

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2002

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Shipps, Vice Chair

John Lidington, Secretary

Stephen Avakian, Member

Rhoda Kanet, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools

Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching

William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer

Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent

A. Approval of Agenda:

John Lidington made a **motion** to approve the agenda as presented. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

B. Input from Public:

None

C. Student Representative's Report:

Mark Saville reported on the following:

- Student government Day at the State House;
- VFW Voice of Democracy Contest;
- Sportsmanship Awards;
- Forensics Team's Activities;
- Play Production of *Barnum*;
- Final football game;
- AP English class;
- Ninth grade field trip;
- AP Environmental Science class.

D. Superintendent's Reports, Requests, Announcements, Presentations and Recommendations:

1. Adoption of Edited Vision Statement for Hull Public Schools (SC # 1,2)

Superintendent stated that at a recent School Committee retreat various changes were recommended for the Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values and School Committee Goals. Dr.

Reynolds requested School Committee formally adopt the Hull Public Schools Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, and School Committee FY03 goals with changes. Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to adopt the Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values and School Committee FY03 goals. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

2. Adoption of Objectives for Superintendent for FY03 (SC # 1-4):

Superintendent stated that Superintendent objectives are tied to each School Committee goals.

Superintendent objectives in the future will read that the Superintendent create action plans under each

School Committee goal. She will present those action plans and the extent the goals have been realized in a report to the School Committee by the second meeting in January 2003. Rhoda Kanet suggested discussing this issue tonight and voting it at the next meeting because she had some questions in regards to the wording. Ms. Kanet suggested the following changes:

- Adding outcome measures to each objective so the outcomes are identified relative to the four goals;
- #3 add 3.2 that the Superintendent has responsibility in providing up to the date instructional resources that address the diverse range of career and life options.

Stephen Avakian stated that at the retreat it was discussed that the Superintendent would report to School Committee on her objectives in four-month intervals. Superintendent stated she would report back to School Committee in January 2003 and April 2003.

3. Presentation on *Physics First* Project (SC # 1-4):

Dr. Gerald Fournier gave a PowerPoint overview of the "what", "when" and "why" of *Physics First* (Active Physics). Dr. Fournier discussed the sequence of science courses; that knowledge in physics fosters knowledge in chemistry; and what districts that have adopted Active Physics have seen in students. Robert Corcoran gave an overview of the "how" of *Physics First (Active Physics)*. Mr. Corcoran discussed the real world problems that students solve. Shannon McCarthy and Daniel Donnellan, high school students helped School Committee and Superintendent with an experiment in half-life of radioactive atoms by using two paper plates, a record sheet, graph paper and m & m candies. School Committee commended Mr. Corcoran and his students.

4. Request for Approval of Forensics Field Trip:

Gregory Cunningham, Hull High School Forensics Coach, requested permission for the Forensics team to attend two out of state field trips. The first is the Villiger Tournament at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA on November 23 and 24, 2002. The second is the Regis/Loyala tournament in New York City on January 25, 2003.

School Committee discussed:

- Funding;
- Number of days students will be missing classes;
- Number of students;

School Committee requested:

- Forensics team to perform a Forensics demonstration at a future School Committee meeting;
- Forensics team to perform a Forensics demonstration to be shown on Channel 22.

Superintendent stated the Forensics team would come to the first School Committee meeting in February 2003.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve the Forensics out of state field trips to Philadelphia, PA on November 23 and 24, 2002 and to New York City on January 25, 2003. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Chair requested that item #8 be placed before item #5.

8. Proclamation of Appreciation for Carl Katzeff (SC # 4):

Superintendent thanked Carl Katzeff for his time and effort he has done for the students, schools and Town of Hull. Dr. Reynolds read a letter regarding the many significant contributions Mr. Katzeff has made (copy attached). Carl Katzeff thanked School Committee and Superintendent for the kind words. Mr. Katzeff stated that things are not done by one person.

School Committee stated the following about Mr. Katzeff:

- He did outstanding work on the final formulas for the debt exclusion.
- How he demonstrated that one person can stand up and make a difference.
- His excellent vision, goals and objectives for public education.

5. Report on Academic Support for Hull High School Students (SC # 1,2):

Superintendent discussed the academic support that high school students are receiving. Dr. Reynolds gave a breakdown of the number of students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who have been placed in remedial classes based on each student's MCAS scores.

6. Adoption of School District Improvement and Professional Development Plan (SC # 1,2):

Superintendent gave an overview of the Hull Public Schools District Improvement Plan and District Professional Development Plan for FY03. Dr. Reynolds noted that this is a requirement of the state. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adopt the District Improvement plan and District Professional Development Plan for FY03. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members approved the motion. Chair asked Superintendent to schedule a date to update the School Committee on the District Improvement Plan. Superintendent stated she would present such an update at the first School Committee meeting in May 2003.

7. FY03 Budget Update (SC #2):

William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer presented School Committee with an update of the expenditures and encumbrances in the FY03 budget. Mr. Hurst stated the FY04 budget would be presented to School Committee shortly.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- Are there any warnings in the current budget?
- When is the next Budget Subcommittee meeting?

School Committee discussed:

- Looking carefully in next year's budget regarding high school salaries and district transportation accounts.

School Committee requested:

- A monthly percentage change for each line item in the budget;
- An average dollar amount spent in each line item.

Mr. Hurst responded to questions from School Committee.

9. Report on Rededication Ceremony for Memorial Middle School (SC #4)

Superintendent thanked everyone who assisted with the rededication. She stated the following regarding the rededication ceremony:

- A wonderful job was done by all regarding the rededication ceremony;
- The chorus and band made us proud;
- An excellent number of community members came to the dedication.

