

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Shipps, Vice Chair
Stephen Avakian, Member
Kristen Evans, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching
Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent

Meeting began at 7:40 p.m.

Christopher Shipps noted that John Silva and Rhoda Kanet would not be at the meeting tonight. Also, Dr. Reynolds would not be at this evening's meeting due to illness.

A. Approval of Agenda:

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

B. Input from Public:

Bruce Berman, Memorial Middle School Principal, clarified for the community that under education reform the building principal hires and fires staff members.

Cathy Bowes, Parent, requested a copy of the Community Outreach Subcommittee minutes. Chair stated minutes would be available.

Jack Wholey, Parent, discussed the following:

- MGL Chapter 71, Section 59B and Section 13;
- Drafting course;
- Educational channel;

Mr. Wholey also asked if the police had to be called if there are drugs found in the school or found on a student. Dr. Russell Goyette, Hull High School Principal, responded that state law does not require it but it is a matter of course at Hull High School.

Michelle Koberski, Parent, voiced her concern about the staff cuts at the Memorial Middle School.

C. Superintendent's Reports and Requests

1. Report on Draft Findings – DOE Coordinated Review of Special Education, Title 1 and Civil Rights

Dr. Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent, gave an overview of the nine areas in the draft report of findings coordinated program review. Dr. Fournier stated there were no citations and few recommendations in the report.

2. Approval of Library / Media Long Range Plan

Katherine Dubrousky, Library Media Specialist, discussed the Library Media Centers Long Rang Plans. Ms. Dubrousky noted the objectives are to know where we are going and to apply for grants. She responded to questions from school committee.

3. Approval of Jacobs' School Improvement Plan

Ray Joyal, Jacobs School Principal, introduced the members of the Jacobs School Improvement Council. Mr. Joyal explained the areas of the improvement plan and the five goals for the 2003-2004 Jacobs School Improvement Plan. He discussed the parent needs assessment survey noting that over one hundred responses had been received. Mr. Joyal thanked Cathy Crawford for her work on the Jacobs School newsletters. School Committee discussed the following:

- Everyday Math program;
- Student enrollment;
- Student class size.

School Committee thanked Ray Joyal and Jacobs School Council members.

4. Approval of Memorial's School Improvement Plan

Bruce Berman, Memorial Middle School Principal, and Cathy Bowes, Co-chair Memorial Middle School Council, gave an overview on the four goals, objectives and success measurements for the 2003 – 2004 Memorial Middle School Plan. Mr. Berman thanked the Memorial Middle School Council.

School Committee asked when the Assessment Planning Team would be meeting. Mr. Berman responded that the Assessment Planning Team would be meeting on August 5th and 6th. He invited School Committee members to attend, and he said he would send School Committee dates of the meetings.

School Committee thanked Bruce Berman and Memorial School Council members.

5. Request for approval of Summer School Fees

Dr. Gerald Fournier requested increasing the summer school fees for the Memorial Middle School and Hull High School. Dr. Fournier explained that last year the fees did not meet the expenses for staff stipends. He proposed increasing the fees from \$200 to \$225 for one course and from \$300 to \$325 for two courses. The fees for reduced lunch students would be increased from \$100 to \$125 for the first course, and from \$50 to \$75 for the second course. Free lunch student fees would be increased from \$50 to \$75 for first course, and from \$25 to \$50 for second course taken.

School Committee requested Dr. Fournier to look into a discount for when more than one child in a family is taking courses.

School committee discussed the following:

- Students that are unable to pay for a course;
- Sliding fee for students;
- Keeping fees the same as last year for free and reduced lunch students.

Dr. Fournier stated no child would be denied taking a course based on economics.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adopt summer school fee increase as proposed by Dr. Gerald Fournier in his June 4, 2003 memo. Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

6. Announcement of Court's Decision on Injunction Request Related to Kanet Lawsuit

Dr. Fournier stated that the injunction brought forward by Ms. Kanet not to have a valedictorian issued at graduation this year was denied by the judge who found that there was no basis upon which to stop the valedictorian award for the 2003 graduating class.

