



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2018**

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson	Ms. Gail Sullivan
Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Vice Chair	Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello (arrived at 7:06 pm)
Attorney Richard Rosa	Mr. Scott Wood
Mr. Sven Amirian	Mr. Jared Fulgoni, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The members and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, a resident and the Second Vice President of Haverhill Education Association made the following remarks:

- thanked the school committee members who attended the Honors Banquet last night;
- the HEA was eager to negotiate;
- in the strong Mayor form of government, the purse strings are held by Mayor Fiorentini;
- waiting for negotiating team...wait for election...new superintendent...asking to begin negotiations...May 17 written demands were submitted for a fair wage increase...approaching the 45-day window
- questioned the body's intent on negotiating with teachers;
- many teachers hold multiple jobs;
- shows a lack of respect for teachers;
- many are ready and willing to support an override

Mayor Fiorentini announced the new teachers' negotiation team of Attorney Richard Rosa, Chairperson, Mr. Sven Amirian, member and Attorney Paul Magliocchetti (alternate).

Ms. Joanna Dix, 12 Bartlett Avenue a resident and educator stated:

- urged the Mayor and School Committee go into contract negotiations with the teachers' union;
- please give incoming Superintendent of Schools Margaret Marotta full resources to hit the ground running and developing a budget that provided meaningful literacy content along with properly funding education for our city;
- little advancement could be made in our school system with the 6.3% increase;
- invest now instead of later

Mr. Kevin Burke, 67 Washington Street, resident and local realtor offered the following comments concerning the many decisions regarding to purchase a home such as:

- comparing to other Gateway cities;
- general area;
- commute to work;
- first time home buyers and then factor into private school or move out when school age is reached;
- DESE information gets repackaged;
- real estate portals;
- achievement measured to testing;
- ranking formulas;
- millennials looking online for information;
- school quality impacts property values and translates into how a community feels about investing in its schools (beyond level services)

Mr. Chris Valliere, 97 Pilgrim Road, a resident and an employee of Hydracor spoke in support of the NAFT Academy which included vocational pathways and non-traditional opportunities.

The following high school students offered supportive comments for funding the NAFT Program at Haverhill High School: Emily Kelly, Zyon Bessette, Marion Bradberry and Grace Michitson.

Mrs. Kathy Kaczor, 46 Crowell Street, a resident and parent spoke of the competing needs in the district. She also suggested putting programs in place such as, vocational programs that would help our students. Mrs. Kaczor related that all matters run through Central Office and this health care vocational component should not be the item that needs to be advocated.

Council President John Michitson, 119 Kenoza Street, also a parent identified the following points:

- across the schools and the city look at the bigger picture;
- 50% economically disadvantaged in Haverhill;
- increased burden on the teachers;
- the increase in crime and gang activity is related;
- jump in capabilities to education and public safety;
- boost capabilities students to make a living wage;
- training and educating our students for the jobs of the future

Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report.

Isabela Yepes thanked the School Committee for allowing her to have a voice at the meetings and also thanked Mr. Scully and Haverhill High School for a great four years. She then introduced the new Student Advisory President and Student Katherine Hubbard.

Ms. Hubbard provided her report which highlighted senior activities and thanked Mr. Scully and wished him a happy retirement.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Mr. Fulgoni thanked Ms. Yepes for her service. He highlighted the return of Staff Sgt. Carla Lopez (US Army) who surprised her daughter after being deployed overseas. He highlighted the sacrifices of many for our freedoms.

FY19 Budget Review.

Mr. O'Connell presented an updated budget document along with the summary sheet (blue-line sheet). He commented on several changes contained in the document and would outline those changes:

- page 1 – School Committee professional development should be \$5,000;
- page 1 school committee stipends should be school committee salaries;
- page 3 contracted services Superintendent's Office changed from \$20,000 to \$16,000;
- page 3 additionally, the new position of Supervisor of Language Arts for \$100,000 is included;
- page 39 – HHS Sped Director \$100,000 added;
- page 43- Mental Health Clinician HHS \$60,000

Ms. Sullivan noted that there was a reduction of a \$94,000 administrative position.

Questions & Answers.

Ms. Sullivan questioned page 6 Tuition Services Residential if they were actual or projected costs and Mr. O'Connell replied that they were a combination.

