

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 12, 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
William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer
Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent

Superintendent outlined the changes in the SATs that will be required for the class of 2006.

A. Approval of Agenda:

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

Chair presented John Lidington with a plaque for his outstanding service as a School Committee member from 1997 to present. School Committee members expressed respect and appreciation. John Lidington thanked the committee for their kind words.

B. Input from Public:

Jack Whooley, Community Member, questioned the School Based Management Team and Public Relations Board in the HTA Contract. Superintendent responded.

William Smyth, Community Member, voiced his support in extending the Superintendent's contract.

C. Student Representative's Report:

Mark Saville reported the following:

- Senior year classes will end 5/23/03;
- Senior finals will begin on 5/27/03;
- Boosters sports award night will be on 5/23/03;
- Senior prom will be on 6/5/03;
- Senior graduation will be on 6/8/03;
- Mr. Doniger wants to thank everyone for participation in Broadway 2003 field trip;
- College and military acceptances are posted on channel 22;
- Spring sports season is coming to a close;
- Internship opportunities are available at the Hull Lifesaving Museum.

School Committee thanked Mark Saville for his insightful student reporting.

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

Superintendent noted that the Advanced Placement Environmental Science and the Hull Theatre Arts would make a presentation at a future school committee meeting. Dr. Reynolds expressed her gratitude to staff members James Merritt and Joseph Doniger.

1. Presentation on Forensics Program:

Craig Cunningham introduced high school student Kevin Silva. Kevin Silva gave a presentation on *The Man with the Broken Fingers*. Gregory Cunningham stated that Kevin Silva would be attending the Forensic League Grand National Tournament from May 23rd – 26th. Dr. Reynolds stated that was an outstanding performance. Michele Koberski, parent, stated she was impressed with the Forensics program.

2. Report on Implementation of Memorial Schools' Improvement Plan:

Paul Zauner, Memorial Middle School Assistant Principal, assisted by Christine Frederick, Grade Seven Teacher, and Kathleen Sullivan, Grade Six Teacher gave an overview of the goals and objectives obtained in the FY03 Memorial Middle School Improvement Plan.

School Committee Discussed:

- Discipline
- Math Modules;
- Soar to Success;
- Literacy Component;
- Math Component.

School Committee thanked Mr. Zauner and Memorial Middle School staff.

3. Report on Implementation of High School's Improvement Plan:

Dr. Russell Goyette, Hull High School Principal, Nancy Mrzyglod, High School Curriculum Coordinator, and William Smyth, High School Council Co-chair, reported on the areas that have been met and areas that will be met in FY04 from the FY03 High School Improvement Plan goals and objectives.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Block scheduling;
- Coordinator of block scheduling;
- Professional development;

School Committee thanked Dr. Goyette and Hull High School staff.

4. Request to Approve 03-04 High School Course of Studies:

Dr. Reynolds requested School Committee approval on Hull High School Course of Studies. Dr. Reynolds noted the course of studies is a work in progress and there may be minor changes.

Rhoda Kanet asked the following questions:

- Has an evaluation been done on the first year of Physics First? Superintendent responded it had not.
- Is the exercise physiology/lab course being offered as an alternative course to physical education or is it a new physical education course? David Weydt, Hull High School Health Teacher, responded that this is an elective course.
- Can an honors option course be added to the government, psychology, sociology and Latin American studies courses? Superintendent responded that an honors option could be added to these courses.
- Ms. Kanet voiced her concern about the academic rigor for career continuum, library information service, information literacy, community service learning and educator apprentice courses and asked if there will be appropriate outcomes on these courses. Superintendent stated there would be goals and objectives in terms of skills and knowledge for these courses.

- What math course will be offered to fourth year math students who have completed the entire math sequence in junior year? Superintendent stated she is looking into adding an advanced placement statistics course and possibly on-line courses.
- Would someone look over the course of studies to see if other courses can have honors option courses added? Superintendent responded that would be done.

Superintendent requested Rhoda to e-mail her requests / suggestions to her.

Chair asked if in the future virtual classroom courses would be looked into. Dr. Goyette responded that because of the cost there is now an option to contact a district in the area that has slots in a virtual classroom and purchase slots for students.

John Lidington made a **motion** to approve Hull High School Program of Studies for the 2003-2004 school year with changes requested by Rhoda Kanet. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to accept the motion.