School Committee members thanked the following:

- Everyone who helped organize the rededication;
- Chorus and band who sang and played at the rededication;
- Students who spoke at the rededication;
- Townspeople who spoke at the rededication.
- Dr. Kathleen Reynolds and Bruce Berman.

E. Approval of Minutes:

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve the School Committee minutes for the October 15th and the October 28th meetings as presented. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

F. School Committee Policy Issues:

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept the following policies from Section A for adoption:

- AA -School district Legal Status;
- AC – Nondiscrimination;
- ACA – Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex;
- AD-E1 – Mission statement – core values;
- AD-E2 – Hull High School Mission Statement;
- ADA – School district Goals and Objectives;
- ADD – Safe Schools Policy
- AE – Commitment to Accomplishment.

Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

Superintendent stated she felt the current policy AD Educational Philosophy was unessential. John Lidington made a **motion** to reject current policy AD and to have policy AD rewritten to refer to our mission statement. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Superintendent requested holding policy ADC-E Tobacco-free workplace agreement until the next School Committee meeting.

Rhoda Kanet made a motion to accept the following policies from Section A as second reading:

- AB – The People and Their School District;
- ACAA – Sexual Harassment (also GBB);
- ACE – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap.

John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

Rhoda Kanet requested the following change on Student Records policy JRS-R:

- Page 2 first line add **members of the** after the word evaluation and before the word team.

Rhoda Kanet made a motion to adopt policy JRS and JRS-R student records with change. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

G. Old Business:

1. Report from School Building Committee:

Rhoda Kanet reported that at the last Building Committee meeting she brought up her concerns about communication between the classrooms and the office at Hull High School. Ms. Kanet stated her concerns are:

- Safety issues;
- Unknown people walking throughout the building;
- Teachers being in three different locations during the two-year construction.
- Every classroom should have a walkie-talkie;
- Cost issue.

Ms. Kanet stated she contacted vendors to asked approximate cost for communication in twenty classrooms. She requested getting a price quote to see if enough walkie-talkies could be purchased for the same price as the recommended twelve.

Superintendent stated that because of our location, airplanes flying over, and the Coast Guard Station, etc., the need for multiple channels and possibly a less expensive walkie-talkie will not work. Dr. Reynolds has requested Rhoda give her the names of the vendors and Dr. Reynolds will ask Technologist Consultant to give his opinion if less expensive walkie-talkies will work at HHS. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** that the Hull School Committee supports for safety purposes the establishment of two-way communication between classrooms and the main office at Hull High School and requests that the Building Committee review this recommendation. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. (see below for vote).

John Lidington stated the motion is vague. He asked what is two-way communication. The principal of has already made the determination that two-way communication is adequate if we have twelve walkie-talkies disbursed through the classrooms. Mr. Lidington asked:

- Is School Committee overriding what the principal determined?
- Is School Committee saying a walkie-talkie should be in every classroom or every location that at student is in?

Stephen Avakian asked for some clarification on exactly what the Building Committee asked of the School Committee. John Lidington responded that a question came up at the Building Committee that Frank McDonald got a quote for a system for the high school, which would have twelve walkie-talkies that would be interference free. Rhoda Kanet brought up that she felt twelve walkie-talkies are not enough. John Reilly said that a discussion of adequacy is outside the scope of the Building Committee and therefore that type of question should be brought to School Committee. Mr. Lidington asked if the twelve walkie-talkies have been purchased. Mr. Hurst responded that the walkie-talkies have been purchased.

Stephen Avakian withdrew his motion and suggested that the administration come to School Committee on November 25th with a report on recommendations on where we are and where we are going on this issue including a statement from Frank McDonald. He also requested that Dr. Russell Goyette, High School Principal and Frank McDonald, Owners Representative attend this meeting.

Rhoda Kanet did not withdraw her second to the motion. Chair asked for a vote on the motion. Rhoda Kanet voted aye; Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, and Christopher Shipps voted nay. The motion was defeated.

John Lidington stated that he has an inexpensive unit and he would like to test it in the high school.

Rhoda Kanet continued her Building Committee update stating the Building Committee is in the process of saying good-bye to the MMS General Contractor and hello to the HHS General Contractor.

John Lidington reported that drilling a well to water the “L” Street field has come back with saline. Tests are being run to see if the water is too salty to use on the grass.

Rhoda Kanet stated that a mat has been purchased to help with the slippery stairs at the Memorial Middle School.

H. New Business:

Stephen Avakian set the date of November 25, 2002 from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. for the next meeting of the Community Outreach Subcommittee. Mr. Avakian stated that another volunteer was needed on this subcommittee to replace Joel Gagne. Rhoda Kanet volunteered to be on the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Superintendent stated she would be out of town on November 25, 2002 for the next School Committee meeting. Dr. Fournier will replace Dr. Reynolds at this meeting and the bulk of the meeting will be discussing policy issues.

Rhoda Kanet spoke about the communication in the Jacobs School newsletter regarding backpacks. Ms. Kanet asked if it is necessary for students to carry the weight of textbooks back and forth to school. She requested that this issue be looked into. Superintendent supported this request and would request

individual schools to have conversations at CIA meetings and faculty meetings as to the number of books being carried and why.

I. Approval of Warrants:

Rhoda Kanet questioned warrant #152 about the cost of the Occupational Therapist/ Physical Therapist payment. Ms. Kanet requested examining a better way of payment than an hourly rate. Superintendent stated that Linda Gill, Special Education Director would come and do a presentation at a future School Committee meeting.

J. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members:

Stephen Avakian stated he received a copy of a letter from Frank Kerr regarding windmills. He requested School Committee be kept better informed on windmill issues.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:15 p.m. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.