

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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
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: Catherine Bowes **Second:** Kevin Richardson
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
Alexandra Castro, Student Representative, reported on the following areas:
 - Holiday Spirit – Toys for Tots
 - Holiday Alumni Concert – 12/22/05
 - Spring School Play – *Crazy for You*
 - Yearbook Council
 - Winter sports
 - Wrestling team is teaming up with Cohasset Schools
 - Semi formal dance
 - Detention
- 5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report
None
- 6.0 Approval of Minutes
Jack Wholey insisted that the statement made by Kevin Richardson on page four of the November 22, 2005 minutes was wrong. Kristen Evans tried to tell Mr. Wholey that the minutes only reflect what was discussed or stated at a meeting, not whether something is

correct

or not. Mr. Wholey continued to insist that Mr. Richardson's statement was incorrect.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the November 22, 2005 School Committee minutes with the following change:

- Page 5 – change: *Chair and Superintendent responded to Mr. Wholey's questions to:*
Chair and Superintendent reviewed each warrant that Jack Wholey questioned which each School Committee Member had a chance to review before the meeting.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the November 22, 2005 School Committee Executive Session minutes as presented.

Vote: 5-0-0

7.0 Business Items – Superintendent

7.1 Proposal for Lacrosse Team

Michael Blanchard, President Hull Youth Lacrosse, explained that Hull Youth Lacrosse only has students in grades three through eight. He said he has been working with Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director, for a possibility to expand the spring sports at Hull High School that would include a boys and girls lacrosse team. The program would be paid for during the 2006 and 2007 season through fundraising and donations. The School Committee discussed the process of how coaching positions should be hired and the way the funds for this program should be handled. Dr. Fournier, Assistant Superintendent suggested the option that coaches volunteer for this program and his/her mileage and expenses be paid.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to table this item until the next School Committee meeting and to request clarification from the Town Accountant as to what type of account should be used for the funding for this program.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

7.2 Educational Quality Assurance (EQA) Audit

Dr. Delaney stated that the Business and Financial Management Domain in the Educational Quality Assurance Audit for the period of 2001 – 2004 had twenty-seven indicators of which eleven were rated satisfactory, fourteen were rated poor and two were rated unsatisfactory. Dr. Delaney read each of the poor and unsatisfactory indicators and the action that have been taken. Superintendent responded to questions from School Committee members.

7.3 Fundraising Activities

Dr. Delaney read a letter from Jennifer DiSabatino, High School Spanish Teacher, informing School Committee of the fundraising activities students will be doing to defray the cost of the trip to Italy.

Jack Wholey questioned and commented about the handling of checks for this trip. Dr. Delaney tried to explain to Mr. Wholey that the money would be distributed into the student

activity account. Mr. Wholey continued discussing this item. Catherine Bowes requested to move onto the next agenda item.

7.4 Retirements

Kristen Evans read retirement letters from the following staff members who will be retiring at the end of the school year:

- Paula Almedia
- Patricia DiGiusto
- Joseph Doniger
- Nancy Dunn
- Patricia Edgar
- Amelia Leary
- John Lewis
- Beverly Tramontana

Ms. Evans on behalf of the School Committee congratulated, thanked, and wished each and every one of the retirees the very best.

Kevin Richardson stated that together the total number of years is 252 for these teachers, which also included William Hurst.

Kristen Evans announced that Dr. Gerald Fournier would be leaving in January 2006 to accept a position as Superintendent of Schools in the Palmer School District. On behalf of the School Committee, she thanked Dr. Fournier for all he has done as Assistant Superintendent and Interim Superintendent for the Hull Schools and wished him the very best.

8.0 New Business

Jack Wholey requested that the School Committee, Superintendent and high school principal find time to have a walk-through of Hull High School. Chair stated she thought it was a great idea and suggested setting a date for a Saturday in January 2006.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 Subcommittee Organization

Chair requested a motion to dissolve all School Committee Subcommittees and then reestablish certain School Committee Subcommittees.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to dissolve the Budget Subcommittee, Custodian Negotiating Subcommittee, HTA Negotiating Subcommittee, Nurses Negotiating Subcommittee, Paraprofessional Negotiating Subcommittee, Athletic Subcommittee, Cable 22 Subcommittee and then reestablish certain School Committee Subcommittees.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: James Canavan

Moved to reestablish a Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Kristen Evans

Moved to appoint James Canavan as the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee

Vote: 4-1-0 (James Canavan)

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: James Canavan

Moved to appoint Kevin Richardson as the second member of the Budget Subcommittee of the School Committee.

