

HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting of February 11, 2010

Mr. Shaun Toohey, President opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mrs. Susan Danehy; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Vice President; Dr. Raleigh Buchanan, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Dr. Steven O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson (arrived at 7:03 p.m.) was recorded as absent.

Mr. Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

Fred Simmons, Custodian Representative for SEIU Local 888 requested members to begin contract negotiations with his group and not to consider privatizing custodial services.

Christine Bucu offered a positive comment thanking members for visiting the schools and working with staff and parents.

Mayor Fiorentini took over as Chair.

Reports

Student Advisory Council Report – Liz Henderson/Ned Harvey

Liz Henderson presented the Student Advisory Council report.

Superintendent's Update – Leaders for the Future® Update – Hunking Students

For the second year in a row Delta Dental has sponsored the student leadership program at Plymouth State where students from Hunking and Whittier Middle Schools participated. Representatives of Hunking Middle School presented an overview of the summit on developing leadership skills and on how to improve overall success at their school. Whittier Middle students will present at a future meeting.

Subcommittee Reports – Members

Mr. Toohey has appointed Mr. Sierpina and Mrs. Danehy to the Goals Subcommittee to set goals for the Committee which will be aligned with the Superintendent's Goals.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Warrant Number EV20100212 (payable 02/12/10) totaling \$470,589.83. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Abstained	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Elementary Education – Attorney Magliocchetti combined with Curriculum Consistency – Mr. Sierpina.

Attorney Magliocchetti yielded to the Superintendent to report on current K-5 Elementary curriculum in the district delineating the following areas:

- ♦ how many teachers and ESP's employed at this level;

Approved 02.25.10

- student achievement in these areas;
- alternative methods of instruction that will improve achievement for the students;
- a detailed budget breakdown of all money paid for each curriculum subject

A discussion on methods to reduce class size without adding additional teachers was held. The Superintendent offered ten alternatives for the future.

A discussion with Dr. O'Brien relative to the math series currently being used and how the curriculum is being offered ensued. Special Education and Transitional programs were discussed with a request for Graciella Trilla to attend the next meeting to expand on the current ELL program. Discussion was held as to consistency throughout the district, Title I schools, curriculum supervisors, and parent turnout for conferences after the issuance of the second quarter report card.

Discussion of School Department Attorney – Mr. Bevilacqua

Mr. Bevilacqua requested to discuss with the City Solicitor the utilization of his office for legal purposes as a cost savings measure to offset the legal expenses the committee is/has incurred. Concerns were raised as to a conflict of interest on a number of issues involving the schools and the city. It was recommended the need for a secondary attorney for these issues such as continuing with a specialized attorney for personnel matters.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to have the chair appoint two people to speak with Attorney Cox and comeback with a refinement to see if the committee should have the City Solicitor do some or all of the Committee's legal work. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Mayor Fiorentini appointed Mr. Bevilacqua and Attorney Magliocchetti to meet with Attorney Cox.

Bartlett School – Mr. Bevilacqua

Mr. Bevilacqua asked the Superintendent to report on true building usage plan, to evaluate the potential educational use of Bartlett School, to replace the building currently leased and the savings in the long term. The Superintendent has been in contact with the Andover Superintendent who is interested in renting the facility while their schools are being renovated. If this is agreed upon, lasting up to a two year period, this would give them a better idea for a potential usage plan. Members discussed the potential use of other vacant buildings, the growth in the city, and the costs to bring them on line.

Cell Phone Policy – Mr. Sierpina

A discussion took place on texting and bullying over to texting, harassment and ways to safeguard from this ongoing problem with electronic devices. Mr. Nangle reported on the current high school policy of zero tolerance. Members discussed imposing a fee for the return of the electronic devices which is done in other communities.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to send this to the Policy subcommittee to set a policy for options for cell phones and punishment for those who continually defy the rules. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Request for Report from the Chair of the Policy Subcommittee regarding Transportation Policies and Proposed Updates to Existing Policies – Attorney Magliocchetti.

A lengthy discussion was held as the revising the current policy regarding transportation. Policy JICC, Student Conduct on School Buses, proposed revisions were read by the Superintendent “Early Elementary Pick up and Departure Bus Policies”.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to refer this to the Policy Subcommittee.

Members asked to have this sent home immediately in both languages, be put on cable television immediately, and received a signed note from the parents they have read it. Discussion ensued on what would happen to the student if not met at the bus stop, what is the bus driver’s responsibility, and who is responsible to pick up the student at the bus stop.