D. School Committee Considerations

1. Policy Issues

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy ECAA - Video Surveillance as first reading. Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members voted to accept the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee as second reading. Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept the following policies as third reading / adoption:

- ADDA – C.O.R.I. Requirements
- KBBA – Non-Custodial Parents' Rights
- BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee
- BDFA – School Councils
- BDFA-R1 - School Improvement Plan
- BDFA-R2 - Conduct of School Council Business
- BDFA-E - Submission and Approval of the School Improvement Plan

Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members voted to approve the motion.

E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes, June 2, 2003

Stephen Avakian requested postponing approval of the June 2nd Executive Session minutes until the next School Committee meeting when all members will be present.

William Smyth suggested checking with James Lampke, Town Counsel, on how long minutes of Executive Session can be held.

F. Old Business

1. Identify Functions, Duties, Expectations and Time Lines for School Committee Subcommittee on Establishing Adult Education High School Diploma Granting

Christopher Shipps read the proposed functions, duties, and expectations of the Hull School Committee Subcommittee on establishing an adult education diploma granting program in collaboration with Wellspring. Mr. Shipps stated that Kristen Evans and he were on the subcommittee. Kristen Evans noted that there possibly could be a meeting of the subcommittee on June 17, 2003, at 6:00 p.m.

Kristen Evans made a motion to adopt the functions, duties and expectations of the Hull School Committee Subcommittee on establishing adult education diploma granting program in collaboration with Wellspring.

Christopher Shipps seconded the motion. AYES: Kristen Evans and Christopher Shipps; ABSTAIN: Stephen Avakian

2. Identify Functions, Duties, Expectations and Time Lines for School Committee Advisory Committee on Industrial Technology Education

Christopher Shipps read the function, duties, and expectations of the Hull School Committee Advisory Committee on Industrial Technology Education. School Committee asked Arthur Augenstern to be one of the public members of the subcommittee. Stephen Avakian stated that School Committee passed a motion at the last meeting to create this subcommittee. Christopher Shipps responded that this approves the functions, goals and expectations of the subcommittee. Mr. Avakian asked if this was an extension of the motion passed at the last meeting. Mr. Shipps responded yes, it clarifies what is the responsibility for the subcommittee.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adopt the functions, duties, expectations and time lines for the School Committee Advisory Subcommittee on Industrial Technology Education. Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members approved the motion.

School Committee requested that Arthur Augenstern receive a copy of the functions, duties, expectations and time lines and a copy of the motion made at the June 2nd School Committee meeting regarding the School Committee Advisory Subcommittee on Industrial Technology Education.

School Committee requested placing an advertisement in the Hull Times soliciting community members to serve on the ITE subcommittee. Dr. Fournier suggested placing this information on channel 22.

3. Review Accomplishments of School Committee Subcommittees to Date

Salary Subcommittee: Christopher Shipps noted that the salary subcommittee identifies administrative salaries.

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Stephen Avakian proposed that he would write a report of suggestions that emerged during the course of conversations from this subcommittee and submit it to School Committee as a final report at the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Avakian noted he sees no reason that this subcommittee should continue beyond delivery of the report.

Math Task Force Subcommittee: Christopher Shipps stated that Rhoda Kanet would give a report at a future meeting.

Cathy Crawford, Parent, asked if there is a list of subcommittees. Kristen Evans requested that the superintendent post all the meetings for all the newly formed subcommittees on the website and in the Hull Times on a regular basis so that community members know when meetings will take place and what is being accomplished at these meetings.

William Smyth, Community Member, stated he would put the subcommittee meetings in the Hull Times calendar if he were notified two weeks in advance. Mr. Smyth asked what happened to the budget subcommittee. Christopher Shipps responded that there is still a budget subcommittee that has met in the past. The subcommittee members are Rhoda Kanet and John Lidington.

Arthur Augenstern asked about the criteria for identifying research-based programs listed in the ITE subcommittee duties. Dr. Fournier responded that researched based is required under No Child Left Behind legislation. All courses must be proven programs that are standards based with research backing their effectiveness.