Vote: 5-0-0

James Canavan suggested the following functions and duties of the Budget Subcommittee:

- To provide monthly information on the budget;
- To identify areas where the budget should be reviewed and approved by the whole School Committee;
- To take direction from the entire School Committee;
- To provide status reports;
- To prepare for the annual budgeting process done through budget workshops attended by the full Committee;
- To work with other Committees that may have budgetary impacts, i.e. negotiating committees.

Chair informed the Committee that a copy of the subcommittee minutes needs to be sent to School Committee members and the Superintendent in a timely fashion and the Chair and the Superintendent are ex-officio members of all School Committee Subcommittees. Also, it is very important to know that the Subcommittee may make recommendations for School Committee action, but it may not act for the School Committee.

Jim Canavan asked for clarification from Town Counsel on the correct naming of representatives of the School Committee that engage in negotiations.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to create individual bodies of representatives of the School Committee for the custodian negotiations, HTA negotiations, nurses negotiations and paraprofessional negotiations, to revisit this item as to what they would be officially sanctioned as, and to keep the same representatives on the HTA Negotiating Team, Nurses Negotiating Team, and Paraprofessionals Negotiating Team as follows:

- HTA – James Canavan and Kristen Evans
- Nurses – James Canavan and Kevin Richardson
- Paraprofessionals – Catherine Bowes and Jack Wholey.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Moved to reestablish the custodian negotiations team and to appoint James Canavan as chair. James Canavan stated that due to time and family constraints he would only be able to serve as an alternate representative on the custodian negotiations. There was no second to this motion. Chair stated that Catherine Bowes was already a member of the custodian negotiations. Jack Wholey volunteered as the second member.

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: James Canavan

Moved to appoint Jack Wholey as a representative of the School Committee and James Canavan as the alternate on the custodian negotiations team.

Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Kevin Richardson Second: Catherine Bowes
Moved to reestablish the School Committee Athletic Subcommittee
Vote: 5-0-0

Kevin Richardson suggested the following functions and duties of the Athletic Subcommittee:

- To work with the athletic director and high school principal to create a useful and valid process to recognize interest in current and potential programs;
- To evaluate current athletic programs;
- To report budget implications to the full Committee.

Motion: Kristen Evans **Second:** James Canavan
Moved to appoint Kevin Richardson as a member of the School Committee Athletic Subcommittee.
Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: Kristen Evans **Second:** Kevin Richardson
Moved to appoint Jack Wholey as a member of the School Committee Athletic Subcommittee
Vote: 5-0-0

Chair reminded Jack Wholey that as a member of the Athletic Subcommittee he must attend all the meetings.

Kristen Evans requested that a notice be placed on Channel 22, on the Town Website, or in the Hull Times listing the purpose of the Athletic Subcommittee and requesting community members, parents, students, and teachers to serve on this Subcommittee.

Jack Wholey stated that other sports should be offered to students. Kristen Evans responded that as part of the Athletic Subcommittee a survey could be prepared regarding the offering of other sports to be brought back to the Committee for approval.

Chair stated that Jack Wholey had requested that a Cable 22 Subcommittee be formed because he wanted to see more educational programs on the Channel 22 Cable Station. After a discussion as to whether this Subcommittee should continue, Ms. Evans requested that Jack Wholey come back at the next School Committee meeting with the suggested functions and duties for the Cable 22 Subcommittee.

Motion: Kristen Evans **Second:** James Canavan
Moved to table the reorganization of the School Committee Cable 22 Subcommittee until the next School Committee meeting.
Vote: 5-0-0

Motion: James Canavan **Second:** Kristen Evans
Moved to appoint Kevin Richardson as the chair of the School Committee Athletic Subcommittee.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

James Canavan discussed the Academic Eligibility Policy that was raised at the last School Committee meeting. He suggested the Committee should explore but not change or lower the expectations of student passing courses, but placing a mechanism within the policy where a student could regain eligibility. He requested recommendations from the high school principal on how the Committee could reconsider this policy but not lowering expectations. Chair requested Jonathan Ford, High School Principal to come to the next School Committee meeting with recommendations.

Kevin Richardson commented that according to the MIAA Website, School Committee can change a policy effective with a term, but cannot change a policy midterm, which would mean that a change could not take effect immediately.

Joseph Doniger, Fine Arts Teacher, stated that he would like to clear up some misconceptions that have been reported regarding the fine arts program. Mr. Doniger discussed the following:

- Correcting the cost that was paid to the musicians;
- Staff musicians opting to be in the school play;
- Rehearsal time;
- Laws requiring a monthly rental of the scores for a play;
- Cost of union musicians;
- Amount of time staff takes off from other areas to work on the play;
- Fundraising;
- Increase in price of ticket if there was no fundraising;
- Money deposited included individual checks for the New York City trip, which was used to pay the company running the trip.

