

SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2005

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristen Evans, Chair  
James Canavan, Vice Chair  
Kevin Richardson, Secretary  
Catherine Bowes, Member  
Jack Wholey, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

- 1.0 Call to Order  
Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Memorial Middle School, 81 Central Avenue, with the Salute to the Flag.
- 2.0 Approval of Agenda  
**Motion:** Kevin Richardson                      **Second:** Catherine Bowes  
Moved to approve the School Committee agenda as presented.  
**Vote:** 5-0-0
- 3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items  
None
- 4.0 Student Representative Report  
Matthew Howard, Student Representative, provided information on the following activities at the high school:
  - PSAT;
  - Progress Reports;
  - Mock Trial;
  - MCAS;
  - Football;
  - Field Hockey;
  - Scoreboard;
  - NHS bake sale;
  - Forensics Club breakfast
  - Newspaper Club;
  - Student Council;
  - Community Service Club;
  - Class Officers.
- 5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report  
None

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Jack Wholey stated that School Committee Subcommittees should have certain guidelines, and requested that Policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee be placed on the next Committee agenda for discussion.

**Motion:** Jack Wholey

**Second:** James Canavan

Moved to approve the Monday, August 22, 2005 Athletic Subcommittee School Committee minutes as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to approve the Tuesday, August 30, 2005 School Committee Goals Workshop minutes as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Jack Wholey stated he has not been receiving updates regarding negotiations. He continued that the attorney involved in negotiations is being paid plenty of money and should be sending out communications. James Canavan stated that updates have been given out in Executive Session regarding all negotiations and he would answer any of Jack Wholey's questions.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the Tuesday, August 30, 2005 School Committee Executive Session minutes with the following change:

- Delete the word **Town** before the word counsel.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Jack Wholey voiced his opinion that the minutes are vague. Chair explained that minutes are a general overview of what was discussed at a meeting. Jack Wholey read Policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee. Chair stated that the Subcommittees that were formed this year are following the protocols of the policy.

James Canavan requested that the School Committee Budget Subcommittee be recreated at the October 25<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting defining the expectations, functions and duties of that Subcommittee.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to approve the Thursday, September 8, 2005 School Committee Budget Subcommittee minutes as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Jack Wholey read the minutes from the September 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Subcommittee meeting. He stated there that there was no agenda and that the minutes were too vague. Kevin Richardson explained that the minutes are an overview of a meeting and that the policy does not state that an agenda is needed. He invited Jack Wholey to attend Subcommittee meetings. Mr. Richardson also requested the MGL that states an agenda has to be listed on the minutes. Jack Wholey stated he would look up the MGL and give to Kevin Richardson.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the Saturday, September 24, 2005 School Committee Budget Subcommittee minutes as presented.

**Vote:** 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

Jack Wholey stated that out of 382 districts in the state that the Hull Teachers are 307 in salaries. He told Maureen Robishaw, Secretary to the Superintendent, that he would give her a copy of this information from the DOE and also from the Boston Globe at the end of the meeting.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the September 27, 2005 School Committee minutes as presented.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Drama Club Trip

Joseph Doniger, Fine Arts Lead Teacher, requested School Committee approval for the theatre students to go to New York City for the annual Theatre Trip. The trip would be on Friday, May 5, 2006 through Sunday, May 7, 2006.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the New York City Theatre Trip from May 5 – 7, 2006.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

7.2 MCAS Results

Dr. Gerald Fournier presented MCAS results in the following areas:

- Grade three reading;
- Grade four English / Language Arts;
- Grade four reading;
- Grade five science;
- Grade six mathematics;
- Grade seven English / Language Arts;
- Grade eight mathematics;
- Grade eight science;
- Grade ten English / Language Arts;
- Grade ten mathematics.

Dr. Fournier noted that while there were some disappointments, there has been a remarkable improvement in student MCAS scores in some grades, most notably in grade 8 science, in grade 10 ELA, and in grades 4 and 10 in mathematics.

