

Advisory Board Minutes 3/25/2019

Name	Office	Present	Absent	Absent with notice
David Clinton	Chair	X		
Jay Polito	Vice Chair	X		
Jason Frady	Clerk	X		
Bob Carney		X		
Dan Sullivan		X		
Marcia Bohinc		X		
Jill Dennard				X
Pat Cormier		X		
Peter Larsen		X		
Robyn Healey		X		
Steve Kiley		X		

Dave Clinton calls the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance are Town Manager Lemnios, Mike Buckley, members of the School Committee: Stephanie Peters, Eric Hipp, David Twombly, Jennifer Fleming, and Lucas Patenaude, Superintendent Mike Devine, Assistant Superintendent Judy Kuehn, Dave DeGennaro, Maggie Ollerhead, Diane Saniuk, Scott Paine, Principal Cappadonna, Principal Hrivnak, Principal Nosek, Robin Hull, Susan Mann, Susan Sloan, Randall Gould

No Town Manager Update

School Committee is called into session by Stephanie Peters. It is Dave Clinton's fault that School Committee opened their meeting behind schedule.

Hull High School Turf Field Bond Article -Mike Devine Presentation

While there is lots of disagreement about what to do about the field, the current condition of the field is deplorable. The field currently sees 500 uses per year. Football, Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, JV Baseball all use the field. Gale Associates are experts in athletic fields and state that no natural grass field can sustain more than 250 uses per year. Donors put dirt, seed, and fertilizer on the field annually to no avail. It is wrong to deny Hull students the opportunity to play in Hull. Previously the committee looked at grass. The cost to use grass is initially \$1.2 million. The field would have to be closed for a year and we would have to try to play home games in Cohasset and pay to rent their field and provide transportation for the athletes. Every 4th year the field would have to be taken out of service to rest and be refurbished at a projected cost of \$300,000. We would have increased costs for water, fertilizer, painting, and maintenance of a grass field. The turf field will require grooming a couple of times each season. This is accomplished with a rake towed behind a tractor. This process is a few hours each time and would be handled by the Athletic Director. Scott Paine has experience with this from his time at Norwell.

Students play every away game except for Rockland on artificial Turf. Mike Devine's children play on turf in Marshfield. There are no research-based publications linking cancer to crumb rubber. The anecdotal evidence that has come up has all been debunked.

There are other turf fields close to the ocean such as Coast Guard Academy, Gloucester, etc. The field has been approved by Conservation Commission with the stipulation that a wind fence be put in place to contain the crumb rubber. The field is not in the FEMA flood plain.

The bond is a 15-year bond with the cost split between the town and schools. The School Department is expecting to generate ad revenue around the field. The proceeds will go into a revolving fund to offset the school's cost for the bond and generate revenue for carpet replacement in the future. This is a project for the whole town, not just the schools. The walking track will be available for residents to use during the school day, during practices and during games. If you go to any of the turf fields around us you are likely to see people using the walking tracks during games. The School Committee has developed pricing for the signs. The signs would be sold on a 5-year contract. Signs on the fence would be \$1000 per year, the press box will be \$3000 per year, the scoreboard will be \$5000 per year. Naming rights for the turf will be \$100,000 per year. The name Finlayson Field will still be used. Other revenue will come from Hull sports leagues, summer leagues, other events, tournaments, camps or events. It is possible that some of the parking in the area in front of the gym can be rented to commuters. There is currently a facilities-use revolving fund that receives money from classroom and gym rental. The school committee will keep field revenue separate and create a new revolving account under chapter 70.

The Bid covers the infrastructure, carpet, a shock pad to reduce head injuries, the walking track, sewn in lines (for football, soccer, and lacrosse), a new scoreboard, new led lighting, goals, goal posts, away bleachers, and team benches. The flagpole, home bleachers, and snack shack will remain. The existing fence will remain, but a new fence separating the home bleachers from the field will be installed. The baseball field will have a flat mound for softball and a portable mound for baseball.

The design of the field allows for drainage through the field without connecting to the storm drain system. The wind screen prevents crumb rubber from migrating away from the field due to wind or flooding.