Jack Wholey stated that he had a copy of the US Department of Education Website Financial Accounting for Local and State School Activity Funding Guidelines. Chair asked Mr. Wholey to give a copy of these guidelines to the Committee and the Superintendent.

Catherine Bowes stated that she would like to make a correction to a statement made by Jack Wholey earlier at the meeting. Mr. Wholey had earlier referred to a maintenance issue in the EQA report as a repair to the high school roof. Ms. Bowes said that the high school roof is not leaking. The Building Committee did not accept the gymnasium roof as completed because of poor workmanship, it is part of the high school punch list, and that the attorney's are working with the bonding company. She explained the process involving the high school building project issues.

Dr. Delaney responded to a question that Jack Wholey had raised at a previous meeting. She stated that forty-one students left the high school last year. Twenty-five of those students moved with-in the state, ten students moved out of state, four students attended programs at Wellspring, and two students were tutored at home.

Dr. Delaney responded to another question from Jack Wholey's at a previous meeting regarding the soda/juice machines in each of the schools. She stated that at the Jacobs School a \$13 profit is made on each case of soda that is sold. At the Memorial School a \$12.50 profit is made on each case of soda sold, and the high school received a 14% commission per case. All monies are being deposited into the schools student accounts.

Kristen Evans read the new dates for the January and February School Committee meetings. She asked if the dates were all right with School Committee members. School Committee members responded that the dates were fine.

10.0 School Committee Policies

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to approve the following policies for second reading:

- Policy H – Negotiations
 - Policy HA – Negotiations Goals
 - Policy HB – Negotiations Legal Status
 - Policy HD – School Committee Negotiating powers and Duties
 - Policy HF – School Committee Negotiating Agent
 - Policy HP – Staff Job Actions

Vote: 5-0-0

11.0 School Committee Warrants

Jack Wholey stated that he had not seen the warrants.

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to approved school warrants as presented.

Vote: 4-0-1 (Jack Wholey)

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Dr. Delaney read a letter from the U.S. Department of Civil Rights regarding a complaint alleging that Hull Public Schools violated Title IX and also denied access to the football field by persons with disabilities. She stated that she was told that the complaint was filed by Jack Wholey.

Kristen Evans stated that she had received a letter from Mrs. Edmonds requesting to be placed on the January 11, 2006 School Committee agenda regarding her daughter. Jack Wholey wanted the letter read. Chair tried to explain to him that because of confidentiality laws the letter could not be read. Chair stated a copy of the letter would be sent to all Committee members.

A letter from the Hull Boosters was read by Kristen Evans about the fact that there is a severe decline of students and adults making gate receipt contributions. According to the letter, it is believed that Jack Wholey is intentionally undermining the good faith intent between the Booster Club and the School Committee with every conversation regarding gate receipts and fundraising at the high school. It was requested in this letter that the School Committee seek a decision from Town Counsel as to whether it could be a conflict of interest when Mr. Wholey discusses or offers a vote on any business directly involving athletics or other high school programs.

Jack Wholey asked about the status of the school preventive maintenance plans. Dr. Delaney

responded that James Griffin, Facilities Manager, is working on the information and he will be present at a future meeting to answer questions. Mr. Wholey kept discussing this issue. James Canavan called to end discussion and to move forward with the agenda.

Jack Wholey inquired about the status of the Forensics Team raffle. Dr. Delaney responded

that Gregory Cunningham, Speech/Debate Coach, is working on it and that he will be at a future meeting to answer questions regarding this issue.

Jack Wholey requested an update on when the new attendance counselor would present a report to School Committee. Dr. Delaney indicated that the attendance counselor would be at the February meeting. Mr. Wholey continued discussion asking what the attendance is doing and who supervising her. When Dr. Delaney tried to respond that she is supervising her, Mr. Wholey emphasized that he is Dr. Delaney's boss.

Jack Wholey brought up an email regarding him being recalled as a Committee member. Kristen Evans informed Mr. Wholey that the email was not addressed to School Committee and could not be read. Mr. Wholey insisted on trying to read this email and stated that Joseph Doniger was allowed to speak against him and that Kristen Evans had read a letter from the Boosters regarding him. He stated he had a right to read this email.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to close debate.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

Jack Wholey continued discussing the email. Kristen informed him that a motion had been made and voted to end discussion.

Motion: Kristen Evans

Second: Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. for the purpose of collecting bargaining and not to reconvene into Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Catherine Bowes, James Canavan, Kristen Evans and Kevin Richardson. Jack Wholey did not participate in the Roll Call vote.