5. Request for Direction on 02-03 Calculations of Class Rank:

Superintendent requested School Committee approval that for one year only that the historical way of calculating class rank be retained. A guidance counselor has historically done this. Dr. Reynolds noted that GPA has not been included on the high school report cards. Superintendent responded to questions from School Committee. School Committee discussed their concerns on this issue.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to move no action on this item. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion.

AYES: Stephen Avakian, Rhoda Kanet, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps; NAYS: John Silva

6. Request for Vote on School Choice:

Superintendent requested School Committee vote on continuing as a no school choice district. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to remain a no choice school district. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

7. Report on Selections for Enrollments in Vocational / Technical Schools:

Superintendent discussed the vocational school application process. Dr. Reynolds noted that if a student applies to attend a vocational school by the April 1st deadline that Hull Public Schools must pay for that student. Chair stated he had received a telephone call from a parent regarding her child attending vocational school and asked Dr. Reynolds to investigate.

E. School Committee Considerations

1. Policy Issues:

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to move that all policy items on this evening's agenda be accepted in one motion. John Lidington seconded the motion. AYES: Stephen Avakian, John Lidington, Christopher Shipps, and John Silva; NAYS: Rhoda Kanet.

Superintendent noted that unless a policy is for third reading that changes could be made. She requested School Committee e-mail her any suggested changes.

Stephen Avakian made a motion to accept the following policies:

- Third reading / adoption:
 - JMB – Scholarships;
- Second reading:
 - ADDA – C.O.R.I. Requirements;
 - KBBA – Non-custodial Parents' Rights;
 - BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee;

- BDFA – School Councils;
- BDFA-RI School Improvement Plans;
- BDFA-R2 Conduct of School Council Business;
- BDFA-E – Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan.

John Lidington seconded the motion. All members unanimously approved the motion.

2. Superintendent's Evaluation:

John Lidington stated he compiled a list of how School Committee voted, and then calculated an average ranking in the eleven performance areas in the evaluation of the Superintendent. Mr. Lidington read the eleven areas and the average ranking of School Committee members.

Mary Merrigan, Community Member, asked School Committee members to contemplate the school culture that has emerged in the Hull Public Schools over the past few years specifically in terms of the development of professional skills and staff and the gathering of student performance data. Ms. Merrigan asked School Committee to think seriously about what Dr. Reynolds has provided to the structure for these types of reform to take hold.

3. Vote on Superintendent's Contract Extension:

John Lidington made a **motion** to extend the Superintendent's contract under the extension clause in her contract two (2) years beyond the expiration date of June 2004 to June 2006. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. *See below for vote

School Committee discussed the superintendent's contract extension and her perceived strengths and weaknesses.

School Committee requested a recess at 11:00 p.m. Meeting reconvened at 11:05 p.m.

The following people spoke in favor of extending Dr. Reynolds contract:

- Kristen Evans, Community Member;
- William Smyth, Community Member;
- Cathy Crawford, Community Member;
- Cathy Bowes, Community Member.

The following people spoke against extending Dr. Reynolds contract:

- Michelle Koberski, Community Member;
- Kevin Silva, Student;
- Gregory Cunningham, Teacher.

Christopher Shipps made a **Substitute Motion** to extend the Superintendent's contract for one year to June 2005 and to go into negotiations prior to signing contract. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. See below for motion withdrawn.

Superintendent stated she would not accept a one-year extension on her contract.

Stephen Avakian withdrew his second to the motion. Christopher Shipps withdrew his motion.

Chair requested a roll call vote on the original motion. AYE: John Lidington; NAYS: Rhoda Kanet, Stephen Avakian, Christopher Shipps and John Silva. Motion failed.

F. Approval of Minutes:

Placed on hold until the next meeting.

G. Old Business:

John Lidington gave the following update on the Building Committee meeting:

- High School FF&E budget;
- Vote to go out to bid;
- Mole testing;
- Construction delays.

H. New Business:

Christopher Shipps asked about the Jacobs School cafeteria being turned back into classrooms.

Superintendent responded that there is no plan to do this because classrooms are needed at the Jacobs School.

I. Approval of Warrants:

Warrants were circulated and signed. Rhoda Kanet questioned warrant # 417 for \$358.00.

Superintendent responded that invoice was for special education students.

J. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee members:

None

At 11:55 p.m. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion. All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.