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

Atty. Magliocchetti	No	Mr. Sierpina	No
Mrs. Danehy	No	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	No	Mr. Toohey	No
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion fails.

Attorney Magliocchetti moved to suspend the rules to adopt the policy separately. Seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	No
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the policy with the following amendments: the first amendment being, in the second sentence strike the word “by”, strike the word “the” and in its place put “a”; strike the word “ same” and after the word “person” insert “as named on the emergency contact list as provided by the child’s school”.

Moved by Mayor Fiorentini to take the amendments separately. Seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to further amend the written policy the third sentence “if someone else will be meeting the child he or she must have a signed and dated note to be given to the bus driver and add the language after driver” and said note shall be verified by the principal of the child’s school. Seconded by Mr. Toohey. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	No		

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti amend the fourth sentence before the word "any" the bus driver cannot leave until the kids are picked up and then will proceed with any a.m. Kindergarten child not met by anyone at the bus stop will be returned to the child's school". Seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti moved to amend the seventh line beginning "any p.m. Kindergarten child not met by anyone at the bus stop and parents or emergency contact on file cannot be reached the child will be taken to the registration center at Burnham School" and add the language "where the child will be supervised by transportation personnel". Seconded by Mr. Toohey. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti that the policy be further amended: the prior amendment made that states "that said note shall be verified by the principal of the child's school", add after that a comma and then add the language "and furthermore, the bus driver shall request identification to verify the identity of the pick up person if the pick up person is an adult. Seconded by Mrs. Danehy. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	No		

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to pass the document as amended and that this goes into effect tomorrow and the Superintendent will provide immediate notice to all affected parties. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
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Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	No
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

The Superintendent introduced the Items by Consensus:

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2010 and the executive session of January 28, 2010 (to remain confidential)

approval of the legal bills for Attorney David Grunebaum totaling \$1,653.50 and for Murphy, Lamere & Murphy totaling \$3,875.00

approval of the field trip request(s):

- *Peter Ivancic, Nettle Middle School, Grade 6, April 26-April 30, Ferry Beach Ecology School, Saco, Maine, \$250.*
- *Zachary Simmons, HHS, Grades 9-12, March 17-20, Milton, NY, Model UN, \$450.*
- *Katie Magee & Joanne Baker, HHS, Grades 9 & 10, March 31, New York City, \$230.*

the item(s) listed in the agenda material be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances.

Mr. Wood removed Items 1 and Mr. Bevilacqua Item 2.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve Items 3 and 4. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Atty. Magliocchetti	No	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. .Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Mr. Wood noted there were two inaccuracies in the executive minutes.

Moved by Mr. Wood to table the minutes to the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Toohey.

Discussion was held as to the legality of discussing the minutes relative to its confidentiality and making other documents public; per Attorney Cox, any settlement of any claim needs to be voted in public.

Moved by Mr. Sierpina that as a result of the executive session of January 28th to accept Mrs. Kitsos settlement with the Haverhill School Department. Seconded by Mr. Toohey.

The proposed settlement was \$1,937 which would bring the principal up to the majority of the middle school principal's scale.

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

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	No
Mr. Bevilacqua	No	Mr. Toohey	No
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Mr. Wood stated there was an item that did not fall under the open meeting law which was the custodial privatization issue. The person who indicated a second was not correct; he asked to take out Toohey and insert Sierpina. Mr. Wood was asked to meet with the secretary to correct the minutes. Discussion was held on keeping the minutes confidential as to negotiations and on what portions should become public. Members agreed to discuss this in executive session.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to table this to the next meeting and discuss it in executive session. Seconded by Mrs. Danehy.

Moved by Mr. Wood to amend the motion to include the section of these minutes regarding the settlement be made public. Seconded by Mr. Toohey. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	No	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	No	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

A roll call vote was held on the remaining item to be tabled until the next meeting and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	No	Mr. Wood	No
Mr. Bevilacqua	No	Mr. Toohey	No
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion fails.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to make the minutes public.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to refer this to Attorney Cox and to see what sections may be made public. Mr. Wood withdrew the previous motion. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to take Item 2 separately.

Moved by Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Item 2. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	No	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Moved by Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Mr. Wood at 10:17 p.m. to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel, negotiations, and litigation and the committee will revert to open session only for the purposes of adjourning. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Atty. Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Sierpina	Yes
Mrs. Danehy	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.