Ms. Sullivan asked about Hunking Security Guards increased from \$20,000 to \$80,000 along with the reasoning for the increase and who would have made the request. Mr. O'Connell's response four security guards including several shifts. He commented it resulted from a conversation between the principal and the superintendent – but more specifically the superintendent

Ms. Sullivan pointed out on page 49 Guidance Counselor an increase in cost and the reason. Mr. O'Connell will get specific answer

Ms. Sullivan noted high school security increase of \$50,000 and Mr. O'Connell replied the amount was reduced by committee but it is still a \$30,000 increase.

Ms. Sullivan indicated that on page 53 transportation equipment is doubled and Mr. O'Connell explained it was a result of computer software routing, security cameras and replacement of vehicles.

Ms. Sullivan inquired where the vocational funding was located in the budget and Mr. O'Connell indicated the funds will either come from Chapter 70 or it will be found in various accounts within the FY19 budget – it is not included in a specific line item.

Ms. Sullivan asked for status of the FY18 budget and if it was possible for any advanced purchases. Mr. O'Connell was still cautiously reviewing the budget before making any advanced purchases.

Mr. Amirian spoke about the per pupil spending amount is 95% lower than other cities and towns and advocated for increasing the amounts up to \$965,000 which would increase the budget above level service. He also reiterated support for an override to provide these critical needs.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that level funding would be 6.11% and the increase is 6.32%.

Mr. Wood wanted to ensure that the increase in security had a valid reason.

Mr. Fulgoni commented that the increase was for night security at the high school because of the amount of activities at that school location.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to restore \$50,000 into the security account. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti questioned if security guards had been cut in the past.

Ms. Sullivan noted that it appeared security guards had been increased especially at Hunking School and that the funding was in several line items. She commented that this budget item was very confusing.

Mr. Wood replied that a security guard was included in the maintenance budget for over 20 years and was one person covering evening activities at many schools. He commented that after a conversation with Principal Kitsos recently and there is only one security guard at night. Mr. Wood also acknowledged that there is security at all middle school buildings now.

Attorney Rosa asked for clarification of security guards on page 44 and if it referenced middle schools.

Mr. Fulgoni responded that was for high school and that eventually clarification should take place where security guards are either in their own line item or assigned to the building.

Attorney Rosa asked for clarification of the middle school security guard situation.

Mr. O'Connell responded that the budget contained 10.6 security guards with a recommendation for an additional 5 security guards for a total of 15.6. He also noted that the school department makes a payment to the Police Department for the school resource officer of \$160,000.

Attorney Magliocchetti wanted clarity (breakdown) on the location and number of security guards in the district before making a decision.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello commented on the need for security measures even at the elementary level where some of the most vulnerable students are located.

Mr. Amirian reiterated what Attorney Magliocchetti had requested of the administration and was interested in a security audit.

Mr. Fulgoni noted that a security audit had been done 10 years ago and many of the measures had been implemented.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for a copy of audit.

Mr. Wood stated that budgeting of security guards was done poorly and incorrectly. He noted that putting all security guards and school resource officers in the high school security guard line item was extremely confusing and did not make sense. Mr. Wood also pointed out that security systems and security personnel were improperly budgeted and once it was itemized in the proper categories it made sense. In closing, Mr. Wood commented that his 7-year law enforcement experience made him realize that the district had to adjust to changing times.

Attorney Rosa still needed clarity concerning where the 5 security guards were deployed.

Mr. Amirian related that following action on the motion on the table would be another one to find the \$177,579 for the vocational program.

Ms. Sullivan stressed that the school committee strongly supported security in our schools and if the motion failed it did not change the committee's commitment to safety.

Attorney Magliocchetti announced his lack of support for the motion because more teachers were needed in the district.

Mayor Fiorentini noted the motion was about the addition of security.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	No	Mr. Amirian	No
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	No
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	No
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

3 members voted in the affirmative

4 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion fails

Mayor Fiorentini relinquished the chair to Attorney Magliocchetti.

Mr. Wood noted the top priority for special education was two teachers of autism.

Mr. Fulgoni related that the priorities were the two autism teachers in Priority B.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to eliminate the high school special education supervisor from the budget (\$100,000) and replace it with two autism teachers. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti assumed the chair.

Attorney Magliocchetti outlined serious concerns with the special education subgroup's performance and need for position.

