

**HADLEY SCHOOL COMMITTEE
HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS
February 4, 2010**

5:45 PM Regular Meeting

Hopkins Academy Music Room

PRESENT: Chair: Mrs. Tracy Kelley, Vice Chair: Mr. James Michalak.
School Committee Members: Ms. Linda Dunlavy, Ms. Robie Grant and Mr. Tom Waskiewicz .
In Attendance: Hopkins Staff Members Patrick Lemieux, Lisa York, Marilyn Judah, Ruthann Fitzgibbon, Cathy Niedziela, Christine Selig, Hopkins Academy Principal, Diana Bonneville, Christine Pipczynski, Diane Chapman, Sharon Parsons and Mr. Jack Horrigan, School Psychologist.. Others: Ms. Linda Sanderson and Mrs. Mary Schmith, Carol Trane, Administrative Assistant, Gazette Reporter, Nick Grabbe and Walter from TV5.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Tracy Kelley, called the meeting to order at 5:49 P.M.

Chairman Kelley opened the meeting and informed the audience that the Committee planned to go into Executive Session; however, before she would entertain a motion to that effect, she recognized Mr. Jack Horrigan who came prepared to read a statement on behalf of the faculty.

Mr. Horrigan thanked the Committee and read a prepared statement congratulating Dr. Young for being named Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year, adding that Dr. Young is not only an asset to the school system but to the Town of Hadley as well. Under his leadership the Hadley Public Schools had provided the highest quality public education for their children. That excellence is a direct reflection of Dr. Young's unwavering commitment to the schools. Further stated, that our school system has avoided significant losses and remains strong during these challenging economic times while other schools in the region have suffered tremendously, Dr. Young's financial expertise and grant writing ability have helped to maintain personnel and student programs even during the most difficult of financial times. Our buildings and facilities are updated and well maintained, he consistently strives to provide teachers with the proper supplies and materials needed for quality instruction. We, the faculty, feel extremely fortunate to have a superintendent who is both approachable and personable. Dr. Young listens to our concerns, is responsive, principled and fair. He has always aimed to keep staff morale high. Dr. Young has earned our confidence through his hard work and dedication. His forward thinking leadership has the Hadley Schools well positioned for the decade that has just begun. It is both an honor and a privilege to work with someone with such intelligence, integrity, professionalism and dedication. Congratulations, Dr. Young. Sincerely, The Hadley Education Association

Chairman Kelley thanked Mr. Horrigan for sharing the sentiments of the faculty.

Mrs. Kelley called for any other comments/statements before entertaining a motion to enter into Executive Session, also announced the Committee's intent to return to Regular Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. There being no further comments, Mrs. Kelley called for a motion to enter Executive Session and again informed the audience that she could not predict how long the Committee would remain in Executive Session, but the intention is to come back out into open session.

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Michalak) move to enter Executive Session to discuss contract negotiation with respect to the Superintendent of Schools; and further, the Committee will reconvene in regular session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. ROLL CALL VOTE: In Favor: Michalak, Waskiewicz, Kelley. Voting No: Dunlavy and Grant.

NEXT MEETING

March 30, 2010, at 5:30 PM, Hopkins Academy Music Room.

The Committee re-entered Regular Session at 7:15PM.

Mrs. Kelley announced the School Committee has reviewed a proposed contract for Dr. Young in order to secure his employment with the Hadley School District and, if accepted, it will be a six-year rolling contract. Mrs. Kelley noted there have been some changes in the proposed language and asked if the Committee would offer a motion to accept the contract with the changes.

MOTION: (Waskiewicz/Dunlavy) move to accept the Superintendent's contract as discussed in Executive Session.

Discussion: Ms. Grant is voting no this contract and wanted to make it clear this has nothing to do with her evaluation of Dr. Young, he is an excellent Superintendent, she hopes he stays with us for many years; however there were certain provisions in the contract that she did not agree with. Ms. Dunlavy also echoed Ms. Grant's sentiments, hoping Dr. Young stays, adding she values Dr. Young's as our Superintendent, but the contract has provisions she is not comfortable with. Mr. Waskiewicz said given Dr. Young's history, dedication, accomplishments, etc. and much sought after by other districts across the state, he feels this is one of the best bargains going right now. Mr. Waskiewicz added that the school attorney who works with 40 some districts across the commonwealth, rates Dr. Young as one of the top, adding again, to secure Dr. Young's tenure for Hadley is the best course of action and will look back on this and realize the best decision has been made. Mrs. Kelley and Mr. Michalak also supported Mr. Waskiewicz's assessment. Mrs. Kelley said she believed this is a very proactive move in securing a superintendent she feels will continue the successes that Hadley has experienced in the past and is very comfortable with every aspect of the contract.

Roll Call VOTE: In Favor: Mr. Waskiewicz, Mr. Michalak, and Mrs. Kelley. Voting No: Ms. Grant and Ms. Dunlavy.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Waskiewicz/Michalak) move to adjourn at 7:25 P