

Hull Public Schools

Long-term Space Needs Committee Report

6/21/2010

Long-term Space Committee Members

Co-chairs

Catherine Bowes, School Committee
Kathleen I. Tyrell, Superintendent

Members

Ann Marie Dunn - Parent
Anna Karski - Parent
Lisa Canavan - Parent
Heather Hughes - Teacher
Stephanie Gomes - Teacher
Michael Devine - Principal
Lynda Feeney - Principal
Donna Tobin – Principal
Judith Kuehn – Director of Student Services
Debbe Bennett – Staff

All meetings were open to and attended by the public and media.

Long-term Space Committee

Formed in November 2009 and met on:

- November 10, 2009
- December 12, 2009
- January 11, 2010
- April 26, 2010
- June 7, 2010

Committee's Charge

The charge of the committee was to:

- Consider the long-term space needs (more than 5 years) of the Hull Public Schools
- Consider whether enough space was likely to become available allowing the school department to close the Memorial School
- Report to the Hull School Committee with findings and recommendations

Actual Enrollment v. Enrollment Projections

PreK – 12	2009-2010 Actual	1226*
PreK – 12	2014-2015 Projected	1145*

*includes 25 special education out-of-district students

- If enrollment decline is concentrated at a particular grade level, space may become available.
- If enrollment decline is spread between many grade levels, space would not become readily available.

Space Requirements in the 21st Century

- Today's schools require more square footage per student than in the past.
 - Study halls – eliminated per Education Reform Act of 1993
 - Computer labs – now necessary
 - More special education classrooms required
 - Occupational therapy
 - Physical therapy
 - Speech
 - Resource rooms
 - Self-contained classrooms

Temporary Room Vacancies

- Hull High School

- Wood shop
- Metal shop
 - Programs eliminated in FY09

- Memorial Middle School

- 6 classrooms
 - 3 social studies positions eliminated in FY10 – 3 classrooms.
 - Foreign language program reduced in FY09 and eliminated in FY10 – 2 classrooms.
 - Reading program reduced in FY09 – 1 classroom

Temporary Room Vacanciescontinued

- Jacobs Elementary School
 - 5 classrooms
 - 5 positions eliminated in FY10 resulting in larger class sizes

The committee studied housing all students in two buildings.

Jacobs School: PreK - 7th grade

Hull High School: 8th - 12th grade

Advantages of Consolidation

- More siblings in same buildings on same schedules
- 8th graders may participate in high school sports and some co-curricular activities
- Fewer transitions for students

Jacobs School PreK – Grade 7

■ Space

- Not enough room for all grade levels to attend art, music, and physical education in specialized spaces
- Some art classes taught as “art-on-a-cart”
- Some music classes not in sound-muffling rooms
- Some physical education classes sharing gymnasium space
- Science labs not available
 - Cost to retrofit 2 classrooms as science labs approximately \$300,000
- No teacher workrooms, planning rooms, large group-meeting areas
- No specialized reading instructional space

Jacobs School PreK – Grade 7continued

- Space...continued
 - Less access to computer labs
 - No lockers for grades 6 and 7
 - Cost to provide lockers approximately \$30,000
 - No changing areas and showers for middle school physical education classes
 - Cost estimate not obtained due to lack of space to be retrofitted
 - Concerts, productions, open houses and parent/teacher conferences occur at different times/days to accommodate seating and parking needs

Jacobs School PreK – Grade 7

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- Staffing
 - No significant reduction in teaching staff
 - Slight reduction in support staff
- Cafeteria
 - Two grade levels served at one time
 - Increased lunch time and reduced amount of time-on-learning
- Parking
 - Not enough parking for staff
 - No parking for volunteers or visitors

Hull High School – Grades 8 - 12

■ Space

- Teachers required to share rooms
 - Grade 8 uses 4 – 5 classrooms
 - Teachers have no access to their classrooms, computers, or materials during planning periods
 - Decrease in group activities, projects, labs, simulations and other forms of student-centered learning
 - Decrease in individualized instruction for all students
- No lab facilities available to 8th grade students
- Reduction in special education resource space

Hull High School – Grades 8 – 12

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■ Space...continued

- No Advisory Program due to lack of space
- No common planning time due to lack of space and scheduling constraints
- Loss of 2 full computer labs, leaving one small lab
- Difficulty providing necessary gym space for all physical education classes and co-curricular activities
- No lockers for grade 8 students
 - Cost to provide lockers approximately \$15,000

Hull High School – Grades 8 – 12

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- Staffing
 - No significant reduction in teaching staff
 - The school nurse, school secretary, guidance staff and counseling staff responsible for 90 additional students

District-wide Issues

■ Busing

- There are currently 9 buses for the Jacobs School. An increase of 4 buses would be necessary increasing size of fleet to 13 buses.
 - Cost approximately \$225,000

District-wide Issues continued

- South Shore Educational Collaborative
 - Currently, six classrooms devoted to the SSEC, which provides a \$24,000 annual tuition credit for the district
 - No classroom space available in district for SSEC
 - Without this program Hull students would have to travel up to an hour to attend other out-of-district programs, resulting in additional transportation costs – approximately \$50,000 annually

District-wide Issues continued

- South Shore Educational Collaborative ..continued
 - Having SSEC programs in our schools, increases the likelihood of transitioning Hull students back into HPS
 - Having SSEC students in our schools allow Hull children to be educated in Hull
 - SSEC students are able to participate in physical education, art, music

Recommendation

- Significant decrease in already limited educational opportunities and programs
- Loss of middle school concept
- Decrease in availability of technology for student use at all levels
- Daily interaction between 3 year olds and 12 or 13 year olds
 - No way to segregate age groups without significant cost increases
- Daily interaction between 13 year olds and 19 year olds
 - No way to segregate age groups during school day, on buses or in locker rooms without significant capital and operating cost increases

Recommendationcontinued

- Not in the best interests of the children of Hull to close the Memorial School within the next 5 years
 - Return to crowded (not over-crowded) conditions
 - Significant costs to retrofit Jacobs and Hull High School
 - Significant increase in regular education transportation costs
 - Significant increase in special education transportation costs
 - Loss of SSEC tuition credits and opportunities

Recommendationcontinued

- Explore possible temporary complementary municipal uses such as library or Town Hall for administration wing
 - Investigate MSBA's financial claims if school administration and/or Hull Family Network moved into Memorial School
 - If allowed by MSBA, offer space for complementary temporary municipal uses

Recommendationcontinued

- Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) requires superintendent of schools to provide six month notification if school building or portion of school building is not being used for educational purposes
- MSBA may reclaim reimbursement funding from town