School Committee discussed:

- PIMS process;
- Demographics;
- Adequate yearly progress;
- Under performing students;
- Title I;
- Special education students;
- Student drop out rate;
- Budget.

### 7.3 EQA Report

Dr. Delaney stated that last January the Office for Educational Quality and Accountability looked at data for the 2001 – 2004 school years. At the last Committee meeting it was requested that the EQA report be placed on the agenda for discussion.

School Committee discussed some of the areas that had received a rating of poor. The Committee asked questions in the following areas:

- School Improvement Plans;
- Student assessment data;
- Financial reports;
- Student chronic absenteeism;
- Student attendance, suspensions, discipline and dropout rate;
- Job descriptions;
- Student activity accounts.

School Committee requested the following:

- Updates on the poor to satisfactory areas from the EQA report;
- School Improvement Plans on a future agenda;
- An update on recommendations from new Attendance Officer;
- EQA Report placed on the Town Website.

**Motion:** Kristen Evans

**Second:** James Canavan

Moved to close debate on this item.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

### 7.4 Donation

Dr. Delaney stated that the Jacobs School had received a donation of furniture, file cabinets, bookcases and coat racks. She requested School Committee approval for this donation.

Kristen Evans stated that she received a telephone call from a community member regarding donating computers, monitors and keyboards. Jim Canavan stated that because of the age, speed and memory in computers, that type of donation is probably not useful. Mr. Joyal, Jacobs School Principal stated that in the past the school accepted a donation of computers and it ended up costing the school department money to get rid of them.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to accept the furniture donation to the L.M. Jacobs School.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

### 7.5 Fundraising Activities

Dr. Delaney stated that at an earlier meeting School Committee requested that she come back with a list of school fundraisers. Enclosed in School Committee packet was a list of the 2005 – 2006 fundraisers for each school. School Committee requested that Dr. Delaney update them on any additional fundraisers.

James Canavan suggested that in addition to the schools that a drop off box for collecting box tops be placed somewhere in town.

Jack Wholey presented his interpretation of Policy KHA – Commercial Solicitations and Commercial Fundraising Activities. Kevin Richardson stated that his understanding of commercial fundraising is to mean that a company could not come in to the schools solely for profiting themselves.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** James Canavan

Moved to refer Policy KHA – Commercial Solicitations and Commercial Fundraising Activities in the School to Town Counsel for clarification on the wording in this policy.

**Vote:** 5-0-0

Jack Wholey asked questions about the \$10,000 Forensics drawing. Chair requested information from Gregory Cunningham, Speech /Debate Coach, on what is involved in this drawing.

Jack Wholey again raised a number of issues about how fundraising is being implemented. Kristen Evans asked Jack to come up with another solution for fundraising in the schools.

James Canavan asked if fundraising activities had occurred in the past and if the Superintendent had approved these fundraiser activities. Dr. Delaney responded yes to both questions.

#### 8.0 New Business

Kristen Evans informed the Committee that James Hardy, MASC, would be available in November for a follow-up workshop regarding questions and answers on various topics related to School Committee functions. After discussion by the Committee on dates available in November, Ms. Evans stated she would contact Mr. Hardy to schedule a meeting date in November.

#### 9.0 Old Business

Catherine Bowes reported on the October 6<sup>th</sup> Building Committee meeting as follows:

- Jacobs School:
  - Construction is scheduled to begin January 2006;
  - Playground will be eliminated during Phase I;
  - Questions were answered regarding parking;
  - Discussion of pre-qualifications for contractors and subcontractors is still going on
- Hull High School
  - Individuals from the Building Committee met with the Bonding Company.

William Hurst stated that five leaks in the gymnasium area of the high school roof have been reported to him.

Dr. Delaney stated that she asked Andrew Stephen and Peter Dionne, Assistant Principals, to represent the school department at the Selectmen's meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the LNG Terminal issue. Dr. Delaney also stated that a public meeting would take place on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in Hull High School to show a film about the LNG Tanker issue.

