

Haverhill School Committee
Regular Meeting of March 25, 2010

Mr. Shaun Toohey opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Present were: Attorney. Paul Magliocchetti, Mrs. Susan Danehy Mr. Raymond Sierpina, , Mr. Scott Wood, Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Dr. Raleigh Buchanan, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Dr. Steven O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. Mayor James Fiorentini (arrived at 7:12 p.m.) was recorded as absent.

Mr. Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this time

Reports:

Student Advisory Council Report

Liz Henderson presented the Student Advisory Council Report.

Annual Report by School Nurse Leader

Barbara Costello, Nurse Leader, reported on the school health services. Included in the report were students with special health care needs, the impact of the H1N1 Pandemic, the new BMI screening regulations, and Grade 7 BMI results for 2009-10.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Buchanan presented the Superintendent's report. Dr. Buchanan stated the report on the high school would be discussed in executive session. A meeting has been held with the high school discipline committee. The Superintendent was asked to give a full report at the next meeting. Mr. Wood asked if the individuals involved were given a 48 hour written notice so they won't be in violation of the open meeting law. Dr. Buchanan stated there is no charge against the individuals so the 48 hour notice would not apply. Mr. Wood then questioned section two of the open meeting law and asked what exemption does this fall under to hold it in executive session. Mayor Fiorentini stated this is proper to be discussed later in executive session. Mr. Wood asked the Mayor to rule on this prior to going into executive session.

Subcommittee Reports

Mrs. Danehy met last night indicated the Comedy Night netted \$18,500 and thanked all for attending. Discussion was held on encouraging middle school students to attend the high school due to the athletic options. Mr. Veris will be overseeing this. Attorney Magliocchetti and Mrs. Sierpina met with the strategic planning subcommittee holding a detailed discussion on special education items which will be incorporated into the plan.

Local Aid

Mayor Fiorentini reported the latest numbers coming from the Senate Ways and Means Committee are not as good as proposed indicating a maximum cut of four percent or a cut from schools of \$54,000 from last year. There would also be cut of \$1.2 million from the governor's budget. He proposed to invite the local representative and senator to a meeting for a more definitive update. Ms. Kosmes will have a better idea of Chapter 70 funds within the next two weeks. Mr. Bevilacqua requested to not hold budget meetings or hearings until they know the best numbers. Mayor Fiorentini will send a letter to the delegation on behalf of the committee.

Old Business:

Status on School Department Attorney

Attorney Magliocchetti and Mr. Bevilacqua had held two meetings with City Solicitor Cox with the concept of becoming the school committee attorney for the purpose of saving money and to be more available to them at little or no cost. Attorney Cox has indicated an interest and has given them a proposal with a possible 50 percent savings of legal costs for the past years equating to \$10-15,000. He basically is giving them an annual cost as opposed as a hourly cost which is cost effective. Mr. Toohey is meeting with Attorney Cox to review any school/city conflicts within the next week. Attorney Cox also indicated he would assist in negotiations with Attorney Grunenbaum. They asked to accept this proposal and to put it on the next agenda with support of a formal motion.

Decision by District Attorney regarding Open Meeting Law Complaint

Mr. Toohey read the decision from the District Attorney's office. The report indicated what the school committee did was perfectly legal. The committee stood firm relative to the open meeting law and colleagues were commended.

Contract Negotiations

Attorney Magliocchetti stated a Policy subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday asked to table this item to next meeting.

Approval of School Calendar for 2010-2011

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove the School Calendar from the table. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the School Calendar for 2010-1011. 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.

New Business:

Approval of Warrant Number EV20100326 (payable 3/26/10) totaling \$624.033.01

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Warrant EV20100326. 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.

Approval of Financial Transfer

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the Financial Transfer as indicated. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

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

Motion passes.

Agenda Order

Mr. Bevilacqua requested that any reports or presentations be held at the earlier part of the meeting. Mayor Fiorentini stated that it is the purview of a member to bring forward an item on the agenda.

