

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2003

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John Silva, Chair
Christopher Shipps, Vice Chair arrived at 6:15 p.m.
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 6:05 P.M.

Superintendent stated that the L.M. Jacobs School is requesting a 1.6% increase in the budget. The total increase being requested in the Jacobs School salary accounts is 3.7%

Ray Joyal, Principal L.M. Jacobs School, gave an overview of the FY04 L.M. Jacobs School budget. He stated that due to the number of students that would be entering second grade next year an additional second grade teacher is being requested. Mr. Joyal stated that teachers, lead teachers, administrators and School Council members were involved in the FY04 budget process.

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

Superintendent stated that a 5.5% increase in the budget and a 5.3% increase in salaries are being requested by the Memorial Middle School.

Bruce Berman, Principal Memorial Middle School, gave an overview of the requested FY04 Memorial Middle School budget. Mr. Berman stated that teachers, departments, lead teachers, administrators and School Council members were involved in the FY04 budget process.

Chair read the name and dollar amount in each line item from the FY04 Memorial Middle School budget. School Committee members placed holds for discussion on some of the Memorial School accounts.

Chair stated that this year and next year's budget would be very tight. No one knows how much money will be received from the Department of Education. Dr. Silva commended Mr. Joyal, Mr. Berman, the staff of the Jacobs School, Jacobs School Council members, the staff of the Memorial School and Memorial School Council members for the work done on the school budgets.

Jodi Trubia, Jacobs School Council Member spoke of the need for an additional second grade teacher that is being requested in the Jacobs School budget.

School Committee requested the following information:

- A breakdown of how much was encumbered and expended this year;
- The percentage increase in contracts compared to the dollar amount requested in the FY04 school budget;

Superintendent requested questions from School Committee members be e-mailed to her.

REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING BEGAN AT 7:00 P.M.

Chair requested ten-minute recess. Meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

A. Approval of Agenda:

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

B. Input from Public: none

C. Student Representative's Report: none

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

1. Report on Middle School Mathematics Program:

Bruce Berman, Memorial Middle School Principal, presented a PowerPoint overview on the Connected Math Program being taught at the Memorial School. Michele Hanley, 8th grade mathematics teacher, presented the six mathematics strands in CMP. Christine Frederick, 7th grade mathematics teacher, showed projects and math letters that were done by her seventh grade students. Kathleen Sullivan, 6th grade mathematics teacher, demonstrated how Connected Math works in the classroom.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- How does CMP relate to Jacobs School math and high school math?
- How many CMP modules are being taught?
- Do teachers have to add activities that are missing from CMP?
- Is the CMP better for females?
- Do middle school teachers know what elementary students are missing in math?
- Are students at the low end of the spectrum getting more help?
- At what point does the HPS know student progress is being made in the math program?

Chair thanked Bruce Berman, Paul Zauner and Memorial Middle School teachers.

2. Announcement of Award of National Board Certification to Memorial Middle School teacher Christine Frederick:

Superintendent stated she was happy to announce that Christine Frederick, Memorial Middle School Math Teacher, is the first Hull Public Schools National Board Certification Teacher.

Christine Frederick stated getting her National Board Certification was a lot of work but was worth it.

Chair stated that School Committee members are extremely proud of Christine Frederick.

3. Announcement of Hull spotlight on Pathwise Website:

Superintendent stated that the Pathwise Framework Induction Program has chosen to highlight Hull Public Schools on its Website. Dr. Reynolds noted that Marianne Weiner, Christine Frederick and Marylou El-Shazly are Hull Public Schools Co-Coordination of New Teacher Mentor Program.

4. Report on PSAT Administration Results:

Superintendent stated that for the first time 100% of grade 10 and grade 11 students took the PSATs. Dr. Reynolds noted that students who take PSATs do better when taking the SATs. She shared the results of the 11th grade PSAT Verbal, PSAT Math, and PSAT Writing results.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- Is there some way of analyzing what questions students are doing good / bad on?

- What can we do to address the gaps for students?
- Can the PSAT scores be compared to the SAT scores?

School Committee discussed:

- The amount of grammar in the writing portion of the PSATs and SATs;
- The regular SAT test is being changed in 2005.

5. Report on Star Math Pre-test Results for FY03:

Superintendent discussed the Star Math Assessment results for students in grades 3 – 11. Dr. Reynolds compared Star Math FY02 test results to test results for the same students in FY03.

School Committee requested a more detailed report on the Star Math data at the April School Committee meeting.

School Committee questioned the increase in the Star Math results for grade 10 students in the spring of 2002 to the same students in grade 11 in the fall of 2003. Superintendent responded that she would look into this issue and report back to School Committee.

6. Announcement of DOE Approval of Technology Plan:

Superintendent announced that Hull Public Schools Technology Plan has been approved by the Department of Education.

E. School Committee Policy Issues:

1. School Committee Direction on Policy Related to Valedictorian Selection:

Superintendent reported that School Committee does not have a policy on how the Valedictorian at Hull High School is selected. A major issue is how many years a student should or should not be required to be in attendance at Hull High School in order to be considered as class Valedictorian. Dr. Reynolds noted that sample policies have been sent to School Committee members. She asked for direction from School Committee on this issue.