Fiscal year 2020 payment will be around \$38,000 split between the schools and town. FY21 payment will be around \$218,000 also split 50/50. Each year as principal is paid off the interest decreases so in year 15 the payment is around \$142,000. That is based on current municipal rates are around 3.5%

Phil Lemnios:

What's different this time? Taxes will not be increasing if this bond passes. Schools are attempting to sell advertising to cover the school side. People wanted the roads done first, the bonding for the roads has been approved. Schools will assume 50% of the cost. The schools have skin in the game. Schools demonstrate that sports supplement what goes on in the classroom. He hopes wholeheartedly that this passes. Physical Education is as important as academics.

Mr Devine: we no longer call these activities Extra-Curricular, they are Co-Curricular. Despite what may be out on social media, arts are alive and well at the Hull schools. We have sent 1 student to All State

Band, 6 students went to SEMSBA. The school committee looked at ad rates in other towns and set our rates a little above theirs due to the unique location with visibility from passing boats and commuters. They are looking at local/regional/national advertisers. The bid contains a 10% contingency at \$196,000. Students deserve a safe field they can be proud of. If it doesn't pass they will not stop asking. They will execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee and Board of Selectmen to memorialize the 50/50 cost split. So far 1 town has refused to play on our field. It was right before the tournament and they had their Freshmen team play our Varsity team.

Members of the board asked if this bond authorization will impact our ability to borrow. Mr. Lemnios and Mr. Buckley will provide a debt presentation on April 1. It is noted that Hull's S&P rating is AA.

Mr. Gould asked if the fence can support the banners. Mr. Devine stated that they would be metal signs with holes for air flow. They would be taken down in November and reinstalled in the spring each year.

School Budget, Mike Devine and Dave DeGennaro

The budget presentation is online at Hullpublicschools.org. Funding sources are grants, revolving funds, Chapter 70 (State) and the town appropriation. Grant funding has been decreasing from \$1,145,000 in 2014 to \$547,000 in 2019. We are experiencing decreasing enrollment. On April 8, the School Committee will be looking at quotes for educational use studies for the facilities. They are preparing materials to provide to the consultants. There are ever increasing demands from Federal and State Government. There are increasing curriculum demands. Every student must now take the 10th grade MCAS on a computer. We must have redundancy in our tech connections. Graduation requirements and college requirements for MA university system are increasing. Students need 4 years of English and Science, 3 years of math, social studies and foreign language. Students need digital literacy and computer science. There are increasing social and emotional needs such as depression, anxiety, PTSD, the opioid crisis. Some students require daily counselor check ins. This budget increases out of district special needs costs by 2.5%. The budget covers 2 new adjustment counselor positions and shares the cost of a resource officer with the Hull Police Department. The assistant principal position at the middle school, 2 para professionals and a .25 literacy coach are eliminated in the budget. We have 109.5 in district special needs, 61.5 in district substantially separate (1 student spends ½ day in class and ½ day substantially separate). 28 students are out of district. 10 students attend either Norfolk Agg or South Shore Vo Tech. For the special needs students in district, we pay \$852,000, if they were out of district it would cost \$3,753,000, so we save \$2,900,000 by having them in district where they have more opportunities for Co-Curricular activities or working their way into a regular class.

The educational use study would be funded from within the school budget or revolving account.

The increase in the "Personnel Other" is due to the school resource officer and COLA increase.

Charter School enrollment from Hull has decreased from 39 students to 29 students. This does not come from the school budget. The tuition for Agg and Vo Tech come from the school budget, but the Charter School tuition is money that the schools don't receive that the town passes over to Charter.

Mass School Building Authority provides grants to pay to renovate school buildings. They invited us to apply for eligibility. The process requires us to have a feasibility study approved at Town Meeting. The funds for the study will come from the revolving account that collects rental income. After the feasibility study, there are many steps but this could fund 45% to 50% of the estimated \$1.2 million. The repairs to the middle school include permanent repairs to the front steps, repair and sealing to the brick façade, replace windows in the auditorium, and replace the HVAC system on the roof. If the project is approved by MSBA the cost of the study could be reimbursed in part or full.

