

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003

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

Christopher Shipps chaired the meeting.

Budget meeting began at 6:10 p.m.

Superintendent stated the \$11,903,505 school department budget is in alignment with amount recommended by Town Manager. The total increase in the requested budget is 4.2%. Two paraprofessional positions will be eliminated. Track and freshmen boys and girls basketball will also be cut.

School Committee discussed concerns about eliminating track from the budget.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** reinstate track at the original budgeted dollar amount pending approval of the total budget. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion.

School Committee discussed responsibilities regarding the budget process.

Rhoda Kanet withdrew her second to the motion. Stephen Avakian withdrew his motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to maintain the girls and boys track team and empower administration to find the dollars for this program. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Rhoda Kanet, and Christopher Shipps; NAYS: John Lidington.

Frank McNamee, Hull citizen asked if there would be an attempt to save basketball in the budget.

Superintendent suggested that School Committee revamp the entire athletic portion of the policy manual.

Superintendent asked School Committee to identify where the dollars would be coming from in the budget for the track program. Chair stated School Committee would advise administration.

Superintendent requested School Committee approval of Hull High School FY04 budget in the amount of \$2,523,201.

John Lidington made a **motion** to approve the high school FY04 budget for \$2,523,201. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Rhoda Kanet voiced her concern about reserving the option to go back to the high school budget and make changes.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- How many guidance counselors are there at Hull High School?
- Has a date been set for School Committee to go before the Finance Committee regarding the budget?

School Committee requested that a School Committee member be at the Finance Committee meeting.

Rhoda Kanet voiced her desire to cut the Assistant Superintendent position from the FY04 budget.

Ray Joyal, L.M. Jacobs School Principal stated the Jacobs School has cut two paraprofessional positions to hire a fifth second grade teacher. Mr. Joyal spoke in favor of the Assistant Superintendent position.

Marianne Weiner, L.M. Jacobs Curriculum Coordinator stated there have been gains in school achievement, which would be lost without the Assistant Superintendent position.

John Lidington stated under the current budget:

- Central office has dropped by 2.7%
- Bottom line in the budget is acceptable to Town Manager;
- Asked where would the dollars from this position be placed.

Jack Wholey, Hull High School Council Member asked about school grants.

At 7:05 p.m. John Lidington made a **motion** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to potential litigation and to reconvene into Open Session. A Roll Call vote was taken by Stephen Avakian, Rhoda Kanet, John Lidington, and Christopher Shipps.

At 8:05 p.m. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to come out of Executive Session and go back into Open Session. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken by Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, and Christopher Shipps

Open Meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

In absence of John Silva, Christopher chaired the meeting

A. Approval of Agenda

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve agenda as presented. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

B. Input from Public:

Jack Wholey, Hull High School Council Member voiced his concern about budget meetings not being advertised.

C. Student Representative's Report:

None

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

1. Report on K-12 coordination of Mathematics Program (SC #1,2):

Dr. Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning presented a PowerPoint overview of the K-12 coordination of mathematics program. The following was addressed in the presentation:

- 2002-2003 mathematics curriculum;
- Mathematics benchmarks;
- Standard-based math curriculum;
- Performance Assessment;
- Sample of performance assessment;
- Evaluative criteria & Rubrics;
- Meetings between schools;
- Understanding of programs within each school.

Superintendent presented an Exemplar on *An Architect Needed* and explained the process of an Exemplar.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Benchmarks;
- Math Task Force;
- Exemplars;
- Algebra at MMS.

Michele Hanley, 8th grade math teacher, Patricia Canniff, Hull High School Mathematics Lead Teacher and Marianne Weiner, Jacobs School Curriculum Coordinator gave their views on the Hull Public Schools mathematics program.

Kristen Evans, stated Exemplars teach students how to write open-ended mathematic responses and that they are being used on a regular basis in her school district, Milton.

Chair thanked Dr. Fournier and everyone else who participated in this presentation.

Michele Hanley invited School Committee to a meeting on how mathematics ties into Algebra sponsored by the Noyce Foundation.

