

Haverhill School Committee – Regular Meeting of February 9, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Haverhill School Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Susan Danehy, President. Present were: Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mr. Shaun Toohey; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua; Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Vice President;; Dr. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations and Mr. James Scully, Superintendent of Schools. Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson was recorded absent.

Mr. Scully led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation.

Mrs. Kathy Kaczor, 46 Crowell Street offered her comments on a previous agenda item of parent participation. She noted that her own extensive involvement in her child's education. Mrs. Kaczor cautioned against penalties against sub-groups especially low-income parents.

Communication and Reports.

Jillian Meserve presented the Student Advisory Council Report. She thanked Mr. Scully for his willingness to participate in the "fundrazor" for the senior class. She noted that tomorrow is "Spirit Day" at the high school.

Both Mr. Bevilacqua and Mr. Scully commended the high school students for their behavior and encouragement of all students.

Superintendent's Comments/Reports.

Mr. Scully provided a Status Report on Hunking School. He reported that late this afternoon the school department had received information from the contractor with a quote of \$340,000 to shore up the school (north wing) as recommended by the engineers. The superintendent reported that next week options would be reviewed for submission to the school committee.

Mr. Bevilacqua stated that the state delegation was awaiting Haverhill's information.

Mr. Sierpina questioned the water and mold issue.

Mr. Scully responded that it was not water but moist. He stated that reverse air filtration system could be implemented to address these issues. He related that this was a city dilemma.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about updating the website on the Hunking School and Mr. Scully noted that information is usually posted within 36-48 hours.

Mr. Toohey asked about options under consideration.

Mr. Scully responded either shore up the building to stabilize the building so that the school could be used for 3-4 years or vacate the building. He reiterated that once this work was performed the building would be safe structurally and that air quality continued to improve. The superintendent's goal was to re-unite the school population into one building.

Mr. Wood It would be a recommendation from School Committee to the Mayor and City Council for final authorization by these governmental bodies; they would make the final decision; the School Committee cannot make that expenditure.

Mr. Bevilacqua commented that if the building is not secured; it would require that the children be dispersed throughout the city.

Mr. Scully replied that hopefully next week he would be able to provide a clearer direction on this issue.

Mr. Scully referenced a report on the Status Report on Green Repair Project.

Mr. Sierpina asked about what projects had been approved and it was great news.

Ms. Kosmes replied that four buildings had been approved for a total of six projects which included the following: Consentino School - windows and boiler, Tilton School - roof, Whittier School - windows and Walnut Square School - boiler and roof.

Mr. Scully spoke about a Maintenance Department Initiative entitled “Mass Saves LED Upstream Program” which provides the city with an LED bulb for every ‘screw-in’ bulb at zero cost; this has resulted so far in approximately \$14,000 in energy savings.

Both Mr. Bevilacqua and Attorney Magliocchetti spoke about alternative energy sources such as solar farms.

Mr. Sierpina asked about conservation in the food service program such as using paper in place of Styrofoam.

Ms. Kosmes spoke about the phase in of recyclables transition.

Attorney Magliocchetti mentioned a power purchase agreement that was being considered in Haverhill; he related that he would send a letter to the Mayor asking about the status of this project.

Mr. Bevilacqua noted that energy was a critical issue in the country. He stated that he looked forward to continued discussions on this topic.

Mr. Scully noted that students had mentioned this topic to him and that they should be included in future discussions.

Mr. Scully stated that he was sharing his response to Attorney Magliocchetti’s with all members of the school committee. The superintendent noted that during the February school break the Whittier gym will be painted and during the summer the gym floor will be refurbished. He also referenced the parent activities’ matrix.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked the superintendent for this informative packet. He noted that there are many good, caring parents in the district.

Mr. Toohey questioned Consentino’s attendance figures (parent-teacher conferences) and the significant drop-off in attendance rates.

Mr. Scully responded that parent–teacher conference attendance does indeed drop off in term 2 and terms 3; teachers are contacting parents earlier in term 2. The superintendent stated he would confirm that information.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented that Mr. Scully “shaving head for the kids” showed that he cared about the students. He correlated that to parents attending school events and conferences. Mr. Magliocchetti thanked him for the dialogue.

Mr. Scully referenced a letter he sent to Dr. Mary Malone which read, “On behalf of the entire Haverhill School Department, I want to thank you for your efforts in remedying the non-compliance issues with the ELE program. As a result of your efforts, this school system is out of ‘hot water’ with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Again, I appreciate your efforts with this, and everything else you do for the children of Haverhill.” He noted that when he assumed the superintendent’s position, there were serious issues that faced Haverhill and could have jeopardized federal and state funding.

Mr. Toohey thanked both Mr. Scully and Dr. Malone for their leadership efforts in handling this very challenging situation.

Mr. Toohey thanked Mr. Scully and Dr. Malone for addressing these issues – hard work and leadership.

Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that City Councilors Sven Amirian and Robert Scatamacchia had been selected as City Council representatives on the Joint Facilities Committee. He stated that he would be contacting the Mayor's Office regarding scheduling meetings.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that the Policy Subcommittee had met on the use of facilities item. He asked about the school committee's authority in this area. Mr. Scully noted that Kathy McAninch had pulled together materials for the policy subcommittee to review.

