

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

John Silva, Chair
Christopher Shipps, Vice Chair
Stephen Avakian, Member
Kristen Evans, Member
Rhoda Kanet, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathleen Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools
Gerald Fournier, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning
William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer
Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent

The meeting was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Dr. John Silva

A. Approval of Agenda

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve tonight's agenda as presented. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

B. Input from Public

John Lewis, PR&R Chair, objected that the HTA is being held responsible for the delay in the printing of the HTA contract.

John Lewis requested to respond to the letter in the Hull Times from John Lidington. Chair stated that issue was not appropriate for this discussion at the School Committee meeting.

Frank McNamee, Community Member, read a statement objecting to the time limit on public input as proposed by Kristen Evans' motion.

Catherine Dubrovsky, Library Media Specialist, requested the School Committee vote on the School Library Media Long-Range Plan. Chair responded that this item would be added to tonight's agenda.

Superintendent's Reports and Requests

1. Request for Direction on Block Scheduling Issue at Hull High School:

Superintendent stated that Hull High School cannot move ahead if block scheduling is not implemented in September 2003. Dr. Reynolds requested input and support from School Committee. Chair stated he supported block scheduling at Hull High School

School Committee requested that previous minutes be reviewed to check if a vote had already been taken on block scheduling.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** that the School Committee supports the Superintendent's recommendation to implement block scheduling at Hull High School in September 2003. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. (see below for vote)

Stephen Avakian requested the word **strongly** be added before the word supports in the motion.

Robert Corcoran, High School Teacher, stated there is turmoil at the high school due to the construction at Hull High School. Also, professional development for block scheduling has been lectures not modeling. Mr. Corcoran requested that block scheduling be put off until the construction is complete.

John Lewis, HTA representative, discussed the following concerns about block scheduling:

- HTA opposition;
- HTA negotiations;
- Staff is not willing and ready;
- Building condition.

School Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

2. Presentation of High School Improvement Plan:

William Smyth, High School Council Member, and Nancy Mrzyglod, High School Curriculum Coordinator, gave an overview of Hull High School FY04 School Improvement Plan outlining the nine goals, objectives and success measurements. Mr. Smyth and Ms. Mrzglod responded to School Committee questions.

3. Approval of All Schools' Improvement Plans:

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve Hull High School FY04 School Improvement Plan. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve the L.M. Jacobs School FY04 School Improvement Plan. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve the Memorial Middle School FY04 School Improvement Plan. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve the School Library Media Long-Range Plan. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously approved the motion.

The School Committee commended everyone involved with School Improvement Plans and the School Library Media Long-Range Plan.

4. Request to Approve Budget Transfers:

William Hurst presented the School Committee with a request of the transfer of funds within the FY03 appropriation budget.

Rhoda Kanet stated that this item was not discussed with the budget subcommittee. Chair noted that these are housekeeping items and that such changes are not unusual in the school budget.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve the transfer of funds with the FY03 appropriation budget as presented. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion purposes. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Kristen Evans, Christopher Shipps, and John Silva; NAYS Rhoda Kanet.

Superintendent stated that next year the Budget Subcommittee should meet with the Superintendent and William Hurst regarding transfer of funds.

Chair requested that in the future School Committee received in advance what budget transfer of funds is for.

D. School Committee Considerations

Policy Issues:

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve policy ADC – Tobacco-free school policy for third reading / adoption. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion purposes. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Kristen Evans, Christopher Shipps, and John Silva; NAYS: Rhoda Kanet.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve policy BDE – Subcommittee of the School Committee for third reading / adoption. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve policy ECAA – Video Surveillance for second reading. John Silva seconded the motion for discussion purposes. (see below for vote)

School Committee directed the Superintendent to create procedures and protocols pertaining to this policy.

Rhoda Kanet made an amended motion to delete the last two paragraphs of Video Surveillance policy ECAA subject to the Superintendent's action on procedures and protocols. No second to this motion. Amended motion failed.

Vote on original motion: AYES: Stephen Avakian, Kristen Evans, Christopher Shipps, John Silva; NAYS: Rhoda Kanet.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BDG – School Attorney as first reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BE – School Committee Meetings as first reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Christopher Shipps placed a hold on policy BEA – The Conduct of School Committee meetings because it is connected to policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee meetings

Chair placed a hold on policy BEC – Executive Sessions. Dr. Silva requested this policy be reviewed by Town Counsel for clarification on the following areas:

- #8 – To consider and interview applicants for the position of Superintendent of Schools. This exemption only applies if it can be determined that an open meeting will have a detrimental affect in obtaining qualified applicants;
- The second to the last paragraph – Accurate records of the proceedings conducted in executive session will be kept and may remain secret only so long as their publication would defeat the purpose of the session. The Committee will review executive session minutes for possible declassification at least once each year.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BEDA – Notification of School Committee meetings - as first reading. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps placed a hold on policy BEDB – Agenda Format - because it was connected to policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BEDB-E – Sample Policy - for first reading. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted to accept the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BEDC – Quorum - for first reading. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Chair placed a hold on policy BEDD – Rules of Order. Dr. Silva requested ruling by Town Counselor if in the last paragraph the last three words should read two-thirds vote or majority vote.