Special Education

Mr. Covino, Director of Special Education presented an array of programs offered: occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech for all students who require them; academic support; staff intensive integrated class ; learning disability program; developmental delay level 1 and 2 programs with k-12 for more challenged children ; multiple support program; life support program; development support program; middle school support program; behavior support program; learning for life program , inclusion; study skills resource room; Haverhill Alternative School; and the therapeutic educational assessment center He compared the per pupil expenditures in 2005 to the FY08 expenditures to similar communities. A recommendation to replace the high school assistant director was noted. He is looking at expanding the programs currently held at the St. James School. Dr. Buchanan will meet with Mr. Covino and come back with an assessment and what would be needed to provide this program at another school. Ms. Kosmes reviewed the salaries and expenses of the program.

Request for Appearance by the Haverhill Representatives to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School at the April 8, 2010 School Committee Meeting

Mr. Wood requested members to be at this meeting and was unsure why it was not listed. He felt they need to address the outstanding issue and owe an explanation to taxpayers of Haverhill. He would like to find out if they supported the agreement and that they look out for our interests

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to invite the Whittier VoTech representatives to the next meeting. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Dr. Buchanan introduced the Items by Consensus:

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2010

approval of the use of facilities:

- Matt Chmielewski, Haverhill YMCA (non-profit for the use of Pentucket Lake Elementary School Gym on March 27, 2010 from 7:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. for Youth Hockey Games. Process Fee: \$10.00; Utility Fee: \$20.00 per hour (indoor sessions); Custodial Fee: \$40.00 (weekend rate); Rental Fee: Waived*. *Haverhill YMCA is to donate a youth year long membership to a Pentucket Lake student.
- Jeffrey Nelson of Elite Players Camps (for profit) for use of Hunking Middle School Gym and Outdoor Field adjacent to Gym (weather permitting) on Tuesday, April 20 2010 through Friday, April 23, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for baseball camp. Process Fee: \$10.00; Utility Fee: \$20.00 per hour (indoor sessions); Custodial Fee: \$30.00 2 hours per session (weekday rate); Rental Fee: \$100.00 per day. Elite Player Camps will also be donating scholarships to HPS students during this vacation week session.

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Approved 04.08.10

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approval of the field trip request(s):

- Tina Fuller, Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School, Grades 4 & 5, April 16-17,2010, Boston, zero cost

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the Items by Consensus. 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 Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the Items by Consensus. 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.

Dr. Buchanan stated there is a need for executive session to receive the report relative to the complaint at the high school. Mayor Fiorentini asked for a motion to suspend he rules to hear the report.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to suspend the rules to hear the report from the Superintendent.

Mayor Fiorentini stated the attacks on someone's character and reputation and that someone be disciplined are to be discussed in executive session. He asked the superintendent not to list any names.

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

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

Motion passes.

A recess was called at 9:45 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m.

Dr. Buchanan stated that they were in receipt of a letter indicating allegations were made relative to violations of state regulations, cheating on MCAS, abuse of teachers and security guards, and program violations. He met immediately with high school staff and received the report listing 16 items. The technology department investigated and informed the superintendent this did not come from a computer in their network. The person surfaced with communication to some members and Mr. Nangle. Mr. Nangle was asked to investigate the people at the high school. He then distributed and read the concerns and responded accordingly. According to the statistics he reviewed, discipline problems are down this year. The Superintendent stated there is a need for

another assistant principal. The major discipline issues are truancy and failure to report to detention. Mr. Nangle spoke with the individual who made these statements and reported on his conversation. Mayor Fiorentini met with the principal and teachers at the high school and he found a general malaise or lack of morale due to contract negotiations, the economy, and the school not being clean. There was a general complaint of not enough people to handle discipline. There was no evidence that discipline has gotten worse over the past five years. The Mayor recommended seeing more people in the corridors and to see if they have enough security cameras. Members commented and were satisfied with the Superintendent's and Mr. Nangle's responses.

Adjournment:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 p.m. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.