Jack Wholey asked if the scoreboard was installed on the high school field and questioned the operation of the handicap lift. Catherine Bowes responded that Jackson Construction Company failed to meet their obligations at Hull High School and the Building Committee was working with the bonding company regarding the handicap lift. James Canavan requested that at the next Building Committee meeting the issue be raised about what the implications would be if the handicap lift is not functional at this time, what are the alternatives, and whether or not the town is in compliance.

- 10.0 **Motion:** James Canavan **Second:** Cathy Bowes  
Moved to approve the following policies for third reading / adoption:  
Policy AD-E1 – Mission Statement  
Policy ADA – School District Goals And Objectives

Policy GDF – Support Staff Hiring  
**Vote:** 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

- Motion:** Catherine Bowes **Second:** Kevin Richardson  
Moved to approve Policy GCF – Professional Staff Hiring for third reading / adoption with the following change:
- Change the word *national* to the word **regional** in the third paragraph.
- Vote:** 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

- Motion:** Catherine Bowes **Second:** James Canavan  
Moved to approve Policy BCB – Committee Member Conflict of Interest for second reading with the following change:
- Change the second paragraph under Nepotism to read: **Should a member of the Superintendents' or Committee members' extended family (i.e. aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law) be considered for employment the State Ethics Commission would be contacted for a ruling on any potential conflict of interest.**
- Vote:** 5-0-0

- Motion:** Catherine Bowes **Second:** James Canavan  
Moved to approve the following policies for second reading:
- Policy GA – Personnel Policies Goals
  - Policy GBEA – Staff Ethics/conflict of Interest
  - Policy GBEB – Staff conduct
  - Policy GBEC – Drug-Free Workplace Policy
  - Policy GBI – Staff Participation in Political Activities
  - Policy GBK – Staff Complaints and Grievances
  - Policy GCA – Professional Staff Positions
  - Policy GCBA Professional Staff Salary Schedules
  - Policy GCBB – Employment of Principals and Administrators
  - Policy GCBC – Professional Staff Supplementary Pay Plans
  - Policy GCC – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences
  - Policy GCCC – Professional Staff Family and Medical Leave
  - Policy GCD – Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays
  - Policy GCG Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff
  - Policy GCH – Professional Staff Orientation
  - Policy GCIA – Philosophy of Staff Development
  - GCJ – Professional Teachers Status
- Vote:** 5-0-0

After discussion by School Committee the following two policies were tabled until a future meeting:  
Policy GBGA – Staff Personal Security and Safety

James Canavan asked if there was a requirement that all employees be tested for tuberculosis as stated on this policy. If there was no requirement, that sentence should be deleted from the policy.

**Policy GCCC-R – Family and Medical Leave**

James Canavan suggested that this policy contain only information directly related to the Family and Medical Leave act.

**11.0 Approval of Warrants**

Chair stated that the warrants were available for School Committee approval on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. William Hurst responded to a question from Catherine Bowes about warrant #1089.

**Motion:** Kevin Richardson

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve school warrants as presented.

**Vote:** 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

**12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members**

Jack Wholey requested that the discussion of Latin being implemented as a third foreign language at Hull School be place on a future agenda.

Jack Wholey requested the following information:

- Number of students on an IEP;
- Number of students in substantial separate classroom;
- Number of students in integrated/mainstream classroom;
- Number of students partially in mainstream classrooms;
- Percentage of students partially mainstreamed;
- Total number of in district special education students;
- Number of students out of district;
- Cost for out of district students;
- Number of special education staff.

Kristen Evans stated that some good ideas to utilize Channel 22 had been discussed during the Subcommittee meetings. Jack Wholey asked Ms. Evans who the Chair is for the Channel 22 Subcommittee. Ms. Evans responded Jack Wholey.

Jack Wholey stated that the money would be well spent on the outside audit company that has been hired to look into school funding and per pupil cost.

**Motion:** James Canavan

**Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and not to come back into Open Session.

**Roll Call Vote:** Catherine Bowes, James Canavan, Kristen Evans, Jack Wholey, and Kevin Richardson