

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2003

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John Silva, Chair
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

BUDGET WORKSHOP BEGAN AT 6:10 P.M.

Dr. Russell Goyette, Hull High School Principal, explained the FY04 high school budget process. He stated that Lead Teachers and School Council members were involved in the FY04 budget process. The high school is requesting a 5.7% increase in the salary accounts. The total increase requested in the Hull High School budget is 4.6%

Chair read the name and dollar amount in each line item from Hull High School budget. School Committee members placed holds on some of the high school line items for discussion.

Superintendent presented the central office FY04 budget stating she is requesting at 1.1% increase in salaries and a negative 1.3% in the total central office budget. Linda Gill, Special Education Director addressed the special education budget responding to questions from School Committee. Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director proposed cutting the middle school basketball program, freshman boys and girls basketball and the track program. Mr. Sullivan also suggested charging student user fees for sports.

Chair read the name and dollar amount in each line item from the central office budget. School Committee members placed holds on some central office line items for discussion.

Regular School Committee meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

At 7:05 p.m. Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to potential litigation and reconvene back into Open Session. A roll call vote was taken by all School Committee members.

Rhoda Kanet did not go into Executive Session.

At 7:50 p.m. John Lidington made a **motion** to come out of Executive Session and go back into Open Session. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps and John Silva. Rhoda Kanet was not in attendance at Executive Session.

At 7:55 p.m. Chair reconvened into Open Session.

A. Approval of Agenda:

Superintendent requested moving item E1 and item E2 to after item D1. John Lidington made a **motion** to approve tonight's agenda with requested change. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

B. Input from Public:

None

C. Student Representative's Report:

Mark Saville reported on the following:

- Winter sports season is coming to a close;
- Good luck to Christine Sampson who is nearing 1000 points in basketball;
- Congratulations to Kevin Silva who qualified for the NCFL tournament;
- Parent / teacher conferences will be held on February 12th;
- AFL / CIO scholarship exam was held on February 5th;
- Jr. / Sr. Semi formal will be March 8th;
- ASVAB test was held February 3rd;
- College acceptances will be shown on Hull Community Television.

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

1. Report on High School Mathematics Program (SC #1,2)

Dr. Russell Goyette, High School Principal introduced Hull High School Mathematics Teachers. Patricia Canniff, Mathematics Lead Teacher presented an overview of the high school mathematics program including program development, curriculum alignment, content strands, and content standards. Stephen Deyesso, Mathematics Teacher discussed Algebra I. Heather Thompson outlined the Algebra II program. Yale Zussman highlighted the Geometry program. Michael DiMarino described the pre-calculus and advanced placement calculus program. Patricia Canniff showed a summary of the SAT scores, average MCAS scores, MCAS math summary and STAR math scores.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- Are students ready for Algebra I and Algebra II?
- Are teachers able to cover all material in the mathematics courses?
- Are work problems being addressed for MCAS and SAT?
- Is there any gender trend?

Chair thanked Dr. Goyette and high school mathematics teachers for the presentation.

E. School Committee Policy Issues:

1. First Reading: Policy Related to Valedictorian / Salutatorian Selection:

Rhoda Kanet excused herself as a School Committee member.

Superintendent presented a draft of policy JM - Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian for first reading. Dr. Reynolds requested input from School Committee. Superintendent noted that this draft policy is consistent with past practice

Chair read the draft policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Extending the October 1 deadline requirement date;
- Retroactive effects on students;
- Policy should be very firm and well defined;

- State scholarships;
- GPA's of top two students requested by state;

Rhoda Kanet spoke as a parent. Ms. Kanet expressed her feelings about residency requirement. She read excerpts from court cases regarding class valedictorian. She requested a solution of Co-valedictorian.

School Committee requested clarification from Town Counsel on how applicable the court cases read by Rhoda Kanet are to the situation in Hull.

Peter Frazier, parent stated that the DOE qualifications are that a student must attend the school. Mr. Frazier stated he does not agree with having Co-valedictorians. There are scholarships involved with being the Valedictorian.

Chair stated this is the first reading of a proposed policy of the HPS. The only change without objection from the School Committee is placing the word *senior* before the word student in item 1 and item 2.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to change # 3 - line 2 from the word **two** to the word *one* in draft policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. There was no second to this motion. The motion failed.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adopt as first reading policy JM –Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. John Lidington seconded the motion.

John Lidington made a **substitute motion** to accept policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian with an amendment adding item #5 as defining co-salutatorian using the same language as in item #4. (see attached policy JM). Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps, and John Lidington voted to approve the motion. (Rhoda Kanet excused herself as School Committee member and did not vote).

School Committee voted on the **motion** made by Stephen Avakian. AYES: Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, and John Silva; NAYS: Christopher Shipps.