Chair placed a hold on policy BEDDA – Suspension of Rules and Regulations - requesting review by Town Counselor.

Chair placed a hold on policy BEDF – Voting Method. Dr. Silva requested ruling by Town Counselor if the beginning of the last sentence should read a two-thirds vote or a majority vote.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept policy BEDG – Minutes - as first reading. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion. All members voted to approve the motion.

Chair placed a hold on policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings.
School Committee discussed the following on policy BEDH:

- Parameters of School Committee;
- Public Input at the beginning at School Committee meeting;
- Limit public input to agenda items;
- Length of time for public input;
- Open forum at the end of School Committee meeting;
- How many times an individual may speak during public input;
- Quality of public input during School Committee meeting.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to direct Superintendent to develop a preliminary policy on public input to include current and proposed policies and School Committee discussion at tonight's meeting. This preliminary policy will be discussed at the August 25th School Committee meeting. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Jack Wholey, Community Member, discussed the parent and family community guidelines.

Stephen Lathrop, Parent, asked School Committee to create a policy on what a community member should do regarding school employee personnel matters.

E. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve the May 12, 2003, School Committee minutes and requested adding *for discussion purposes* at the end of a School Committee member seconding a motion. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to approve the June 2, 2003, School Committee minutes as presented. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to accept the June 9, 2003, School Committee minutes as presented. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Kristen Evans, Christopher Shipps; ABSTAIN: Rhoda Kanet and John Silva.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to accept the June 2, 2003, Executive Session minutes as presented. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

F. Old Business:

1. Report on Activities of Subcommittee on Establishing Adult Education High School Diploma Granting Program in collaboration with Wellspring:

Chair stated he received a letter from Wellspring and that Ms. Reardon, Mr. Viden and Mr. Harte had been appointed to work with the School Committee subcommittee on this issue. Christopher Shipps stated that a possible meeting could take place on July 2nd.

2. Report on Activities of Community Outreach Subcommittee:

Stephen Avakian summarized the Community Outreach Subcommittee recommendations (copy attached). The School Committee accepted the report from the Community Outreach Subcommittee.

Kristen Evans stated that she would prepare a survey for the community to tell the School Committee how they are doing as a board. This item will be discussed at the August 25th School Committee meeting.

3. Report on Activities of Math Task Force

Rhoda Kanet gave an overview on the findings of the Math Task Force. The Math Task Force is disbanded as of June 30, 2003.

4. Report on Activities of Budget Subcommittee:

Postponed until the August 25th School Committee meeting.

5. Report on Activities of Salary Subcommittee:

Christopher Shipps requested data from the Superintendent regarding Salaries. Chair suggested postponing this item until the August 25th School Committee meeting.

6. Appointment of New Member to Budget Subcommittee

Stephen Avakian volunteered to be the new member on the Budget Subcommittee.

School Building Report:

John Silva reported on the following

Hull High School:

- Construction behind schedule;
- Penalties;
- Additional workers;
- Phase I completion date 8/25 – 9/1.

Memorial Middle School:

- Water leak;
- New flag pole;
- Clock tower;
- Generator.

G. New Business:

Rhoda Kanet proposed a new ranking and grading system. The Chair noted that the Superintendent had pointed out some inequities in the system that has been voted on by the School Committee. Dr. Silva stated he would accept Ms Kanets proposal, but it should be the decision of the high school administration in determining how the GPA will be figured.

Kristen Evans requested a report on the GPA at a future School Committee meeting to clear up some of the confusion.

Stephen Avakian requested an outline on what the emphasis for the new high school guidance team will be.

Kristen Evans requested bringing in a MASC Representative to meet with the School Committee to discuss participating in a self-evaluation process.

Chair stated he had received an e-mail from Selectman Tom Burns requesting a School Committee member be part of the Landfill Study Committee. John Silva volunteered to be on that committee.

Rhoda Kanet stated that the Quincy YMCA provides programs to school systems at no cost to the towns. Hull Public Schools should participate. Chair requested that Ms. Kanet put her proposal in writing.

Chair requested a discussion on the cost regarding the Superintendent of Schools' search.

Jack Wholey, High School Council Member, asked about the High School Council meeting that was held at the Superintendent's Office.

H. Approval of Warrants:

Stephen Avakian questioned a payment on warrant # 491 to the Scituate Schools. Superintendent responded this payment was regarding special education students. Warrants were circulated and signed.

At 11:02 p.m. Christopher Shipps made a **motion** to adjourn. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.