

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Christopher Shipps opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair requested to remove Report on Results of Community Survey under New Business from tonight's agenda. Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to approve tonight's agenda with change. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

Superintendent stated that previous reports, surveys and petitions have been read at School Committee meeting and requested that School Committee share the survey results with the community.

B. Input from the Public

None

C. Superintendent's Reports and Requests

1. Introduction of New High School Assistant Principal

Superintendent introduced Andrew Stephens, Hull High School Assistant Principal. Dr. Reynolds gave a brief overview on his credentials. Andrew Stephens thanked the Superintendent for the opportunity to make the step into administration. Mr. Stephens noted how welcome staff and students have made him feel. School Committee welcomed Mr. Stephens.

2. Request for Approval of Attendance Policy

Superintendent stated that School Committee discussed and approved the high school attendance policy last spring but it had not been put in a policy format. Dr. Reynolds requested that School Committee approve this policy and waive all readings on this policy.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Legal mandate;
- Attendance Officer;
- Parents notified;
- Distinction between excused and non-excused absences;

Stephen Avakian suggested making the following changes:

First sentence in the third paragraph to read: Parents may make a written appeal of absences to the principal within ten (10) calendar days of the absence;

Second sentence in the third paragraph change: the words *or other* after the word *these* and before the word *grounds*.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to move the adoption of Policy JE - School Attendance waiving first and second reading and adding suggested changes. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion. AYES: Stephen Avakian, Kristen Evans, Christopher Shippis; NAYS: Rhoda Kanet.

### 3. Response to Report from Budget Subcommittee

Rhoda Kanet stated that she has withdrawn this report and will address this issue at a later School Committee meeting.

### 4. Request for Direction on Town's Application for U.S.C.G. Boathouse

Superintendent requested a statement of support and direction from School Committee on this issue. Dr. Reynolds suggested following:

- School Committee has to take a stand on what they would like to see happen with the boathouse;
- School Committee must communicate that stand to both the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen;
- School Committee must offer all of the services the Hull Public Schools have available including people with grant writing skills;
- School Committee must begin to investigate options whereby the Hull High School can be an equal partner in the planning the use of that facility.

School Committee members voiced agreement with the Superintendent's proposal.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** to move that School Committee direct the administration to go forward with the grant writing application and seek to secure this as an educational facility. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion. All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### 5. Response to Request for Information on Funds for Jacobs Elementary School Building Project

Superintendent strongly stated that she endorses the artificial turf at Hull High School but funding should not come from the bonding money. Rhoda Kanet stated that the Jacobs School issue was brought up at the School Building Committee and the Committee was hesitant to make any commitment relative to renovating the Jacobs School. The recommendation was to assume that nothing would be done to renovate the Jacobs School for four (4) to five (5) years and to take whatever steps needed in the meantime to accommodate that. The bonding money was approved but the problem is in terms of paying the money back; if the time would be extended to pay back the interest and when reimbursement money will be received. Dr. Gerald Fournier noted that the School Building Committee did not take a vote on this item and the issue would be raised again at a future meeting. Superintendent stated that the Jacobs School renovations **must** begin by July 2005 for the town to receive 71% reimbursement.

School Committee discussed the following:

- Overcrowding at Jacobs School;
- Bonding authority;
- Impacting tax rate;
- Making informed decisions.

Rhoda Kanet asked Superintendent her opinion would be on setting up a combined meeting between the School Committee, School Building Committee and Board of Selectmen to discuss options. Superintendent stated that viable information is needed before a meeting can take place.

Superintendent suggested the following information is secured before a meeting is set-up:

- Getting all fiscal information from Town Manager on this issue;
- Looking at many options;
- Looking at the danger of getting off the reimbursement list;
- Looking into the legal commitment from the state for towns that are currently on the reimbursement list.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to request town manager to give School Committee fiscal projection on various building project options on the L.M. Jacobs School project. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted to approve the motion.

#### 6. Report on Follow-up to Announcement of Dates for Community Forums

Kristen Evans stated that Pam Wolfe would facilitate the September 20<sup>th</sup> Community Forum. Ms. Evans stated that it is critical for all School Committee members to be at this meeting. She invited all parents of public school students, parochial school students, private school students, charter school parents, people without children, senior citizens, all representatives of the community and all staff members to attend. The School Committee wants a clear understanding of what the public wants in a new Superintendent of Schools.