G. New Business

Kristen Evans made a **motion** for first reading as follows:

1. Public input should be limited to one half hour total, beginning at the start of each meeting. Any person wishing to speak must arrive 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled meeting and sign up to speak. Said speaker should be able to identify the agenda item that they wish to address for that evening's business.
2. Public input should be limited to agenda items for the evening only.
3. No letter or material from anyone should be read unless it is directly related to an agenda item and is received by the members of the School Committee 48 hours in advance. It would be most beneficial to members to have a chance to review the materials or letters so that a more meaningful discussion can take place on the issue.
4. Personnel issues should not be discussed during public input unless it is a specific agenda item put forth by the Superintendent and the Chairman of the School Committee. The Education Reform Act is clear in delineating responsibilities for all members for the school community.
5. Every effort should be made by the School Committee to refrain from discussing personnel issues in open session.
6. The School Committee shall hold public forums at least twice a year specifically to update the community on school department progress and new initiatives.

I move to adopt each of these recommendations that I have proposed to the extent that the first, second and third reading process is applicable and that we initiate that process for these proposals.

Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. See below for vote.

Comments related to this issue made by Kristen Evans are:

It is rude for community members that attend a meeting on a specific agenda item and then to have to sit through two hours of public input before getting to what they came to address. Over five hours of public input time in total were spent over the last two meetings and nothing of educational importance was discussed or accomplished.

It is not wise for the School Committee to spend any amount of time on personnel issues when it is clear in the law that those decisions belong solely to building principals.

The community did not elect us to hold public gripe sessions every other week; allowing this practice to continue is counterproductive to our mission. I am certain that I was not elected to conduct school business in this manner. I suggested that each of my colleagues on the board revisit the reasons why they were elected and refocus on bringing about a professional and educationally productive meeting environment that the community can be proud of.

Because the School Committee should be strictly adhering to its primary mission providing the best education for children, and because the School Committee should be keenly aware of individuals' due process rights,

Holding public forums would be another arena for public discussion and input on important educational issues.

School Committee discussed the following:

- One-half hour time limit;
- Setting the tone of a meeting;
- Losing focus on issues;
- Workshops and business meetings.

Mary Merrigan, Parent, urged the committee to discourage the use of school children in emotionally charged issues.

Michele Koberski, Parent, stated that not everyone could arrive prior to the start of a School Committee meeting.

William Smyth, Community Member, suggested posting all meetings in the Hull Times.

Maggie Ollerhead, CPC Director, stated work is being done for the agenda to be placed on the school Website. Community members can subscribe to have the agenda automatically sent to them.

Vote on motion: All members voted to approve the motion for first reading.

Kristen Evans asked what plans the School Committee had in place to deal with the outcome of the School Committee vote not to extend the Superintendent's contract. Ms. Evans noted the following:

- Expense to taxpayers;

- Budget expense;
- Potential legal costs;
- Cost of a superintendent search;
- Increase in salary range for a new superintendent;

Ms. Evans stated she does not want an interim superintendent.

Kristen Evans told the committee that MASC is offering an orientation for new and seasoned members on July 18 and 19 at the Assabet Vocational High School in Marlboro. The orientation will explain the roles and responsibilities of school committee members. Ms. Evans stated she would get a list of the MASC program for committee members.

Kristen Evans requested that the Superintendent give a report on class ranking and GPA at the next school Committee meeting.

Frank McNamee, Community Member, asked what Ms. Evans meant by potential legal costs. Kristen Evans stated it is about the Superintendent's evaluation process. The Superintendent has legal rights and legal issues she can explore and it might cost this community.

Jack Wholey, Community Member, discussed the following issues:

- Student Council;
- Voice mail for School Committee members;
- MGL Chapter 71, Section 59B;
- Job postings;
- School Based Managed Team;
- Agenda items.

Frank McNamee, Community Member, asked if the Superintendent was offered to discuss her contract in Executive Session as opposed to Open Meeting. Christopher Shipps stated he did not want to discuss this item.

H. Approval of Warrants

Warrants have been circulated and signed.

I. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

None

At 10:25 p.m. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. Kristen Evans seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

