

Haverhill School Committee
Regular Meeting of May 20, 2010

Mr. Shaun Toohey, President opened the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mrs. Susan Danehy; Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Vice President; Dr. Raleigh Buchanan, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent of Finance. Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson and Mr. Steven O'Brien, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction were recorded as absent.

Mr. Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Kathy Kaczor, 36 Crowell Street, questioned the decision of closing of the Crowell School as a cost savings. She no longer supports that they need Crowell for space and to find the funds to keep it open that was decided at this past Tuesday's meeting at the high school.

Diane Belanger-Prescott, 197 Concord Street, spoke on neighborhood schools that have been closed around the 1991's and what they were promised.

Lisa Onyon, 400 East Broadway, gave the recent history of why Crowell School has been needed due to the lack of space at Golden Hill.

Laura Pilitus, spoke on Futures outsourcing paraprofessionals and specialists with children with special needs. Continuity in staffing was elaborated on. She requested members to engage in conversations with the parents and staff on the affect this will have on the children.

Nicole Gallant, Bradford Elementary SPED teacher, indicated she was a previous Futures' employee indicating the lack of continuity by not knowing the students, families, and areas.

Sherry Horeanopoulos, 16 Clover Lane, reviewed her daughter's special needs situation and who is currently attending the high school. Without continuity, her daughter would need to be outsourced and she would like to stay in Haverhill.

Bonnie Porter, Arts Lead Teacher K-8, was asked by the Mayor to present a proposal. She touched upon areas to be considered that would allow staff to be hired back. She reflected on areas that are to be reduced, the potential outcome and asked to make decisions for the good of the children

Angela Licari, requested consistency with students and staffing.

Maury Covino, SPED Director, spoke on the challenging lives these children and parents have. He indicated what they do on a daily basis is valuable. He referenced and commented on the Futures report and felt it would put our students at risk.

Bethany Zaia commented on her daughter with severe special needs and requested consistency with the specialists.

Mr. Wood removed himself due to a conflict.

Mr. Bevilacqua stated this was brought to them by the Superintendent, heard the Special Education Director's report and requested to make no changes with the program until a new superintendent is in place.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua to make no change with the special education program; no one seconded this motion.

Mr. Sierpina asked to be fair to Futures and to validate what they are doing with special education and to table this discussion.

Mr. Bevilacqua removed his motion.

Mr. Bevilacqua moved to move up on the agenda Item VIC to make a motion to table the item. Motion dies for lack of second.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked to wait for this item and recognize the Hunking School student.

Introduction and Recognition of Makenzie Schwartz, Hunking Middle School Student

Mr. Stephen Sierpina introduced Makenzie Schwartz, an eighth grader, who is an outstanding and exceptional student demonstrated his creation of an iPhone Application

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to move up Item VI C . There were no objections from members.

Final Report from Futures Education (a division of Futures HealthCare, LLC) on Special Education – Dr. Buchanan

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua at this time we make no change in our program, we enable the special education director to continue to review the program report and at that at some point in time in the future when our new Superintendent and our new Assistant Superintendent is in place they be provided the report, they meet with our special education director and they make some recommendation at that time which is in the future. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Mr. Sierpina wants to put credibility to the report and agrees with Mr. Bevilacqua to take the reports, hold them firm and have the new superintendent report on them on a monthly or quarterly basis to make sure special education is being run appropriately.

Attorney Magliocchetti indicated that this was an informational session with no vote tonight. He agreed with Mr. Covino indicating there is not a net savings. There are numerous questions to be answered and asked for their benefit to hear the Futures presentation and complete the discussion.

The Superintendent respectfully refuses to reply to charges that are not true. He was charged with saving money, to look at the program and to bring experts in to see what happens. He only brought this as an attempt to look at their operation. He deeply resents the implication of bringing harm to the kids.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua at this point in time we ask that no changes be made to the special education program but the report of Futures be provided to the next Superintendent, the next Assistant

Superintendent for their review and discussion with the special education department for any changes improvements and suggestions. Seconded by Mr. Sierpina

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for friendly amendment to still continue to go forward with the presentation.