E. School Committee Policy Issues

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

Rhoda Kanet excused herself from this item.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to add to #3 line two the words **for and attended class** after the word *registered* in policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

Rhoda Kanet, speaking as a parent requested School Committee to re-exam this policy.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Not having a policy in place;
- Selection of Valedictorian;
- Media frenzy;
- Co-Valedictorian;
- Focusing on issue.

Peter Frazier, parent, requested School Committee put a policy in place. Mr. Frazier stated he might revisit the Co-Valedictorian request.

Lynn McCalister, High School Attendance Officer requested attendance issues be part of this policy.

Tanya Dow and Nicole Struzziery, seniors at Hull High School, voiced opinions on this issue:

Frank McNamee, community member, discussed Co-Valedictorian as a solution to this issue.

Dee Struzziery, parent requested information on whether a certain student is considered a high school student. James Lampke, Town Counsel responded that would be addressed at the proper time.

Joanna Frazier, high school senior asked if this issue became tied up in court would there be a Class Valedictorian? James Lampke, Town Counsel responded that anything was possible, but he hoped it would not happen.

Chair read policy JM Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian including the addition to line #3 two the words **for and attended class** after the word *registered* as seconded reading. AYES: Stephen Avakian and John Lidington; NAYS: Christopher Shipps.

John Lidington made a **motion** to alter the agenda by discussing policy IKC – Determination of Class Rank. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

Superintendent noted that she would be meeting with the high school student council members and she would compile input from that meeting for School Committee members.

The following people voiced opinions on the Determination of Class Rank issue:

- Rhoda Kanet
- Peter Frazier
- Tanya Dow
- Nicole Struzziery
- Mark McSweeney

School Committee discussed the following:

- Eligibility of courses;
- Including college courses;
- Weighing courses;
- Defining time line of class ranking;
- Allowing college courses;
- Administering of AP test.

School Committee directed Superintendent to contact surrounding school districts with the following question regarding the Determination of Class Rank Policy:

- Are college courses allowed toward class rank or graduation credit?

School Committee directed Superintendent to:

- Differentiate between college courses / extension courses;
- Define what college courses would be eligible;
- Define a mechanism in selecting / evaluating college courses;
- Define a mechanism on how to count college courses from different types of colleges;
- Define a mechanism to prevent students from taking AP classes to just increase class rank or GPA;
- Should college courses count toward graduation credit and/or class ranking?

Stephan Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy IKC – Determination of Class Rank as first reading. John Lidington seconded the motion

John Lidington suggested he would complete some of the blank information this policy for second reading discussion. Stephen Avakian and Christopher agreed with this suggestion.

School Committee members voted to approve the motion made by Stephen Avakian.

At 10:45 p.m. a short recess was taken.

At 10:50 p.m. meeting reconvened.

Rhoda Kanet returned to the School Table as a member.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to schedule a special budget meeting at 6:00 p.m. and a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 3, 2003 to discuss agenda items not completed at the February 24, 2003 School Committee meeting. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

2. First Reading: Policy on Alternative PE Credit:

Superintendent stated Town Counsel has reviewed this policy. Dr. Reynolds requested approval of first reading from School Committee on the Application Process and Policy Governing the High School Alternative physical Education Program.

School Committee discussed and suggested the following:

- #2 line 1 change *5 hours* to **2 ½ hours**;
- #2 line 2 change *150 hours* to **two hours per week**;
- Application Process 2nd bullet line 1 change *September 7* to **ten business from the start of school**;
- Application Process 2nd bullet line 2 change *January 15* to **January 30th**;
- Physical Education staff attend next School Committee meeting and explain program and benefits to students;
- Dr. Russell Goyette's input and attendance at next School Committee meeting

Superintendent stated she would bring School Committee suggestions on this policy to the physical education staff. Dr. Reynolds noted she has invited the physical education staff to the March 10th School Committee meeting to discuss the physical education program at Hull High School.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to table this item to the next School Committee meeting. No second was made to this motion. The motion failed.

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept the Application process and Policy Governing the High school Alternative Physical Education Program as first reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

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

Superintendent requested adoption on Policy on Extension on Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 Years of Service.

John Lidington made a motion to accept policy on Extension on Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 Years of Service as third reading / adoption. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

John Lidington made a motion to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 11:10 p.m. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.