms. Kuehn explained the difference of School and District scores. District scores are slightly different due to out-of-district students. We report school scores because they represent students we are educating in district, with our curriculum. Ms. Kuehn also pointed out that the Standards for Meeting Expectations are more rigorous than the standard for the former Proficient rating.

Overall the results are very impressive. The results of the grade 4 assessments were disappointing, but administration is working with staff to dig deeper into the results to determine what went wrong and what we need to do to improve. All others were at or above, sometimes well above, state average. This year's professional development program will feature Math to make sure we are hitting all the targets. We are also

implementing a K-8 Math Intervention program this year.

ELA standards include comparing and contrasting information, literary characters, and plot. We are looking closely at instruction and making changes as needed. Ms Kuehn emphasized the importance of communication between schools and home for carryover learning.

Mr. Patenaude stated the scores were all really encouraging and pointed out that 2% is only 2 students. Ms. Kuehn agreed and stressed it's a benefit of a small district to really tailor instruction.

Ms. Peters pointed out it is really impressive to see the improvement over the years. She stated many districts get hung up on scores, but as great as these are, the three awards presented earlier are really what it is all about. We have students with a lot of challenges and seeing their success is inspiring.

Mr. Hipp stated his frustration with DESE, saying it's hard to make judgments with changing assessments each year. He is hopeful that we now have a baseline and will be able to make real comparisons. Mr. Hipp also noted the district continues to have really strong scores from girls and much weaker scores from boys. Ms. Kuhn agreed it was good data to have and keep in my mind and perhaps question if we are using a teaching style that caters more to girls or that girls respond more to.

Mr. Twombly asked for a follow up at a later meeting as to what steps have been implemented to try and improve results.

Mr. Patenaude wondered if the online assessments were seen as a hurdle or is it more matter of fact part of life. Ms. Kuehn is confident it will not be an issue as we have the technology available for the students to be comfortable.

#### 6.5 District Accountability

Mr. Devine demonstrated where to find the Accountability Levels on the DESE website and walked through the very detailed reporting available.

### 7.0 School Committee Business Items

#### 7.1 Advertising Policy

Ms. Peters reiterated that all advertising would be outside of school and nothing would be inside of the school buildings. She will bring forward proposed advertising rates at a later date.

The committee discussed the advertising policy and agreed to prohibit all advertising promoting alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or weapons and containing vulgar, offensive, obscene, or sexually explicit content. There was a discussion on prohibiting religious and political organizations from advertising on school property. Mr. Twombly raised the point that there may be Ethics and Civil Rights issues that could be tricky and suggested counsel reviews the policy.

Mr. Devine worries a student may feel uncomfortable seeing a sign against certain issues, transgender rights as an example. Mr. Hipp turned it around mentioning it could empower students to see a sign promoting equal rights.

Ms. Fleming would like the policy to prohibit all political signs. Mr. Patenaude questioned whether allowing advertising on a position is an endorsement of that position. Ms. Fleming stated she believes it is. Ms. Peters questioned if we prohibit political advertising, would that prohibit an elected State Representative from purchasing advertising in support of the school?

Mr. Patenaude would like to see a solid rubric on what is allowed and what is prohibited so that there is something to point to if an advertisement is denied.

8.0 School Committee Policy Issues  
None

9.0 Old Business Items  
9.1 Subcommittees  
None

9.2 Acceptance of Donations  
None

10.0 New Business  
None

11.0 Approval of Warrants  
None

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members  
Mr. Devine provided a recap of the Realtor Open House. Approximately 20 realtors came and they heard from the three principals on the great things happening in their schools. The most impactful part was when High School Librarian Tara Grosso spoke about moving with her family from Hingham about two years ago and the difference in their lives since moving has been profound. Ms. Fleming spoke about her experience raising a young family in town and her children's experiences in the Hull Public Schools. Realtors also had the opportunity to tour the schools.

It was noted that the Eighth Grade Open House is scheduled for October 25 at 6:30 pm at Hull High School.

13.0 Adjournment  
**Motion:** Stephanie Peters                      **Second:** Lucas Patenaude  
Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41pm  
**Vote:** 5-0-0

Attachments

1. MCAS Testing Presentation

These Minutes of a meeting of the  
Hull School Committee were  
approved and adopted by the  
Committee on November 5, 2018.

Lucas Patenaude, Secretary  
Hull School Committee