Dr. Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent, gave a summary on the comparisons of Valedictorian selection from select school districts throughout the country. Dr. Fournier noted that most local schools consider GPA and weighted grade for selection of Valedictorian.

School Committee discussed:

- Requirements of being a high school student;
- Policy on this issue must be made;
- Scholarship is awarded to Valedictorian;
- Student who left H.H.S. after junior year;
- Reasons why or why not a student is not at H.H.S.;
- All factors that have to be weighed;
- Attendance requirement;
- Class ranking used for Valedictorian;
- Valedictorian being chosen by peers;
- Definition of enrollment

Peter Frazier, high school parent, expressed his feelings concerning attendance at Hull High School during students' senior year.

Rhoda Kanet, spoke as a parent concerning her daughter's performance while at Hull High School. Ms. Kanet's contention was that no courses were available for her daughter in her senior year

Chair read letters from two Hull High School guidance department counselors regarding class rank.

Rita Frazier, High School parent, voiced her concern about fairness to all students.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to direct the Superintendent to draft one portion of a policy for designation of class Valedictorian / Salutatorian shall be that a student must matriculate on site at Hull High School for a minimum of six semesters, and these semesters must include the last four semesters of his / her graduating class. John Lidington seconded the motion. No vote was taken on this motion.

School Committee discussed:

- Clarity on motion;
- Student taking classes abroad;
- Number of semesters a student should be present in his / her senior year.

Steven Avakian made an **amended motion** to direct Superintendent to draft one portion of a policy for designation of class Valedictorian / Salutatorian shall be that a student must matriculate on site at Hull High School for a minimum of six semesters, and these semesters must include the last two semesters of his / her senior year. John Lidington seconded the motion. (See below for vote on this motion)

Dee Struzziery, high school parent, asked if the motion meant that a student must be on site at Hull High School for three years including his / her senior year. Superintendent and School Committee responded yes to her question.

William Smyth, Hull High School Council Member suggested that if a student declined being class Valedictorian, that student could graduate with her class.

The **Vote** on the amended policy is as follows: Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, and John Silva voted AYE on this motion. Christopher Shipps voted NAY on this motion. Rhoda Kanet abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Superintendent requested from School Committee a general indication of the percentage of off campus courses that the School Committee believes should be in the calculation of the GPA.

School Committee asked the following questions:

- What percentage is now being used?
- What types of courses?
- Is the course an equivalency course?
- Is it a course HHS can not offer?
- Is it a college level course?
- Are college credits being given for this course?
- What is the length of time of the course?
- What is the depth of the course?
- What is the difficulty of the course?

Chair suggested Superintendent come back to School Committee with a draft policy giving a rationale on this issue.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to direct Superintendent that the draft Valedictorian policy include the provision that the honor of the Valedictorian / Salutatorian shall be made by the school department for academic achievement. John Lidington seconded the motion. (see below for vote)

School Committee discussed:

- Selection is based on academics;
- Off campus courses be recommended by guidance counselor;

- Off campus courses be a planned course of studies;
- Valedictorian be considered the highest of academic honors;
- A preamble in the policy is that the School Committee considers this to be the highest of academic honors and, accordingly, is putting the guidelines in place for class Valedictorian selection.

The **vote** on the motion was as follows: Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps and John Silva voted AYE on the motion. Rhoda Kanet abstained from voting.

Superintendent stated that the draft policy would be solely based on academic achievement.

3. First Reading: Policy on Extension of Benefits to Resigning Employees with 25 years of Service:

Superintendent stated this policy is to do with an individual who has resigned from the system and not taken a pension. There are certain benefits given to employees who retire and take a pension. This is to acknowledge the commitment of time a person has given the Hull Public Schools. School Committee asked if this has been approved by Town Counsel. Superintendent responded that it has been approved by Town Council. School Committee requested a copy of Town Counsel approval be sent to them.

School Committee asked what the cost consequences would be regarding this issue.

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept as first reading the draft policy presented by Superintendent on recognizing any individual who has served in the Hull Public Schools for twenty-five or more years and chooses to withdraw contributions from his or her pension fund in lieu of collecting a pension (see attached). Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members **voted** to approve the motion.

4. Additional Policy Considerations:

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to table additional policy considerations to the January 27th meeting due to the lateness of the School Committee meeting. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members **voted** to approve the motion.

F. Old Business:

1. Report from School Building Committee:

John Lidington reported the following:

- Source of leaks at the Memorial Middle School;
- Vote regarding in-house technology person approval on all technology components at Hull High School;
- Asbestos at Hull High School.

G. New Business:

School Committee asked if the January 27th School Committee will begin at 6:00 p.m. Superintendent responded yes to question.

H. Approval of Warrants:

Rhoda Kanet questioned the following warrant payments:

- Warrant #218 - Waxler Funds;
- Warrant #237 - MCAS analysis;

Stephen Avakian questioned the following warrant payment:

- Warrant #235 - Rockland Public Schools. Mr. Avakian requested that Superintendent let him know what is being paid in this invoice.

I. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members:

None

John Lidington made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:25 p.m. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

