

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HULL, MA 02045

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2006

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristen Evans, Chair
James Canavan, Vice Chair arrived at 7:10
Kevin Richardson, Secretary
Catherine Bowes, Member
Jack Wholey, Member arrived at 7:05

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Paula Delaney, Superintendent of Schools
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 7:00 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: 3-0-0

3.0 Input from Public on Agenda Items

None

4.0 Student Representative Report

Kim Henry, Student Representative, reported on the following areas:

- High school newspaper
- Financial Aide
- Boys and girls basketball
- Hockey
- Wrestling Team
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship
- Martin Luther King breakfast
- Forensics Team

Ms. Henry presented Catherine Bowes with a certificate from the Voice of Democracy Committee for her participation in judging the essay and oratory competition.

Chair read a letter from Governor Romney congratulating the twenty-one Hull High School Seniors who were recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship. Each of the twenty-one students will receive a four-year scholarship to a state university. School Committee congratulated each student for a job well done.

5.0 Hull Teacher Association Representative's Report

None

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Chair stated that at the last meeting when the motion to reestablish a custodian negotiations team that there was no second to the motion. She requested a new motion on this item including the members that will serve on this committee.

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: Kristen Evans

Moved to reestablish the custodians negotiating team naming Catherine Bowes as the Chair and Jack Wholey as a member.

Vote: 4-0-0

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: Jack Wholey

Moved to approved the December 13, 2006 School Committee minutes as presented.

Vote: 4-0-0

7.0 Business Items - Superintendent

7.1 Girl Scout Cookie Fundraising

Beverly Whitcomb, Girl Scout Chair, requested permission to sell Girl Scout cookies at in-town sporting events. She stated she would request permission through each principal and the athletic director and would not be competing against other organizations.

Motion: Kevin Richardson

Second: James Canavan

Moved to approve the request for Girl Scouts to sell cookies at in town sporting events.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

7.2 Proposed Lacrosse Team

Dr. Delaney stated that as requested by school committee she had met with the Town Treasurer, Arthur Flavin to discuss the handling of the funds for this proposed program. Mr. Flavin suggested that the funds should be handled as a grant. William Hurst, Chief Business and Financial Officer suggested that Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director write the grant to the Hull Youth Lacrosse requesting funds for a high school lacrosse team and the school department would oversee the spending of this grant. Michael Blanchard stated that the coaches would be volunteering and reimbursed for expenses by the Hull Youth Lacrosse.

Motion: Catherine Bowes

Second: James Canavan

Moved to approve the addition of a Hull High School Lacrosse Team, subject to grant funding, and to authorize Joseph Sullivan, Athletic Director to write a grant requesting funding for this program.

Vote: (see below)

Jack Wholey asked how the HTA feels about hiring non-union coaches. Gregory Cunningham, High School Teacher, stated that he is not speaking as an HTA representative, but at this time it is not an HTA issue. Mr. Wholey continued discussing and questioning this issue.

Catherine Bowes called for the vote on her motion.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

7.3 The Abrahams Report

Dr. Delaney stated that School Committee had authorized The Abrahams Group to review the school budget and financial management and Mark Abraham and Judy Killinger were at the meeting to present a report.

Mark Abraham report included the following:

- Validate FY 2006 payroll and personnel data
- Develop the FY2007 operating budget
- Review and comment upon District periodic and annual financial reports.

Mr. Abraham discussed the following:

- Salary Builder
- Stipends
- Grants
- Budget balances
- Consistency
- Projected available balances
- Per pupil cost
- Recommendations

Mr. Abraham also suggested developing a financial policies and procedures manual to guide the financial management practices of the school district.

There was a discussion of the way the Town reports certain finances to DOE, which reflects the per pupil cost.

School Committee requested a Budget Workshop be scheduled for Thursday, January 19th at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Abraham was requested to attend a Committee meeting at a future date.

