

Dear Trustees,

I had a very nice visit with Jean Nardini yesterday afternoon. The cancer may ravage her physical being and eventually take her life, but I walked out of her home knowing that this evil disease didn't stand a chance against her courage, her spirit, or her dignity. She taught me a great many things in our final 60 minutes together.

With her family present I presented her with the beautiful framed announcement from the board of trustees proclaiming that hereafter all EHS students in need of medical attention would be treated in the Jean M. Nardini Health Center. I explained that this honor was in recognition of her long and distinguished career helping others in need, and in appreciation for her commitment and dedication to Eagle Hill School. After the applause stopped and the tears subsided, Jean looked up and in a low raspy voice said: "This says *so voted*, the trustees better have had a quorum and I better be able to find it in the minutes or I'm not accepting it." I assured her that the board of trustees had followed Jean's Rules of Governance to the letter of the law.

Jean's house was filled with flowers, pictures, and tributes from thousands of people who have had the pleasure and honor of knowing her. However, it was abundantly clear that the board's magnanimous gesture touched a chord deep within her heart. At one point she stared at the announcement for several minutes, then slowly raised her Red Sox hat and said: "We did some great things together. Please tell the trustees that I love them, I will miss them, and I thank them for doing this." Her husband, "Big Al," just gave me the type of hug that rendered words unnecessary.

As we said goodbye she asked the date of graduation, to which I responded June 5th. She said she was not going to be able to make it...

Peter J. McDonald, Ed.D.
Headmaster
Eagle Hill School
413-477-6000
EHS1.org