Mr. Wood was not convinced that the addition of this position would have a significant impact on the issues at the high school. He supported the sped director's higher priority recommendation for the teachers vs. the administrator.

Both Attorney Magliocchetti and Mr. Wood commented that Ms. MacDonald was Haverhill's best special education director

Attorney Rosa commented that it was never said or implied that the addition of a supervisor reflected on the performance of the current sped director. He reported that from 2014-2017 the out-of-district expenditures totaled \$1.8m (70% increase) and that this current budget reflects a \$500,000 decrease. Attorney Rosa supported both the teachers and administrator because a strong autism program will keep students in the district and the administrator will provide the necessary special education leadership at the high school.

Ms. Sullivan was uncomfortable with making an either-or decision. She advocated for strengthening the autism program so that the children would remain with us.

Attorney Magliocchetti proposed a friendly amendment to remove the elimination of the supervisor and add the two autism teachers (\$50,000 from security guards). He noted an additional \$70,000 would need to be identified.

Mr. Fulgoni was nervous about ending next year with a balanced budget and the lack of flexibility.

Mr. Wood withdrew his motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked Mr. O'Connell about the ending balance at end of year.

Mr. O'Connell indicated the ending balances were between \$70,000-\$100,000 for the past few years.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to fund the two autism teachers (\$70,000 ending year balance and \$50,000 security guards for a total of \$120,000). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Mr. Wood asked how comfortable Mr. O'Connell was with this action. He would support one teacher.

Mr. O'Connell did not support two teaching positions but believed one position could be funded.

Ms. Sullivan asked if attrition was part of budget calculations.

Mr. O'Connell recommended holding back on committing funds to allow for unexpected expenditures once school opens in the fall.

Mr. Amirian would support the motion.

Attorney Rosa supported motion because it would pay for itself.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti approve the FY19 budget. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

An amendment was made by Mr. Amirian to include Priority B amounts totaling \$845,000 in the FY19 budget. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini ruled the amendment out of order because the school committee had the obligation to submit a balanced budget.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to challenge the ruling of the Chair. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini related a "yes" would allow the school committee to submit a budget for any amount.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

Attorney Rosa indicated his lack of support for an override and the School Committee cannot raise taxes. He believed some additional free cash should be allocated along with the taxing to the 2 ½

limit. Attorney Rosa related the school committee had reallocated funds to support the ELA Supervisor and High School Special Education Supervisor. He continued by listing other priorities which included: ELL teacher at Tilton, a math specialist at Consentino, three teachers to reduce class size, literacy coach(es), NEASC accreditation process funding and \$45,000 science and literacy professional development (total \$425,000).

Mayor Fiorentini asked if Mr. Amirian would entertain a friendly amendment and he responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Sullivan questioned why NEASC Accreditation was not a priority or necessary. Additionally, she asked about Nettle School electricity amount (p. 36) \$114,315 since YTD was \$55,000; therefore, Ms. Sullivan proposed a friendly amendment to cut \$60,000.

Mr. Amirian said no to the Ms. Sullivan's friendly amendment.

Mr. Wood stated his opposition to the motion because under the law the committee should submit a balanced budget.

Attorney Rosa respected the Mayor's position, but strongly supported the additional needs and services proposed in the amendment.

Ms. Sullivan commented that the budget as proposed 6.32% (\$4,994,088 increase) was for level services and nothing more (schools open and lights on).

Mayor Fiorentini commented that this year's increase was the largest percentage increase in the state and was opposed to the amendment. He indicated his willingness to work with the committee.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

4 members voted in the affirmative

3 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the amended budget totaling \$84,430,932. Mr. Amirian seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

Mayor Fiorentini stated that number will not be submitted to the City Council.

Attorney Magliocchetti assumed the chair.

School Committee Communications - None.

Subcommittee Reports - None.

New Business – Warrants [Warrants 052418.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20180525 totaling \$230,487.28 as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20180525A totaling \$173,422.44 as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstain

5 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20180525B totaling \$489,205.98 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to the budget workshop minutes of May 15, 2018 [School Committee Budget Workshop Minutes 05.15.18.pdf](#) and the regular meeting minutes of the March

22, 2018 [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 03.22.18 Final.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into executive session to discuss the Business Manager's Contract.

The item was not stipulated on the agenda and the motion was not seconded. An executive session will be posted for June 6, 2018.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting (9:40 p.m.). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained