

**HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting of April 29, 2010**

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mrs. Susan Danehy; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Vice President; Mr. Shaun Toohey, President; Dr. Raleigh Buchanan, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Steven O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment.

Kathy Kaczor, 46 Crowell Street made a statement during the public comment section of the agenda regarding recent school committee meetings and the importance of parent participation.

Mr. Bevilacqua responded to one of Mrs. Kaczor's comments stating that his record was clear regarding parent participation. He stated his concern that a disabled student was brought to a recent meeting because the parent felt that they needed to attend; his comment was made out of concern for the child.

Reports:

No Student Advisory Council Report was presented due to the absence of both Liz Henderson and Ned Harvey.

Old Business:

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to remove Item V A - Subcommittee Reports from the table.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Attorney Magliocchetti announced that the Strategic Planning subcommittee met every Wednesday morning at 7:15 a.m. in the School Administration Office. He reported that the subcommittee had received from Dr. Buchanan a draft plan for its review. The superintendent will be finalizing the strategic plan shortly.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove Item V B - Contract Negotiations from the table.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Wood indicated that this matter had been discussed at a Policy Subcommittee meeting and he read the new policy GCBP into the record:

*Principals, non-unit personnel are not subject to collective bargaining, shall be employed by the Haverhill School Department under individual contracts of employment. Said contracts shall be negotiated by the superintendent and submitted to the Haverhill School Committee for its approval of the compensatory/benefit terms prior to the presentation of a final contract of employment to each principal.*

*Contracts issued to principals will be up to three years in length, and may be reissued by the superintendent at levels of compensation/benefits, determined by the School Committee.*

*As a condition of employment, each principal must maintain current certification, adhere to policies and goals of the School Committee and directives of the Superintendent, and must submit, with the School Council, on an annual basis as determined by the Superintendent, the educational goals and school improvement plan for the school building(s) under his/her direction.*

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve Policy GCBB as presented.

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

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

Motion is passed unanimously.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove Item V C Recommendation for Approval of Appropriation/Financial Transfer and Execution of Contracts for the Joint Human Resources Department (*Consolidation Implementation*) from the table.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Wood noted that the Policy Subcommittee would be analyzing this matter and that they would be inviting Mrs. Carrington to participate in the discussion.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to refer this matter to the policy subcommittee.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to remove Item V D- Bartlett School Recommendation from the table.

Dr. Buchanan asked that the building remain in reserve for one year in order for the school administration to evaluate its potential use; he noted that the building could house several programs.

Mayor Fiorentini stated that the school department should pay the maintenance and insurance for the year.

Attorney Magliocchetti made a motion to allow the Superintendent to consider the use of Bartlett School; give him twelve (12) months to find a proper use, come back with a recommendation and during that time period the school committee assumes payment of insurance and general maintenance on the building; this motion was seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to amend the main motion to include the following to formally request of the City Council that Bartlett School is turned back to School Committee control during this twelve month period.

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

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

Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	No		

A 6-1 vote; motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the amended motion.

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

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

A 6-1 vote; motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove Item V E - Condition of School Buildings after Rain Storms from the table.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Sierpina asked if the repairs had been made and if the insurance adjuster had visited the schools.

Dr. Buchanan responded that a \$60,000 had been quoted; not all repairs had been made and that the insurance adjuster had visited the locations.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove Item V F - MSBA 2010 Needs Survey from the table.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Sierpina noted that the Massachusetts School Building Authority was planning on visiting all schools to assess the general condition and also to have current information available in case of a request for rehabilitation or new construction. He asked the superintendent how the district would go about getting on a list for new construction/rehabilitation.

Dr. Buchanan noted that an assessment of our buildings would be forthcoming. He noted that we were not presently any list and that the list was very long.

Ms. Kosmes reported that she recently participated in a webinar and that the visits will help the MSBA prioritize projects.

Mrs. Danehy asked that the Committee be notified when the MSBA will be conducting its site visit.

Mr. Wood asked about the costs associated with getting on the list.

Ms. Kosmes noted that a feasibility study needed to be completed in order to get on this list. She would ask the high school architect to provide a general cost for a study of this type.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that he would try to set up a meeting with the School Building Assistance Bureau.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove Item V G Superintendent's Update from the table.

Mr. Nangle related that the high school Main Office had been relocated during Spring Recess to the library while electrical work was completed.

Dr. Buchanan highlighted the following:

- 105 students taking music lessons;

- DESE Site Visit next week commends Dr. O'Brien, Ms. Cassano and Mrs. Donahue for their preparation work; the team will be in the district for four days;
- The district is pursuing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant that will provide for the expansion of the Access Arts; if awarded the system would receive \$150,000 over four years;
- Principal Stephen Sierpina will be providing an Enrichment Program for middle school students at Hunking;
- The donation from the Bradford College Neighborhood Association to schools in the Bradford section of the city.

New Business:

Budget Resource Update – Mr. Toohey

Mr. Toohey reported that he and Attorney Magliocchetti had met with Assistant Superintendent Kara Kosmes to review the budget process. He related that the administration had been asked to bring forward a balanced budget (to the best of their ability) and the itemized reduction list.

Ms. Kosmes indicated that the overarching premise for the budget was to preserve teachers and maintain class size.

Ms. Kosmes related the following information to the committee:

- Chapter 70 has been cut by 3%;
- Shortfall will be made up by ARRA funding;
- Total resources from City and State are \$53,709,635;
- Total revenues are \$1,761,753;
- Level playing field at this moment.

Ms. Kosmes indicated that after the DESE Visit, the district leadership team would be working on the budget.