A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

Dr. Herb Levine thanked all staff for their cooperation during this review. Dr. Bittel, CEO, reviewed the report including: Executive Summary, Haverhill in the context of Massachusetts, % of SPED Students vs. MA, SPED Budget % vs. MA, Utilization of Haverhill budget increase over 5 years, Preliminary Themes and Findings, Paraprofessional Hourly Costs, Recommendations, Options to Consider

Members questioned Dr. Bittel and commented on:

- Analysis helpful to address areas of need
- Continuity working well with paraprofessionals and children through the grades
- Retaining and keeping the same employees in the district
- Legal Fees and Litigation
- New employees transitioning into the district
- Management team versus a private company; not guaranteeing a cost savings
- Services affecting the circuit breaker money and an analysis
- Training fees and professional development fees as an add on
- Futures roll in Everett
- Entrance and exit criteria for related services
- More data needed in an IEP meeting
- Providing a blueprint and/or strategies for services available

Mr. Covino appreciated the report indicating we are different from Everett with the number of students in outside placement. We have decreased the amount of students over time, there is a significant cost impact in litigation, our staff is committed to the kids and we cannot afford to lose the therapists and staffs commitment to Haverhill. He expressed the need to put this to rest tonight since they did validate what they are doing is effective and does disagree with information in the report which he would elaborate on at a later date.

At 9:57 p.m. a recess was requested. The meeting reconvened at 10:04 p.m. Mr. Wood rejoined the meeting.

Reports:

There was no Student Advisory Council Report at this time.

There were no Subcommittee Reports at this time.

Old Business:

Approved 06.24.10

Mrs. Danehy read the proposed School Committee Goals for approval (see attached document). Attorney Magliocchetti asked to add to add on the end Review and Accountability for the Superintendent, Principals and teachers.

Moved by Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to accept these goals as the formal goals for the School Committee. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

The Superintendent presented his report including a student accepted into the MIT summer program, recognizing Judy Zaino, and the timeline for the Assistant Superintendent's position with the final interviews to be held in public.

Mr. Toohey asked to move up the budget discussion

FY11 Budget Review Discussion

Ms. Kosmes indicated \$150,000 is needed to add back to the budget for Crowell School (see attached document). Mr. Toohey and Ms. Kosmes met and reached compromise with reducing utilities in general and maintenance costs in order to add back staff. Special Education has been reduced by 8 ESP positions with a challenge to Mr. Covino to pare back some support in regular classrooms. Unemployment costs are high and she asked the Auditor to request of the Mayor to reduce this charge. The budget is reduced by \$350,000 and with add backs of \$275,000 and the potential meals tax revenue (if approved by Council next Tuesday) leaving a balance of -\$5,354. There is risk and they will know in October if it works in our benefit. This year the budget was frozen and knows the staff will continue to hold the line on spending. Class size appears to be the same as it is today.

Race to the Top Status Report and Update – Mr. Bevilacqua

Mr. Bevilacqua asked for a status update on the process. The Superintendent indicated they are waiting for the Fed's to determine where Massachusetts stands to see if they are accepted. They will have 90 days to put together a plan to be presented to the state. Once the budget is over he will work with the principals to conceive what a plan would look like. The only thing coming from the state is how we stand on ELL since we haven't met the mandate and will need to do something to comply.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant EV20100521 (payable 5.21.10) totaling \$182,587.82. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

Items by Consensus:

The Superintendent read the Items for approval:

approval of the legal bills for Murphy Lamere & Murphy totaling \$2,030.50 and for Rosen Law Office totaling \$1,765.00

approval of the field trip request(s):

Linda Crapsey, HHS, October 1, 2010, New York City, for a cost of \$70.00

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 29, 2010; the Special Meeting of May 6, 2010 and the Executive Session of May 6, 2010

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to separate Items C1 and C3.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to approve Item C2. 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. Bevilacqua asked to take the bills separate under C1 and to separate the meetings in C3.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Item C1 for Murphy Lamere & Murphy. 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 Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Item C1 for Rosen Law Office. 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.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Attorney Mr. Wood to approve Item C3 minutes of April 29, 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. Bevilacqua and seconded by attorney Magliocchetti to approve Item C3 minutes of the May 6 special meeting and executive session. 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.

Adjournment:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 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.