

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 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.

A. Approval of Agenda:

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to move item E1 before item D1 on tonight's agenda. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

John Lidington noted that he would be briefly leaving the meeting at 8:20 p.m. to take cast photos of the school play and would return shortly.

B. Input from Public:

Arthur Augenstern, community member, congratulated Dr. Goyette, Staff, students, Superintendent, and School Committee for the great job on the MCAS scores. Mr. Augenstern requested an update on the Industrial Arts area at Hull High School.

Chair congratulated the class of 2003 for being the only community on the South Shore to have 100% of the seniors pass the MCAS test.

Superintendent stated the class of 2003 has set the bar and underclassmen will have to meet that bar.

John Wholey inquired about the following:

- Budget meetings;
- HS Faculty Liaison to the Building Committee;
- Curriculum Coordinators in each school;
- Volunteering.

Chair noted that all budget meetings have been posted. All budget meetings are open to the public.

Superintendent responded to Mr. Wholey's statements as follows:

- HS Faculty liaison is paid by the Building Committee;
- Two full-time Curriculum Coordinators are paid 100% from grants;
- Requested that anyone interested in volunteering should send a letter the Superintendent.

Rita Frazier, parent, congratulated the class of 2003 on the MCAS results.

C. Student Representative:

None

E. School Committee Policy Issues:

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

Rhoda Kanet excused herself as a School Committee member during discussion of this item.

Rhoda Kanet, parent, stated she did not support this policy.

School Committee discussed that this policy was not put together in haste and that significant student and community input had been obtained.

Frank DeNardo, student, stated this was a serious issue involving the entire senior class.

Dee Struzziery, parent, noted it would be a great idea if a student who leaves HHS could come back to speak at the National Honor Society.

Peter Frazier, parent, asked School Committee to consider what the students want.

Rhoda Kanet requested School Committee to clarify if this policy would be effective for the class of 2003.

School Committee responded that this policy is a long-term policy, and it would be effective for the class of 2003.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adopt policy JM- Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian as third reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. Ayes: Stephen Avakian and John Lidington; Nay: Christopher Shipps. Motion passed.

At 8:22 p.m. Stephen Avakian requested a brief recess. Meeting reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

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

1. Report: Implementation of FY03 Jacobs' School Improvement Plan (SC #1,2)

Ray Joyal, L.M. Jacobs School Principal gave a midyear presentation on how the five goals from the FY03 L.M. Jacobs School Improvement Plan have been implemented. Mr. Joyal noted that at the Jacobs School report card conference there was a 99 % parent participation. Mr. Joyal responded to School Committee questions.

Stephen Avakian requested at a future date to have a community meeting where the Superintendent and school principals would speak to the public concerning the schools.

2. Presentation: High School Physical Education Program and Identified Outcomes for Students (SC #1,2)

David Weydt, High School Physical Education Lead Teacher, gave an overview on the following:

- What is physical education;
- Performance assessments;
- Outcomes;
- Wellness and total fitness;
- Pre and post testing;

- Resources;
- Support.

Michael O'Donnell, High School Physical Education Teacher gave an overview on the following:

- Rules;
- Procedures;
- Circuit training;
- Essays;
- Components;
- Participation;

Mr. Weydt and Mr. O'Donnell responded to questions from School Committee.

John Lidington left the School Committee meeting at 9:40 p.m. Mr. Lidington returned at 9:56 p.m.

School Committee requested scheduling another physical education meeting to discuss benefits for students and a revamping of alternative physical education policy.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to move item E3 to follow item D2 on tonight's agenda. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. Stephen Avakian, Rhoda Kanet and Christopher Shipp approved the motion.

E. School Committee Policy Issues

3. Second Reading: Policy on Alternative PE Credit:

Rhoda Kanet excused herself as a School Committee member.

Superintendent stated in the past there has been an informal procedure whereby certain students have received oral permission to take alternative physical education. Alternative physical education should be for all students. Dr. Reynolds requested a second reading on policy IKF (also policy IHAE) – Alternative Physical Education Program Policy and Application Process.

At 9:55 p.m. Stephen Avakian requested a recess. Meeting reconvened at 9:59 p.m.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Who does a student appeal to?
- When does the five days begin in the approval /denial process?

School Committee requested adding under the application process the following:

- At the end of #4 – **Receipt of the student's application will begin the day it is brought to the principal.**
- At the end of #4 – **the principal makes the final decision for an appeal.**

School Committee requested that this policy be brought back for further discussion after approval at a future date. Superintendent suggested issues that have been discussed at this meeting would be brought to the high school staff and High School Council to look at all options regarding this policy. School Committee requested Dr. Goyette be present during the third reading of this policy.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy IKF (also IHAE) Alternative Physical Education Program Policy and Application Process as second reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion. (Rhoda Kanet did not vote)

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

3. Request: Acceptance for First Reading of the Revised PreK – Grade 12 Mathematics Curriculum Guidelines (SC #1,2)

Dr. Gerald Fournier stated the new Mass Insight Curriculum Document had been given to all mathematics teachers to review. Each teacher was asked to sign off or make changes regarding whether the teacher was using the benchmarks indicated in his/her particular grade level. Only a few changes were made in grades 6, 7, and 8. Teachers approved the proposed benchmarks in the Mass Insight Curriculum Document.