#### 7. Approval of Plumbing and Electrical Bids:

William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer, requested School Committee approval for the plumbing and electrical bids. Mr. Hurst noted that one bid was received on the plumbing bid and two bids were approved on the electrical bid.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to move that School Committee approve a three-year contract with R-Chee Plumbing, Inc. for Hull Public School plumbing services and a three-year contract with Ray Sarno Electrical Contractor for the Hull Public School electrical services. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members voted to approve the motion.

#### D. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** that School Committee move to approve the June 30, August 18 and August 25, 2003 School Committee minutes. Rhoda Kanet seconded the motion for discussion purposes. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

#### E. Old Business

Kristen Evans requested that an item be placed on the September 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda to discuss using the services of MASC or another vendor. Chair stated School Committee had received a proposal from Devaux and Associates of Marblehead.

#### 1. Report on Activities of Subcommittee on Establishing Adult Education

Chair stated the subcommittee had met three times with Wellspring and has reviewed the documents and concerns. This program should continue through June 2005 when new Department of Education regulations for Adult Diploma Granting Programs are scheduled to be implemented.

Superintendent stated that there has been no interaction between the Hull School District and Wellspring to establish a program to identify the requirements for the Adult Diploma Program. Dr. Reynolds encouraged School Committee to establish such a program with Wellspring prior to granting diplomas

Mr. Avakian recused himself from discussion and voting because his wife serves on the Wellspring Board of Directors.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to move that School Committee sign the diplomas for the Wellspring graduating class of 2003 and the Adult Education Diploma Granting Program Subcommittee meet as soon as possible to develop a program. Christopher Shipps seconded the motion for discussion.

Vote on Motion: AYES: Rhoda Kanet and Christopher Shipps; NAYS: Kristen Evans; ABSTAIN: Stephen Avakian.

Kristen Evans requested for the record that she is requesting School Committee sit down with Wellspring to verify that a program exists.

2. Report on Activities of Community Outreach Subcommittee  
Stephen Avakian noted that there have been no meetings.

3. Report on Activities of Budget Subcommittee  
Rhoda Kanet read the charge of the Hull School Committee Budget Subcommittee (copy attached). Ms. Kanet recommended the following:

- All meetings be set in advance;
- All meetings take place monthly;
- All meetings take place with the William Hurst and Superintendent;
- All meetings take place on Tuesday mornings;
- All unexpected deviations be brought to the attention of the Budget Subcommittee;
- All charges of the Budget Subcommittee be fully implemented including prior approval of all line item changes.

4. Report on Activities of Salary Subcommittee  
Chair stated he is currently the only member of the Salary Subcommittee. He appointed John Silva as the second member of this subcommittee. Mr. Shipps noted that the charge of this subcommittee is identifying salary for administrators. He noted that information was being gathered and a subcommittee meeting will be held shortly. Superintendent gave Mr. Shipps information on Superintendent salaries for the upcoming Superintendent search

5. Report on Activities of the Industrial Technology Education Subcommittee  
Stephen Avakian stated the first meeting of this committee took place before tonight's School Committee meeting. The following was discussed at the meeting:

- Challenge of the program for September 2004;
- Direction of the program;
- Hands on and Project Lead the Way;
- Site visits to other schools;
- Report back to School Committee in November;

F. New Business  
None

G. Approval of Warrants

Warrants were circulated and signed.

Rhoda Kanet asked about warrant # 31 regarding athletic equipment. Ms. Kanet requested and overall plans for the athletic program. Superintendent stated that Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director would come to a future School Committee and present the budget and a comparative analysis.

#### H. Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Chair stated School Committee received a letter from a parent regarding accessibility of sports program for all students regardless of income. Superintendent stated that a complaint was placed with the Department of Education regarding this issue. Dr. Reynolds stated she would send School Committee members the response to this complaint.

Chair stated that 230 surveys were completed and returned on the community survey.

Stephen Avakian requested that the next ITE Subcommittee meeting be posted for September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Memorial Middle School Ground Level Exhibition Area.

Stephen Avakian made a **motion** that the remainder of the 2003 - 2004 School Committee meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Kristen Evans seconded the motion for discussion. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.

School Committee discussed canceling the October 27<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting because a special town meeting is scheduled for that evening.

Rhoda Kanet made a **motion** to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:55 p.m. Stephen Avakian seconded the motion. All members unanimously voted to approve the motion.