7.4 Senior Class Trip

Jon Ford, High School Principal, discussed the misconception that the trip had been planned before approval from school committee. Gregory Cunningham and Janet Scribner, High School Class Advisors, requested permission for a school sponsored senior class trip to Orlando for the Disney Grad Night during April 27 – April 30, 2006.

School Committee discussed the following concerns:

- safety
- supervision
- liability
- security
- education
- Connect Ed
- Timeline

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Jack Wholey

Moved to approve the senior class trip to Disney World Grad Night in Orlando, Florida during April 27 – April 30, 2006.

Vote: (see below)

Catherine Bowes requested a Point of Information. Ms. Bowes voiced her disappointment that Gregory Cunningham did not come before the School Committee in November 2005 for approval of this trip when he had approached the senior class to inquire if there would be any interest in this trip.

Jack Wholey asked for the motion to be read and then rescinded his second on the motion.

Second: Catherine Bowes

Vote: **Ayes:** James Canavan and Catherine Bowes; **Nays:** Kevin Richardson, Kristen Evans, and Jack Wholey.

7.5 Academic Eligibility

Jonathan Ford, High School Principal, stated that according to MIAA rules the only time we can determine eligibility is when report cards are issued. Suggesting, that there be no to the Academic Eligibility policy at this time, he noted that the High School Student Council and the School Council supports this policy. When asked by School Committee about the student failure rate, Mr. Ford responded that some freshmen students are not turning in homework and some senior students are not coming to school. Next year he would like to have two teachers in the library after school and mandate failing students to receive additional help.

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to leave policy JJJ – Extracurricular Activity Eligibility as is for this school year and to revisit and review policy in May 2006.

Vote: 5-0-0

Kristen Evans requested Jonathan Ford to come back to a school committee meeting after the end of the second term to discuss the number of students receiving an “F”.

7.6 Administrative Positions

Dr. Delaney said that the deadline for the Director of Instructional Services and the Director of Business and Finance positions will be February 7, 2006 and interview teams for each position will be set up.

7.7 Ratification of Agreement

Motion: James Canavan

Second: Kevin Richardson

Moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hull Teachers Association.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

Jack Wholey stated that he did not receive updates on the HTA contract negotiations. Jim Canavan stated that was completely inaccurate, that he had met and updated the Committee regularly on negotiations, that he had received final authorization from the Committee, and that Jack Wholey was present at the final negotiation session.

7.8 Future Agenda Items

Dr. Delaney stated that Rebecca MacDonald, Attendance Counselor and James Griffin, Facilities Manager, would be in attendance at the next meeting to address Committee questions.

8.0 New Business

Kristen Evans requested that the principals come to the January 25th meeting to discuss MCAS results and progress in School Improvement Action Plans.

9.0 Old Business

None

10.0 School Committee Policy Issues

Motion: Catherine Bowes **Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to accept the following policies for third reading / adoption:

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: 4-0-1 (Jack Wholey)

Catherine Bowes requested changing the 2006 date for the second reading on the above policies to **2005**.

11.0 Approval of Warrants

Jack Wholey questioned warrant #1215 regarding the cost of legal expenses. Dr. Delaney responded that Attorney Toomey specializes in school law, which keeps the school department out of litigation and saves money in the long run.

Motion: Catherine Bowes **Second:** Kevin Richardson

Moved to approve the warrants as presented.

Vote: 4-1-0 (Jack Wholey)

12.0 Correspondence to and Comments from School Committee Members

Jack Wholey commented about a situation regarding the returning of money. Dr. Delaney stated that she had looked into the issue and had received clarification from Town Counsel Attorney Lampke, and the issue had been handled..

13.0 Executive Session

Motion: James Canavan **Second:** Catherine Bowes

Moved to go into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. and not to reconvene into Open Session.

Roll Call Vote: Catherine Bowes, James Canavan, Kristen Evans, and Kevin Richardson. Jack Wholey walked out of the meeting and did not vote on the motion.