Rhoda Kanet asked the following questions:

- Why is algebra listed in grade 9 and not grade 8?
- Why is geometry listed in grade 10?
- Why isn't there anything listed past geometry?

Superintendent noted she would make the suggested changes in the document that would not indicate grade level just indicate specific course name subject. Dr. Reynolds requested Rhoda send her any additional questions on this issue before second reading.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept the revised Pre-K – Grade 12 Mathematics Curriculum Guidelines as first reading. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

4. Announcement: Literacy Week at Jacobs Elementary School (SC#4)

Superintendent requested community members to volunteer to be a reader during Literacy Week.

Ray Joyal, Jacobs School Principal stated that Literacy Week at the L.M. Jacobs School will be from March 24 – 28, 2003. The following schedule is for volunteers who wish to read to students. Monday, March 24th – PreK and kindergarten; Tuesday, March 25th – grade 1; Wednesday, March 26th – grade 2; Thursday, March 27th – grade 3; and Friday, March 28 – grade 4 and grade 5. Call Fran Troy at the Jacobs School to select a time and date for a reading. The PTO will also have a book fair during March 24 – 28. Storyteller Tom McCabe will also be at the Jacobs School on Thursday, March 27th.

5. Request: Acceptance of Scholarship from Estate of Fiammetta “Ting” Blossom (SC#2,4)

Superintendent requested acceptance by School Committee of a \$500 one-time scholarship from the estate of Fiammetta “Ting” Blossom. School Committee policy states that the School Committee accepts all scholarships and awards. Dr. Reynolds noted that a scholarship committee was assembled to establish criteria for scholarships and awards.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Policy on one time scholarships;
- Scholarship committee;
- Criteria.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept the Fiammetta “Ting” Blossom one-time scholarship in the amount of \$500. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

6. Report: Standards, Criteria and Procedures for Awarding Scholarships

Superintendent noted that in School Committee policy JMB – Scholarships it is referenced that any contributions of less than \$250 would be deposited in the General Scholarship Fund. In the list of scholarships and awards there are many scholarships listed for \$100. Dr. Reynolds suggested anything less than \$250 be designated as an award. At a future date Dr. Reynolds stated she would come back to School Committee and

identify exactly the funds that are on deposit, where awards are being made from, interest payments, and would look for further direction from School Committee with regards to these awards.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to remove the paragraph **Minimum Stipend – Individual Scholarship – All scholarship contributions of less than \$250 would be deposited in the General Scholarship Fund. A contribution of \$250 or more would be acceptable for designation as an individual scholarship award** from policy JMB – Scholarships. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

E. School Committee Policy Issues

2. Second Reading: Determination of Class Rank

Superintendent stated a significant number of policies under Determination of Class Rank from many school districts both within the Commonwealth and outside the Commonwealth have been compiled. There are very specific criteria that have to be considered by School Committee on this issue. John Lidington has prepared a proposal for consideration on this policy.

John Lidington emphasized that he put together the elements needed to be determined as a starting point for discussion by the Committee. Mr. Lidington explained the points he was trying to address in this policy.

Stephen Avakian asked if the high school faculty and high school principal have looked at this policy.

Superintendent suggested this policy be brought to High School Council and high school faculty for review. Dr. Reynolds noted that the minimum number of courses needs to be determined. She stated she would come back to the School Committee with definitive delineation on this policy.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept policy IKC – Determination of Class Rank as second reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to table item E4- First Reading - Revision of Tobacco Free Policy and item E5 – Additional Policy Considerations until the next School Committee meeting on March 24, 2003. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

F. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve the February 10, February 12, and February 23, 2003 School Committee minutes. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

G. Old Business

1. Report from School Building Committee

There has been no Building Committee meeting since the last report.

Superintendent reported that the School Committee would be meeting with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen on Monday, March 17, 2003, at 7:30 in the Board of Selectmen Room at Town Hall. The entire meeting will be on the school budget.

H. New Business

None

I. Approval of Warrants

Rhoda Kanet questioned the following warrant payments:

- Warrant #330 – Beacon Sporting Goods;

- Warrant #322 – Cast Inc.

J. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Stephen Avakian noted that he received correspondence from Jack Wholey.

Chair reminded everyone that Representative Garrett Bradley will speak at the March 24, 2003, School Committee meeting to discuss the state budget.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 11:05 p.m. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Lidington,
School Committee Secretary