



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2019
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Sven Amirian, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Attorney Richard Rosa	Ms. Gail Sullivan
Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello (7:06 p.m.)	Attorney Paul Magliocchetti
Mr. Scott Wood	Mr. Sven Amirian, Vice Chair
Ms. Margaret Marotta Superintendent	

The following member was absent:

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

Public Comment.

Mr. Amirian reiterated the policy on Public Comment which stated:

- All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public.
- The School Committee desires citizens of the District to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of the public.
- At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee. The Chairperson shall determine the length of the public comment segment.
- Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. The presiding Chairperson may permit extension of this time limit.
- Topics for discussion must be limited to those items listed on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening.
- Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
- All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting.
- Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community.

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 85 Millvale Road, Haverhill MA asked about public comment. He believed the committee was treating him with disrespect and that he had a right to speak at the meeting. He asked for a decision in two weeks.

Dr. Thomas Grannemann, 51 Leroy Avenue, Haverhill MA spoke about facilities issues in the district and his belief that there was not sufficient planning for facilities on the part of the Mayor, City Council and School Committee.

Mr. Timothy Walsh, PO Box 80, Effingham, NH spoke about his resignation from the TEACH Program and his involvement with a DESE PQA (filed a complaint on behalf of his students). His resolution to the situation is for TEAM meetings be held as required by law and Mr. Walsh did not want the TEACH Program disbanded.

Mr. Ted Kempinski, 150 Orchard Hill Road, Haverhill spoke as HEA President. He thanked Superintendent Marotta, Mayor Fiorentini, School Committee Members Attorney Rosa and Mr. Wood along with other members for their opposition in regards to the Wildflower charter application. Mr. Kempinski believed it was a civil rights issue taking away funding for the neediest children.

In relation to the Foundation Budget, Mr. Kempinski identified several plans but the Promise Act funded the most for education. He encouraged the members to continue their advocacy for funding and the need for more resources. HEA President Kempinski thanked Superintendent Marotta for her support.

Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report – Katherine Hubbard.

Ms. Hubbard wished everyone a Happy Valentine’s Day. She provided the following update:

- First Anniversary of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida;
- Breakfast served to teachers this morning by administrators and students to thank them for all they do;
- Athletic Accomplishments: undefeated Wrestling Team and the undefeated Gymnastics Team won state title along with the Girls and Boys Basketball in Championship;
- Congratulations to our Fine Arts Scholars the following students received the Scholastic Art Awards Silver Key: Ula Grabski Morgan Rogers Catrina Ross Kaylynn Vazquez Emily Zujewski Receiving Honorable Mention: Ula Grabski Alex Bray Ron Fuller Emily Warchol Scholastic Writing Award Emma Willard received a Gold Key, Silver Key & Honorable Mention;
- 2019 Poetry Out Loud Champion Leah Pearse, Class of 2020;
- Vacation week is next week

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Letter Land

A presentation (slides) of an Early Literacy Initiative entitled Letter Land was offered by Ms. Helene Levine, Supervisor of English Language Arts, Mrs. Shannon Nolan, Hunking Principal, two Hunking teachers Cheryl Kozlowski and Noula Thibault who have been piloting the program along with Company Representatives Sue Nichols and Margaret Ruggero. Both Hunking teachers reported increases in student performance.

Chinese Exchange

Dr. Thakkar provided a brief report on the Chinese Exchange Program. He shared his immigrant experience and several incidents of discrimination.

Dr. Thakkar stated his heart is committed to race relations and noted approximately 45 students had been part of this exchange. He explained his trip to China last year as part of a 200-teacher delegation and noted that the American courses would be taught by American teachers. He further clarified that the Chinese students probably would be awarded a certificate of completion not a diploma for this coursework. Dr. Thakkar stated that seven students have signed up for courses and finish the coursework would receive a certification.

Attorney Rosa stated that a contract was signed in March 2018 with final implications and the contract does state a diploma will be received. His concern was district liability and promises to the students about a diploma. He asked if payment had been received.

Dr. Thakkar noted \$5,000 plus \$2,000 and \$800 per student would be received by the district; no money had been exchanged. He did not get a sense that this was an unscrupulous enterprise.

A copy of the contract should be provided to the full committee.

Dr. Thakkar stated that the officials were in the United States frequently.

Ms. Sullivan commented that contract revisions would be needed.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the contract was signed by former superintendent James F. Scully. He stated that Dr. Thakkar should have known better and Mr. Scully certainly should have brought this contract to the Committee. He asked for an Exchange Program Contract.

Superintendent Marotta will be looking into this situation.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that this matter was handled incorrectly.

Mr. Wood noted the agreement should be reciprocal.

Attorney Rosa related the contract was problematic because it was not reciprocal.

Mr. Amirian stated exposure to other cultures was necessary and nationalist and/or racist viewpoints still existed.

Posting of the Business Manager Position

Ms. Marotta recommended a reclassification of title and reassignment of job description (Business Manager) to an Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. She related that there were two parts of the house Curriculum and Operations.

Ms. Sullivan asked how this position would make the district operate more effectively.

Ms. Marotta related that it was a structural difficulty of the district.

Mr. Wood commented that this position did exist before and had the same roles and responsibilities. He asked why Ms. Marotta did not suggest a general Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Marotta related that the Curriculum side of house was in a good place. She noted that it was difficult to find an individual with both skill sets.

Mr. Wood was in favor of a general Assistant Superintendent.

Ms. Marotta noted it was the same dollars as Business Manager and not add another position.

Attorney Magliocchetti supported the position as written.

Attorney Rosa asked about the job description and who did the hiring.

Superintendent Marotta stated that she would be involved in the hiring.

Ms. Sullivan stated that position included a title change and more job functions.

Mr. Amirian related that the direction was acceptable to him.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the job description for an Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations as presented. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	No	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	No	Mr. Amirian	Yes

4 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