We had an engineer in to look at the brick work and he said it is still structurally safe for now. The brick work hasn't moved since he last looked at it. It is noted that these are the same bricks that JFK would have seen in 1947.

Article 28 Citizen's Petition by Robin Hull to complete a facilities study of the schools.

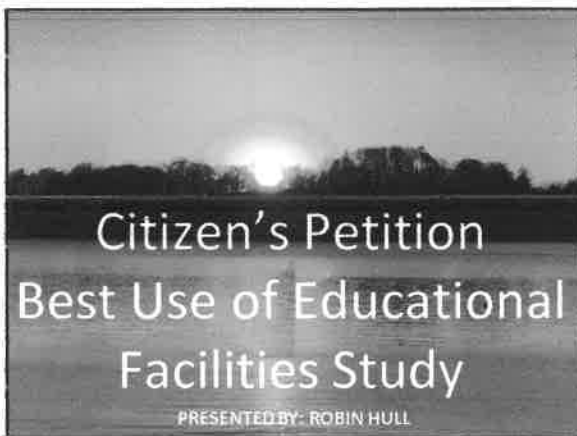
Robin has another commitment and is unable to stay for the hearing. Susan Mann and Susan Sloan wish to proceed in her absence. This is roughly the same article as the one that did not pass last year. They will keep bringing it up until a study is done. They have not gone to the School Committee with the article even though it was suggested last year. It does not identify the specific funding source for the article. The School Committee has the responsibilities for the school buildings. They have the authority to decide what information to provide to a consultant for a study. Marcia advised them to look at the free cash that hasn't been appropriated as a source for the funds. Many on the committee reflect the view that while we respect and appreciate individuals bringing forward citizen's petitions, Town Meeting cannot dictate policy to an elected committee.

Minutes

Minutes of 3/11/2019, Motion to approve as amended: Peter Larsen, Second by Pat Cormier. Motion carries unanimously.

Minutes of 3/18/2019, Motion to approve as amended: Bob Carney, Second by Dan Sullivan. Motion carries unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Marcia Bohinc, second by Bob Carney. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 10:47.



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What is the Best Use of Educational Facilities Study?

This article is a citizens' petition requesting that the town convene a **Best Use of Educational Facilities Study Committee** to develop a RFP that ensures the requested study puts the educational program needs of our schools first, both for now, and in the future.

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What is the intent of this article ?

- To provide our town departments with expert, third party information so they can plan for - and not react to - declining enrollment.
- To ensure our schools can maintain the same level of programs without asking taxpayers for more than the current 59% of the town's operating budget.
- To ensure the schools are fiscally responsible in their use of tax dollars.

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Imagine the possibilities!

Maximizing the use of school facilities might provide options for shared space and resources with other town departments.

A good example of this is happening in Swampscott where the senior center and high school share a building.

The adults:

- exercise in the gym,
- volunteer in the library,
- attend school performances.

The students have learned to:

- knit and play bocce.
- some seniors share the adults life stories as part of an oral history project with 4th grade students.



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Trends Continue to Challenge our Schools and our Budget

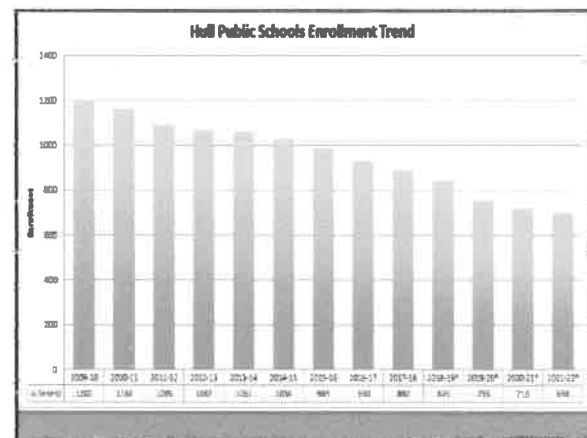
What are the current trends in enrollment?

Enrollment continues to decline.