Committee comments/suggestions:

- There is ample time to prepare budget (Mr. Toohey);
- Budget development is very late and I am very concerned; budget proposal needs to be presented on May 6<sup>th</sup> (Mr. Wood);
- This budget is different; the budget figures have been changing; the administration will be presenting a nearly balanced budget (for the first time) along with what has been cut; development of an add-on list in order of priority if funding is received; (Mr. Bevilacqua)
- Getting numbers as soon as they are available; Ms. Kosmes has put a lot of work into budget; timing does not concern him; very important to have a balanced budget presented and will make the process more efficient; any ideas from the public please contact the committee and let the Superintendent know immediately (Attorney Magliocchetti)
- The committee needs to have time to find alternative areas to cut if they disagree with the administration's proposal (Mr. Wood);
- School Committee sub-committee has been working on goals; it is important to give the Superintendent direction in the budget process (Mrs. Danehy)
- Due to the site visit, on May 6<sup>th</sup> the committee will get an update only; the week of May 10<sup>th</sup> is when the work with principals will occur; the week of May 17<sup>th</sup> is when the Committee will begin budget work in earnest; the public hearing date needs to be advertised 7 days before the actual hearing (Ms. Kosmes)
- The public hearing date needs to be pushed back (Mr. Wood);

- Mr. Bevilacqua outlined a schedule of budget review sessions: May 17, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.; May 18, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.; May 20, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.; May 27, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m. and June 7, 2010 (Public Hearing) @ 7:00 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the budget review schedule as discussed.

Mrs. Danehy will compile the goals for discussion at the next meeting.

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

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

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to suspend the rules to extend an invitation concerning Arbor Day.

Mayor Fiorentini announced that tomorrow (April 30, 2010) a tree would be planted at Walnut Square @ 9:30 a.m. by one of the service clubs; also at Tilton School at 2:00 p.m. a tree would be planted in memory of Joanne Bevilacqua (sister of School Committee member Joseph Bevilacqua). Furthermore at Tilton School on May 12, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. a tree would be planted in memory of former State Representative Jake Rurak (father of former Mayor James Rurak).

The Mayor extended an invitation to school committee members, the school administration and the citizens of Haverhill to attend these events.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to suspend the rules to discuss the potential vacancy in the position of Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction.

Mr. Wood thanked Dr. O'Brien for his service. The committee was informed that the job had been posted.

Mr. Wood recommended that the President appoint one or two members to serve on the interview board for this position.

Mayor Fiorentini asked Mr. Wood to provide Attorney Cox's legal opinion on this issue to the full committee.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that the filling of this position was a responsibility of the superintendent; however, he recommended that the school committee participate in the process.

Dr. Buchanan stated that he was not opposed to a school committee member(s) being involved in the process.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Warrant Number EV20100430 (payable 04/30/10) totaling \$907,228.37 as indicated in the agenda material.

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

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

Motion passes.

The Superintendent acknowledged a donation from the Bradford College Neighborhood Association to Bradford Elementary School, Greenleaf Elementary School and Hunking Middle School in Bradford section of Haverhill.

The Committee asked that the Superintendent on its behalf send a thank you letter.

Request for Report from Superintendent on Elementary and Middle School Discipline – Mr. Bevilacqua

Mr. Bevilacqua informed the committee that when he and Attorney Magliocchetti visited Consentino School for Career Day students commented on disruptive students and its negative impact on student learning. He asked if this situation was being repeated throughout the district or was it an isolated case.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked for a report within the month on discipline particularly the effect of disruptive students on learning in the classroom.

Mrs. Danehy reported that a meeting of the Discipline Committee at Haverhill High School was held today. She suggested a survey of the amount of time lost due to disruptive students might be helpful. Attorney Magliocchetti and Mr. Sierpina attended this meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti proposed that these types of issues should be dealt with in the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Wood asked about the attendance of our legislative delegation at tonight's meeting to discuss the budget.

Mayor Fiorentini related that they were involved in budget deliberations at the State House this evening and sent their regrets. He was in regular contact with the legislators.

Mr. Wood related that the new bullying legislation would have an impact on school districts.

Dr. Buchanan stated that discipline was a topic at every Student Forum.

#### Approval of Items by Consensus

The Superintendent introduced the following items for approval:

- the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2010 as indicated in the agenda material

- the field trip request(s) as indicated in the agenda material

- Nettle Middle School Grade 8 to Washington DC from June 1-4, 2010 at a cost of \$547.00;

- Nettle Middle School Grade 7 to New York City from June 9-10, 2010 at a cost of \$275.00

- items listed in the agenda material be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances

- Miscellaneous computer equipment and supplies from Walnut Square School

- the legal bill for Murphy Lamere & Murphy totaling \$1,767.00 as indicated in the agenda material

- the conference request(s) as indicated in the agenda material

- Patricia Shaffer; Alicia Murray; Mark Lew (registration fee waived); Traci Mickela; Sharon Kary and Panagiota Zoumpoulakis to attend the X2 Conference from May 5-6, 2010 at a cost of \$521 – staff members will be carpooling to this event

Committee members requested that item #4 be withdrawn.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve items 1, 2, 3, and 5.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Administration officials indicated that the school system was in the process of transitioning to new legal counsel and they provided a brief explanation to the Committee regarding these bills. It was stated that some bills would still be forthcoming from this firm to conclude their business with the district.

It was the consensus of the Committee that Mayor Fiorentini write a letter to the firm indicating that other legal counsel would be representing the district and make arrangements for the files to be transferred. He would have assistance from Attorney Cox and Dr. Buchanan.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve the legal bill for Murphy Lamere & Murphy totaling \$1,767.00 as indicated in the agenda material.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting.

All members voted in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.