

HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting of February 25, 2010

Mr. Shaun Toohey, President opened the meeting at 7:02 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 was recorded as absent.

Attorney Magliocchetti led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment.

Fred Simmons Custodian Representative for SEIU Local 888, requested members to begin contract negotiations with the bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers.

Mrs. Danehy informed members that Aaron Pinet has a website relative to languages at the high school

**Reports:**

Student Advisory Council Report – Liz Henderson/Ned Harvey.

The students were not in attendance.

Superintendent's Update – Dr. Buchanan:

Dr. Buchanan discussed the middle school band program, summer programs, Consentino computer lab, dropout programs and presented his Hillie Highlights' Report.

Subcommittee Reports – Members.

Mrs. Danehy and Mr. Sierpina, members of the Goals Subcommittee have met and recommend a format as to how they would like to see goals presented. This has been forwarded to members for comment. The subcommittee for cafeteria workers is beginning negotiations.

**Old Business:**

Athletic Status Report – Garin Veris, Athletic Director.

Mr. Veris reviewed the fall and winter programs acknowledging outstanding athletes. He compared ticket sales and user fees to last year. Mr. Veris informed members of upcoming fundraising events which included a comedy night, celebrity golf tournament on May 24 and a 5K road to success challenge. Discussion was held on participant diversity in sports, hockey ice fees, clinics and feeder systems at the middle schools and the use of the stadium stimulus funding.

Approval of Contract with Futures Education for Special Education Audit – Dr. Buchanan.

Dr. Buchanan reviewed and recommended the proposal to provide clinical and educational services analysis which would look at related services focusing on the efficiency and effectiveness of the speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and psychological services of special education. Members discussed the costs, identifying the potential savings to this audit and the language of the contract.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to table this to the next meeting during that time period the attorney and anyone else on the school committee that may wish to meet with the Superintendent and the appropriate party may do so and it will come back for consideration at the next school committee meeting.

Approved 03.11.10

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

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

Motion passes.

Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2010 (tabled at the 02.11.10 meeting).

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to remove the minutes from the table. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

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

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Sierpina to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 28, 2010.

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	Absent	Mr. Toohey	Yes

Motion passes.

Update on Cell Phone Policy – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Mr. Wood indicated a meeting is scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> at which time this policy will be discussed. Attorney Magliocchetti offered two policies for the subcommittee to consider and welcomed any recommendations for amendments. Mr. Nangle indicated these policies are almost identical to the one in the school's handbook and currently being enforced. The Superintendent read policy JIK on portable communication devices. Discussion was held on receiving an updated policy book, amending the current policy to include a \$10 fine for repeat offenders, and ways to update the policies within the current laws.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mrs. Danehy that this matter be referred to the Policy Subcommittee and that we waive the four week rule on this particular issue and that the school committee members each work together with the Superintendent to update the policy manual and leave it up to the policy subcommittee as to what section they will delegate to each committee member.

It was requested of the Superintendent to inform members when changes have occurred or will occur as respect to the law and to provide the most up to date set of policies before they begin their review. Mr. Wood informed members that MASC offers a service to provide assistance in updating policies.

Mrs. Danehy removed her second.

Moved by Mr. Sierpina and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to send this issue to the Policy Subcommittee. 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

Motion passes.

Update on School Department Attorney – Mr. Bevilacqua and Attorney Magliocchetti.

Mr. Bevilacqua and Attorney Magliocchetti have met with Attorney Cox to discuss the possibility of providing legal services. Attorney Cox will look at this possibility and evaluate it to see if his office can provide services which will reduce escalating legal costs. Certain specialized educational services will still be provided by Attorney Grunebaum. A final determination will be presented at the next meeting.

Policy regarding School Transportation Policies – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti provided a follow up from the last meeting to see if this policy had been posted and what is the timeline. The Superintendent stated they are distributing it tomorrow and will be posting it on the web. Mr. Sierpina asked to change the front page Early Elementary Pickup and Departure Bus Policies sixth sentence from “kids” to “students”.

