



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee Budget Workshop of May 16, 2017

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the budget workshop to order at 3:40 p.m. Present: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Shaun Toohey (arrived at 3:42 p.m.), Mr. Scott Wood, Vice President and Ms. Gail Sullivan, President Mr. Jared Fulgoni, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Brian O'Connell, School Business Manager and Mr. James Scully, Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Sven Amirian and Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello were absent.

Documents distributed to the committee included:

- Updated HPS Proposed FY18 Budget dated May 16, 2017
- May 15, 2017 Haverhill Public Schools Proposed FY18 (one page outline)
- Memorandum from Brian O'Connell dated May 16, 2017 with supporting documentation

Key discussion points:

7.1% (budget proposal) to 7.5% (next level of increases if funded) - put in grant categories to get to those areas

Goal to increase performance at Tilton

Staffing: Grade 4 teacher - math teacher - reading teacher – bring in a kindergarten teacher

Grant Application: extended learning time – extended day – grant decision late June

Goal to increase performance at HHS

Superintendent's Remarks:

Staffing: Math teacher – Language teacher

Dropout Rate: 4.4% to 4.1% total population

7.9% 7.6% economically disadvantaged of which 16% ELL

Two bilingual court officials work with DA Office, which helps in supporting families

The family commitment to education and the transiency rate is part of this issue

Mr. Wood Remarks:

Don Davoli's program is a good program

He does an amazing job with the kids

Some issues these students deal with is caring during the day for younger siblings and

working to support families; behavioral problems; medical issues; teen pregnancy

A combination of factors contribute to the students that participate in this program

Enrollment is in 30's

Cost is approximately \$200,000 with multiple teachers and other support

Possibility of expanding this program model

Mr. Scully's Response:

Former pro baseball player and Haverhill native Carlos Pena mentioned the impact of Don

Davoli and Dave Reed in his educational career

Meeting with DESE along with WRVTHS Superintendent-Director Maureen Lynch to discuss

other options for the "non-traditional" student

At the present time, Ms. Lynch is advocating against more vocational-themed programs in

our high school when we are trying to compliment their programs

There are a group of kids who go to school in morning but "are done" by noontime. We are

hoping to develop content in the morning and vocational programs in the afternoon, which

might include internships

Statements regarding High School, Whittier Regional & Dropout Prevention:

Freshman Class is down 100 students (Ms. Sullivan)
30% of applicants are not accepted (Mr. Toohey)
YES program was integrated into Don Davoli's program (Mr. Scully)
There is a class of kids – we can bring back and the dropout number will go down (Attorney Magliocchetti)
Investment in students now or later if they become dropouts (Ms. Sullivan)
High School is in bottom 10% - very concerning
Mirroring initiative at Tilton with observations, getting into classrooms – evaluations completed – evaluations were not done correctly in the past
Learning Walks were started more consistently last year (Mr. Scully & Mr. Fulgoni)

Commentary on Retention and Hiring of Highly Qualified Staff:

The importance of highly qualified and certified staff (Mr. Scully)
Avenues for reimbursement (Mr. Fulgoni)
Reimbursement for three courses – an option (Ms. Sullivan)
Course reimbursement can be expensive (Mr. Wood)
Cap the reimbursement for courses at \$1,000 – there is a burden on young teachers
Qualified Staff conduct evaluations (Mr. Scully)

Class Size and Overcrowding Issues

Consentino

A structure behind Consentino to alleviate the class size (Attorney Magliocchetti)
Temporary classrooms for \$1m (Consentino) – not smart investment (Mr. Wood)
It would cost approximately \$60,000 per classroom to make the school usable, which would approximately \$5 million (Mr. Scully)

Greenleaf School

The rehab of the Greenleaf School should be examined (Ms. Sullivan)
The school does not have to be completely rehab and would lower class sizes (Mr. Wood)
There are a limited number of students – handicapped access to the second floor is needed - \$75,000 per classroom for Greenleaf

Other Schools

Bartlett is mostly a neighborhood school (Mr. Wood)
K-3 in Bartlett and moving students to Greenleaf (Attorney Magliocchetti)

Miscellaneous

Mr. Scully recommends keeping the Human Resource consultant (retired superintendent) since it has been successful in the amount of \$15,000.

Mr. Wood asked for FTE to be included in the budget document since that was helpful. Mr. O'Connor noted a column would be eliminated to accommodate this suggestion.

Mr. Scully noted that the Assistant Superintendent is grant funded.

Ms. Sullivan related that the State recommended reinstatement of ELA Supervisor whose duties are presently being fulfilled by Dr. Thakkar.

Attorney Magliocchetti questioned the efficacy of the curriculum supervisor positions.

Mr. Fulgoni responded that presently administration is looking at their productivity.

Mr. Scully reported that Haverhill was the only Gateway City whose school budget coming in with a balanced budget and that we had met our targets. The superintendent commented that special education was always a concern. He stated a number of children with disabilities were going out of district and the committee would be receiving those numbers.

Ms. Sullivan suggested determining the efficacy of positions contained in the budget.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for asked for a breakdown of the Learning for Life Program.

Ms. Sullivan questioned Assistant Attendance position in the budget.

Mr. Scully stated that would be an alternative to address school attendance issues besides an Assistant Attendance Supervisor (\$97,002).

Ms. Sullivan asked about the hiring and retention of speech therapists.

Mr. Scully noted that these positions had stabilized.

In response to the assertion that SHHMCS is underfunded, Mr. Scully said that is not accurate.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that Bradford Principal (\$98,000) and Assistant Principal (\$97,002) salaries were extremely close.

In reference to the Merrimack College Interns, Mr. Scully related that there was a cap on interns (15) and with the HEA's cooperation; there was a \$6,000 savings per intern.

In reference to Esco, the Mayor suggested that Mr. Geary contact Mr. Pacheco about the operation of the system.

Attorney Magliocchetti wanted to explore continuing utilize Greenleaf School as an elementary school.

Mayor Fiorentini noted more discussion was needed to alleviate overcrowding and to lower grade size at Tilton and Consentino.

Mr. Wood reported that he was not in favor of taking Greenleaf School off line as a school building and believed that there needed to be an alternative to lower class size and provide flexibility in the district.

Ms. Sullivan agreed that one of the major goals was to lower class size.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that Pentucket Lake had some challenges.

Superintendent Scully commented that former Assistant Superintendent Mary Malone infused support and monies into Pentucket Lake to assist in the literacy efforts.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the committee would meet next week (Thursday, May 25, 2017) on the budget and would start with Whittier School.

Meeting concluded at 5:30 pm