2. First Reading: Policy on Alternative PE Credit:

Superintendent stated that in the past ten years there have been five students at Hull High School that we know of that have received alternative physical education credit. The State of Massachusetts requires students to take four years of physical education. School Committee policy currently requires four years to receive a high school diploma. Hull High School does not currently have a School Committee policy on alternative physical education credit. To assist any student who has been under the assumption that he / she will receive physical education credit the high school principal has created a policy on alternative physical education credit which the superintendent presented for first reading.

Chair stated he was opposed to the alternative physical education policy presented to School Committee. He stated he was not opposed to developing a physical education policy that would address retroactive specific situations. Dr. Silva requested Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director and high school physical education and health teachers be present at the next School Committee meeting for input and discussion of this policy.

Stephen Avakian and Christopher also voiced opposition to the policy presented to School Committee.

Rhoda Kanet speaking as a parent noted that the opt-out option has been available to students in the past.

She stated her support for students taking four years of physical education but encouraged School Committee to look at alternative physical education.

Jack Whooley, Hull High School Council Member discussed the physical education program at Hull High School.

Superintendent stated she would ask the physical education staff to make a presentation at a future School Committee meeting to address physical education benefits to students by program.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to table the physical education policy until the February 24th meeting and to direct administration to bring in a specific policy, which would handle the situations that exist now and then another policy, which would be the physical education policy for the future. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps and John Silva voted to approve this motion.

Rhoda Kanet returned to the table as a School Committee member.

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

2. Report on Selected Superintendent Action Plans Related to FY03 Objectives (SC #1,2,3,4):

Superintendent discussed her selected tasks that have been accomplished related to the business operations from FY00 – 2/20/03 FY03. Dr. Reynolds also shared her plan to bring in an outside consultant to review the technology portion of the Hull Public Schools business operations.

E. School Committee Policy Issues:

3. Second Reading: Policy on Extension of Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 Plus Years of Service:

Superintendent stated Town Counsel has reviewed this policy. Dr. Reynolds noted that she has requested all school unions to sign off on this policy. Chair noted that the money to pay this individual is in the FY04 budget. John Lidington requested that before the third reading on this policy that the sign-off sheets have been received from all unions.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to add *and not to secure the health benefits available to them through the Town of Hull* to the first paragraph. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. AYES: Rhoda Kanet and Christopher Shipps; NAYS Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, and John Silva. The motion failed.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to delete the last paragraph from draft policy on Extension of Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 years of service. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. AYES: Rhoda Kanet; NAYS: Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps, John Silva. The motion failed.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept draft policy on Extension of Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 plus years of service as second reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

4. Additional Policy Considerations:

Maggie Ollerhead noted that all changes have been made to policy AD – Educational Philosophy and asked School Committee to adopt this policy.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy AD – Educational Philosophy for Adoption. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Maggie Ollerhead stated that all changes requested by School Committee have been made to policies in section B except BCB. Policy BCB is being held pending advice from Town Counsel.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept policy BA School Committee Operational Goals as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BA-E – Committee Operational Goals, policy BAA – Evaluation of School Committee Operational Procedures, and policy BB – School committee Legal Status as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BBA – School committee Powers and Duties as first reading. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BBAA – School committee Member Authority as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

John Lidington suggested adding to policy BBBA / BBBB – School Committee Member Qualifications / Oath of Office that all new School Committee members, within one year after their initial election or appointment shall complete at least eight hours of orientation concerning the responsibilities of their office provided at no cost to the individual School Committee members. The orientation shall include but not be limited to a review of school finance, the open meeting law, public records, law, conflict of interest law, special education law, collective bargaining, school leadership standards and evaluations, and the roles and responsibilities of School Committee members.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept policy BBBA / BBBB School Committee Member Qualifications / Oath of the Office as first reading with change. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept policy BBBC – School Committee Member Resignation as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

John Lidington requested the Superintendent to send a memo to the Board of Selectmen regarding policy BBBE after it is adopted.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BBBE –Unexpired Term Fulfillment as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BCA – School Committee Member Ethics as first reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting as first reading. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BDB – School Committee Officers as first reading. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BDC – appointed Committee Officials and policy BDD – School Committee / Superintendent Relationships as first reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BDD-E – Committee – Superintendent Relations as first reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

F. Approval of Minutes:

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept the December 9, 2002 and January 13, 2003 School Committee minutes as submitted. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

G. Old Business**1. Report from School Building Committee:**

There has been no Building Committee meeting since the last report was given. John Lidington noted that the gym would be out of commission for the winter season.

Chair asked if there has been a problem with the heat at the Jacobs School. William Hurst responded that a part is being ordered for an area of the Jacobs School.

Rhoda Kanet requested an update on the calculations on Star Math including actual scores of individual students from the fall and the spring. Superintendent responded that staff is receiving training on this issue. Dr. Reynolds noted she would bring data to School Committee when it is available.

Jack Whooley, parent requested information on the requirements for staff positions. Superintendent responded that job descriptions would be worked on. Chair noted this issue would be addressed when that section comes to School Committee.

H. New Business:

None

I. Approval of Warrants:

Warrants were circulated and signed.

J. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

None

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