**New Business:**

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant EV20100226 totaling \$792,483.26. 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

Motion passes.

Middle School Education – Attorney Magliocchetti.

The Superintendent read the budget breakdown indicating 86.5 full time employees; salaries \$5,026,785; hourly costs \$193,000; Direct instructional \$22,900; and Indirect \$181,150. The Superintendent indicated several alternatives to provide instruction to buildings. Principals Mary Malone and Beth Kitsos commented on what alternatives they are providing at Consentino and Whittier. Members asked to hear alternative educational methods that would improve achievement in the district within the constraints of the current budget.

Haverhill Public Schools’ Policies with regard to Bullying and Harassment – Mr. Bevilacqua.

Mr. Bevilacqua requested the Superintendent to bring the entire school community together to discuss this issue, how it is being addressed and what is taken to prevent an incident. Attorney Magliocchetti indicated the current policy does not reflect electronic devices and asked for a revision to the policy and communication to the public. The Superintendent stated there is a plan in place and guidelines are being followed during situations. The Parent Academy forum next month will address safety, security and bullying. The Superintendent shall return with another proposal.

State Funding for School Buildings – Mr. Sierpina.

Mr. Sierpina questioned the Superintendent as to applying for funds for renovation or building new schools. The Superintendent stated a report is forthcoming from the committee who has gone through all the buildings. He indicated we are on a waiting list with 149 schools ahead of us. They will be receiving a list of priorities and what is recommended for each building with some having a high priority. It was the consensus of the members to begin the application process to get on the list for funding.

Executive Sessions Policy and Proposed Amendments – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced the open meeting laws, what is to be done in executive session and the changes made on the minutes. He read a proposed revision to BEC in the policy manual. This would give them a guideline and to discuss as much as possible in the open. He felt the members in attendance in executive session should be limited and read a new policy BECA. He asked that the minutes be the responsibility of the Superintendent and read the guideline. Mr. Wood referenced a letter from the Attorney General's office relative to the two sets of minutes. Mr. Wood asked for a clarification on the minutes which were changed and were sent on Mr. Toohey's behalf. Mr. Toohey stated this was a clerical issue and needed to be addressed. Mr. Wood will put this on the next agenda. Mr. Bevilacqua requested an agenda for the executive session which will identify topics to be discussed and be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting. Mr. Toohey will obtain a legal opinion from the Attorney as to the legality. The Superintendent questioned the 48 hour notice due to an emergency and the need to use caution when elaborating on the topic.

The Superintendent introduced the Items by Consensus:

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2010 and the executive session of February 11, 2010 (to remain confidential).

approval of the use of facilities:

- Requested by Zoraida Jordan of Haverhill Girls Softball (non-profit) for the use of Consentino Middle School gym on March 13, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for softball try-outs. Process fee: \$10.00; Utility Fee: \$20.00 per hour; Custodial Fee: \$45.00 per hour (weekend rate); Rental Fee: \$ Waived
- Requested by Zoraida Jordan of Haverhill Girls Softball (non-profit) for the use of Consentino Middle School gym on May 21, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:20:00 p.m. for Girls Softball Father –Daughter dance Process fee: \$10.00; Utility Fee: \$20.00 per hour; Custodial Fee: \$45.00 per hour (weekend rate); Rental Fee: \$ Waived
- Requested by Colin LePage of Riverside-Bradford Baseball (non-profit) for the use of Consentino Middle School gyms (small and large) on March 14, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for softball try-outs. Process fee: \$10.00; Utility Fee: \$20.00 per hour; Custodial Fee: \$45.00 per hour (weekend rate); Rental Fee: \$ Waived

Mr. Wood removed Item 1.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Sierpina 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	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes

Motion passes.

Mr. Wood indicated that these minutes may need to remain confidential and is not sure they meet the guidelines. He will look into this and return with a determination for the next meeting.

Moved by Mr. Sierpina and seconded by Mr. Wood to table the executive session minutes of February 11, 2010. 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

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to approve the regular session minutes of February 11, 2010. 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

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 p.m. 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

Motion passes.