School Committee Communications.

Mr. Sierpina asked about Mid-year Testing Schedule.

Dr. Malone reported that MAP testing would be completed next month and that principals were getting feedback. She noted that MCAS will begin on March 20th.

Mr. Sierpina asked about the status of RTTT.

Dr. Malone related that the grant is in its second year. The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction noted the following initiatives:

- ♦ new educator evaluation instrument;
- ♦ aligning curriculum ELA & Math to state frameworks;
- ♦ STEM Academy (intro engineering 1 through UMASS Lowell and College Writing Course;
- ♦ course offerings from college – more rigorous;
- ♦ support teacher to become highly effective for student achievement

Dr. Malone stated Haverhill receives a consistent amount of \$300,000 each year.

Mr. Bevilacqua commended the superintendent for the outreach opportunities with colleges, universities and the regional vocational school which provided more advantages for our students in their future careers.

Mrs. Danehy emphasized the importance of strong guidance department and the significance of proper professional development for counselors to recognize the educational needs of students.

Mr. Scully responded that the selection of proper coursework during a student's high school career was important.

Dr. Malone stated that staff continued to provide outreach opportunities to both parents and students.

The Status of Green Schools Application was addressed earlier in the meeting.

In reference to job postings, Mr. Sierpina believed there would be several retirements this year, especially the special education director.

Mr. Scully reported he had received no retirement letters as of this date and that Haverhill will be participating in a Job Fair at Merrimack College. He noted that the district had implemented School Spring, an on-line recruiting and application tracking service; in addition, the system is always looking for educational talent in a variety of places.

Regarding the status of technology timeline, Mr. Scully stated that the district hoped to have the work finished by the first of April or at the latest by Spring Recess. The superintendent commented that some procurement issues had moved the deadlines. Mr. Scully reported on the HHS Dell Labs were crashing and that this issue needs to be addressed; a replacement lab would cost \$35,000-\$40,000 per lab.

Old Business.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to remove the Athletic Concussion Policy & Regulations from the table.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Mr. Sierpina	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes

Moved by Mr. Sierpina and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the Athletic Concussion Policy & Regulations.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Mr. Sierpina	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes

New Business.

Mrs. Danehy introduced the Approval of Warrant Number EV20120210 totaling \$976,585.43; Warrant Number EV 20120203 totaling \$81,786.79 and Warrant Number EV20120210 Travel totaling \$3,417.98 as indicated in the agenda material.

Mr. Scully stated that the administration was working on “breaking out the warrants” for future meetings.

Mr. Wood stated warrants were just received and the committee did not have an opportunity to review these documents.

The superintendent noted that there had been problems with the email system and that members of the committee may not have received the information prior to the meeting.

The committee agreed to recess @ 8:19 p.m. to review the warrants.

Mrs. Danehy reconvened the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve the warrants as presented.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Mr. Sierpina	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Abstain
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes

Items by Consensus.

Moved by Mr. Sierpina and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the items by consensus as presented.

Approved 04.12.12

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Mr. Scully asked to add one additional field trip.

The items by consensus were as follows:

Approval of the field trip request(s) as indicated in the agenda material.

Sarah Trombley, Whittier Middle School Grade 7 to New York City from May 30-31, 2012;

Esparza, Haverhill High School, Grade 12 to Walt Disney Resort from May 24-28, 2012;

Zachary Simmons, Haverhill High School to New York City from March 7-10, 2012

Approval of conference request(s) as indicated in the agenda material.

Bonnie Porter; Jane Langlais to NAEA in New York City from March 1-2, 2012;

Betsy Chipman to Massachusetts Music Educator Conference in Boston MA from March 1-3, 2012;

Edward Roberts to College Board in Norwood from March 8-9, 2012

Approval of Use of Facilities as indicated:

Matt Fazio of American International College for the use of the Haverhill High School on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for a meeting for masters program

Process Fee:	\$ 10.00
Utility Fee:	\$ 20.00 per hour
Custodial Fee	\$ 30.00 per hour
Rental Fee Classroom	\$ 30.00 per event Classroom

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to go into executive session (8:40 p.m.) for the purposes of personnel, litigation and contract negotiations; the committee will revert to open session only for the purposes of adjournment.

Mr. Sierpina	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes

List of Documents: School Committee Agenda; Agenda Items from Mr. Sierpina; Athletic Concussion Policy; Warrant Number EV20120210 totaling \$976,585.43; Warrant Number EV 20120203 totaling \$81,786.79 and Warrant Number EV20120210 Travel totaling \$3,417.98; Field Trip Request; Conference Requests; Use of Facilities

Distributed at meeting: Update on Status of Green Repair Project 2-7-2012; Mass Saves LED Upstream Program memo from Thomas Geary; Response from Superintendent to Attorney Magliocchetti regarding previous agenda items; parent-teacher conference attendance as of February 7, 2012; Letter to Mary Malone dated February 8, 2012