

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 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

A. Approval of Agenda:

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

B. Input From Public:

Jo-anne Trubia, Jacobs School Paraprofessional, read a letter on behalf of the Hull Teachers' Association Executive Board regarding support for the positions of assistant principal in each school building.

C. Student Representative's Report:

Mark Saville reported on the following:

- Class play;
- Spring sports;
- Mock Trial;
- Student Government Day;
- DECA;
- Chorus and band;
- New York trip;
- Summer academic classes
- Senior college acceptances;

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

1. Request to Adopt 2003 – 2004 School Calendar:

Superintendent requested School Committee approval of the 2003-2004 school year calendar.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve the adoption of the 2003-2004 school calendar. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

2. Request to Approve Trip to Forensic League Grand National Tournament for Greg Cunningham, Teacher and Kevin Silva, Student:

Gregory Cunningham, High School Teacher, requested School Committee approval to attend the Forensic League Grand National Tournament in Arlington, VA, from May 23 – May 26, 2003.

Superintendent stated she recommends approval of this trip pending Waxler Foundation funding.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve Forensic League Grand Nation Tournament trip held in Arlington, VA, from May 23 – 26, 2003. John Lidington seconded the motion. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Rhoda Kanet, John Lidington, and Christopher Shipps; ABSTAIN: John Silva.

3. Request to Adopt Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Budget for Hull High School Building Project:

Superintendent requested School Committee approval on the Hull High School Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment budget. The budget has been recommended by Dr. Reynolds, high school administrators, and high school staff. The library books are not included in this budget.

Scott Dunlap, Ai3 Architect, reviewed the history of the furniture, fixtures and equipment budget for Hull High School and responded to questions from School Committee.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Timeline on bids;
- Contingency budget;
- Alternative bids;
- Budget cuts;
- Type of chairs;
- CAD Lab;
- Robotics program;
- Manual Production Lab;
- Theatre Arts;
- Wellness Center
- Recycling furniture;
- Construction phases.

Rhoda Kanet noted that School Committee has previously voted to allocate space for the ITE program. Ms. Kanet also proposed using recycled classroom furniture.

The following community members voiced support for the ITE program:
Arthur Augenstern, Patrick Cannon, Patricia Twigg, and John DiVito.

David Walsh, Community Member, asked about the Health & Wellness equipment bought for the MMS.

Joseph Doniger, Director of Fine Arts, cleared up misconceptions regarding the high school auditorium.

David Weydt, Coordinator of Health Education, voiced his support for the fitness / wellness center.

Marylou El-Shazly, Director of World Language, discussed tables vs. desks and using recycled furniture.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to maintain the Robotics program, CAD lab, manual production lab, and a portion of the health and wellness program. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. No vote was taken on this motion.

John Lidington made an **amended motion** that School Committee ask the Building Committee to withhold bidding process for thirty (30) days while School Committee analyze the Hull High School Furniture, Fixture, and Equipment budget. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. *See below for vote.

Dr. Russell Goyette, High School Principal, stated he was not recommending cutting any programs, and he would like to see every program at Hull High School fully funded.

Katherine Dubrousky, Director of Library Media Services, noted the importance of technology and books in the library media center.

*School Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Chair requested John Lidington at the next Building Committee meeting to ask Building Committee to withhold bidding process for thirty (30) days while School Committee analyzes the Hull High School Furniture, Fixture, and Equipment budget.

4. Request to Adopt Technology Budget for Hull High School Building Project:

Judi Saide, Director of MIS, clarified the distinction between the industrial arts program and technology equipment. Ms. Saide discussed the cuts that have been made to the high school building project technology budget. To continue the level of programs Ms. Saide requested a revised technology budget of \$298,954 for all three phases of construction. Judi Saide along with Scott Dunlap, Architect from Ai3, responded to questions from School Committee

Superintendent recommended accepting the \$298,954 technology budget.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to accept the Hull High School Building Project Technology budget in the amount of \$298,954. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

John Lidington made a **motion** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations and to reconvene in Open Session to finish the agenda. No vote was taken on this motion.

School Committee discussed the lateness of the meeting.

John Lidington made a **motion** to table Executive Session motion until School Committee voted on a revised agenda. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to accept the motion.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** that Section E – School Committee Policy Issues be placed on the agenda of the next School Committee meeting. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

At 9:55 p.m. John Lidington made a **motion** to go into Executive Session for the purpose of contractual negotiations and to reconvene into Open Session to finish the remaining agenda. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion. A roll call vote by School Committee members was taken.

Minutes from Executive Session:

Superintendent and School Committee members discussed the impact of budget negotiations on administrative contracts, including hers.

At 10:22 p.m. Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to reconvene into Open Sessions the motion. John Lidington seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion. A Roll Call vote by School Committee members was taken.

5. Request for Direction on Reductions Requested by Finance Committee in the FY04 School Department Budget:

Chair stated School Committee met in good conscience and came up with a budget that they felt was a bottom line figure for the education of our young people. This figure was in agreement with the Town Manager's figure. School Committee should meet with the Finance Committee and tell them that School Committee unanimously supports this budget and are planning to go before Town Meeting floor with this budget. There should be no more cuts in the budget this year. Dr. Silva noted that the Town Manager at last Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting pointed out that the original budget that he submitted was a "can do" budget in terms of the school and in terms of the town.

Superintendent stated that making cuts at the building level will do significant harm to the quality of educational programs, one that is only beginning to become what it can be.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Pride in MCAS achievement;
- Supporting the budget;
- Mandated SPED costs;
- Contractual costs;
- Mandated vocational school costs;

Rhoda Kanet stated that some of her own comments regarding the budget precipitated some of the response. She stated that the school department could cut administration without much effect. She would publicly like to state that she thinks that any cuts of administration would significantly and negatively impact the quality of education. She stated that her comments were related solely to the fact that if cuts were to be made her preference would have been in that area rather than other areas.

John Lidington made a **motion** for School Committee to go on record as supporting the budget as initially approved by the Town Manager. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

F. Approval of Minutes:

John Lidington made a **motion** to accept the School Committee minutes for March 3, and March 10, 2003, meetings. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Rhoda Kanet stated that in the March 24, 2003 School Committee minutes under Section E – Item 1 Third Reading – Alternative Physical Education Policy on page three she had requested the minimum number of instructional hours be reduced from five (5) hours to two (2) hours and that the motion was made and passed for three (3) hours. Chair directed Maureen Robishaw to review that portion of the March 24th videotape.

G. Old Business

Rhoda Kanet recurred herself as a School Committee member.

Rhoda Kanet, parent, requested School Committee to amend policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian for this year only that a student would have the option of attending any part of his / her senior year at Hull High School, and if meeting all other requirements of this policy, still be eligible for Class Valedictorian.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to amend Policy JM – Selection of Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian that a student in his / her senior year would be required to be in attendance for one (1) semester. There was no second to this motion. Motion failed.

H. New Business

1. Consideration Regarding Date of Next School Committee Meeting

Chair suggested the following:

- Changing the April 28th School Committee meeting to April 14th;
- Limiting the School Committee agenda to discussion of High School Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment and policy issues;
- Having an Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.
- Having the regular School Committee meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Chair directed Superintendent to send a letter to the Finance Committee requesting a mutually agreed upon meeting time. The letter should include the School Committee motion regarding school budget.

2. Consideration Regarding School Committee Meeting Dates for 2003-2004 School Year

Superintendent requested approval for School Committee meeting dates for the 2003-2004 school year.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to adopt School Committee meeting dates for 2003 – 2004 school year as follows:

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADE SIX EXHIBITION ROOM
LOWER LEVEL

(All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m.)

Monday, August 25, 2003
Monday, September 8, 2003
Monday, September 22, 2003
Tuesday, October 14, 2003
Monday, October 27, 2003
Monday, November 10, 2003
Monday, November 24, 2003
Monday, December 8, 2003
Monday, January 12, 2004
Monday, January 26, 2004
Monday, February 9, 2004
Monday, February 23, 2004
Monday, March 8, 2004
Monday, March 22, 2004
Monday, April 12, 2004
Monday, April 26, 2004
Monday, May 10, 2004
Monday, May 24, 2004
Monday, June 7, 2004
Monday, June 21, 2004

Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

I. Approval of Warrants

None

J. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Chair stated that he gave correspondence he had received from a parent to the Superintendent

Superintendent noted that Joan MacDonald, HFN Director, had received an appreciation award from South Shore ARC for the outstanding job Joan does. Dr. Reynolds noted that the Hull Family Network program has been cut from the Governor's budget for next year.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 10:55 p.m. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.