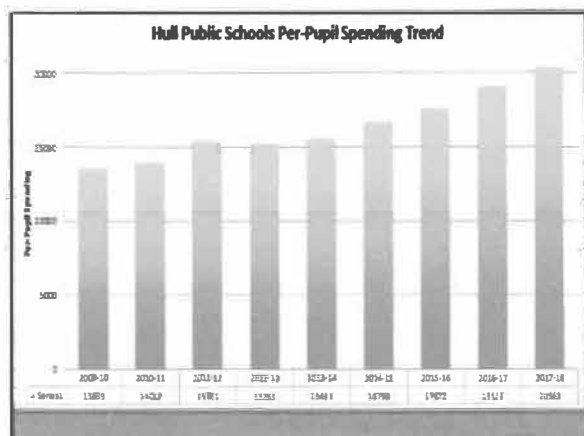
What are the School spending trends ?

School spending continues to increase.

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*What is each schools' capacity?

The Massachusetts School Building Authority has developed a variable GROSS square foot per student standard that is intended to accommodate the differing needs and economies of scale in smaller and larger enrollment facilities. Gross square feet include the entire building, i.e. walls, corridors, toilets and the program spaces.

These standards are reflective of realistic and contemporary educational program goals and are based upon the summation of square foot allocations for each itemized educational space.

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/09/14/963cnu20.pdf>

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2017 Estimates of enrollment

School Building	SG Footage per MBMA *	Gross square foot required by MBMA per student	Capacity	Current 2017-18 student enrollment and % of capacity used	# of additional open spaces
Jacobs ES	117,550 sq ft	167 sq ft	703	410 (58%)	293
Grades K-5					
Marvick ES	67,545	160 sq ft	365	188 (52%)	167
Grades 6-8					
Hull HS	100,780	220 sq ft	458	294 (64%)	164
Grades 9-12					
Combined			1516	892 (58%)	624

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How is this article different from the 2014 consolidation ballot measure?

1. This study will analyze the district's declining enrollment trends as well as its current and future programmatic needs.
2. The study is expected to consider the best use of space in relationship to today's and tomorrow's educational needs. It will identify any anticipated future costs as well as cost saving options.
3. The study may identify innovative ways to use or share space with other departments so that building costs are shared and the school budget goes further towards student costs not building costs.

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A Study is NOT a Mandate!

A Best Use of Educational Facilities Study will provide the schools, and the town, with unbiased evaluation data for strategic and financial long term planning.

A yes vote cannot force the School Committee to comply with this but if they do agree to a study, it may help bridge the divisiveness in our town.

Now that the HP5 strategic planning is complete, its time to include measurable goals and associated costs.

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Massachusetts School and District Profiles

Hull

Enrollment Data

Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity (2018-19)		
Race	% of District	% of State
African American	1.4	9.2
Asian	1.6	7.0
Hispanic	1.9	20.8
Native American	0.0	0.2
White	93.1	59.0
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.0	0.1
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	2.0	3.8

Enrollment by Gender (2018-19)		
	District	State
Male	474	487,594
Female	413	463,816
Total	887	951,411

Enrollment by Grade (2018-19)																
	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SP	Total
Hull High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	77	71	80	1	287
Lillian M. Jacobs	51	64	58	56	56	66	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	415
Memorial Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	63	68	0	0	0	0	0	185
District	51	64	58	56	56	66	64	54	63	68	58	77	71	80	1	887

Kindergarten Enrollment (2018-19)						
Student Group	Kindergarten Enrollment				Full-day Kindergarten	
	Total	Part-time	Tuitioned	Full-time	Total	Percent
All Students	64	0	0	64	64	100.0
High Needs	28	0	0	28	28	100.0
Economically Disadvantaged	18	0	0	18	18	100.0
Students with disabilities	13	0	0	13	13	100.0
African American/Black	1					
Asian	1					
Multi-race, non-Hispanic or Latino	2					
White	60	0	0	60	60	100.0

Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment (2018-19)			
Student Group	Total PK Enrolled	# Student Group Enrolled	% Student Group Enrolled
All Students	51	51	100.0
Female	51	23	45.1
High Needs	51	27	52.9
Male	51	28	54.9
Economically Disadvantaged	51	16	31.4
Students with disabilities	51	15	29.4
Asian	51	2	3.9
Hispanic or Latino	51	1	2.0
Multi-race, non-Hispanic or Latino	51	1	2.0
White	51	47	92.2