

HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting of June 24, 2010

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Present were: Mr. Shaun Toohey, President; Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Vice President; Dr. Raleigh Buchanan, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance. Mrs. Susan Danehy was recorded as absent (arrived at 7:04 p.m.).

Mayor Fiorentini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

The following audience members spoke in support of a staff member who received a reduction in force notice and the need to revise the current procedure: Brendan Burke, Fred Taubox, Ryan Burke, Kara Kimball, Tim Englehardt, Melissa Clark, Eden Lio-MacDougall, Will Cuneo, Kerry Fitzgerald, Kristine Patrick, and Joe Sherlock.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua that this matter be referred to the policy subcommittee for review and to work with the Interim Superintendent to draft a policy to address this issue. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Fred Simmons, high school custodian, spoke in support of his staff and expressed his concern for unjust negotiations.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to suspend the rules to introduce the new football coach. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Mr. Varis introduced Tim O'Connor to members who offered his philosophy of coaching; the three-prong approach with the upcoming season and his involvement with middle school students and the youth football program.

Reports:

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Wood indicated a policy subcommittee meeting is scheduled for next week and he will be inviting Mr. Scully. Mr. Bevilacqua questioned the consolidation of the personnel department and its implementation. Mr. Wood stated there was a sunset clause with a one year agreement and the sub-committee will meet with the Interim Superintendent to see the most efficient use and come back with a recommendation. Dr. Buchanan stated the consolidation to this point has not worked. Discussion ensued as to the responsibilities and stipend for the director's position for next year. This item is referred back to the policy subcommittee.

Mr. Wood reviewed the privatization for the night custodial services at the high school. The RFP response and potential savings were delineated.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to table this item for the Interim Superintendent to review and comeback at another date. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Approved 08.19.10

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

Motion fails.

The subcommittee majority recommended privatizing night services at Haverhill High School. Mr. Sierpina toured the high school with Mr. Dill and informed members of the conditions of the building. His recommendation was to hire SJ Services for a least a one year period to get it to a point where it can be returned to continued maintenance of the building. Mr. Dill indicated other methods would need to be sought out to address this issue which includes a cost proposal that fits into the budget and maintains the level of cleanliness. Members questioned the RFP and the lack of personnel and equipment to do the job properly.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Sierpina to go forward with the privatization and the custodial subcommittee negotiate it in collective bargaining sessions.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Wood to amend the motion to include that whatever contract comes out that there be a 60 day notice of termination at no cost to the city included language in the contract. A roll call vote was held on the amendment as follows:

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

Motion passes.

A roll call vote was held on the amended motion with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

Old Business:

Whittier Regional Follow-up (tabled at 05.27.10 meeting)

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to remove the Whittier Regional Follow-up from the table. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced the request in May to meet with Whittier officials. He has contacted our representative Kelley and Early. Dr. Buchanan will follow-up and communicate with the representative for their attendance at a future meeting. Mr. Kelley presented a letter to Attorney Magliocchetti which was read into the record:

June 24, 2010

Mayor Fiorentini, Mr. Toohey and the members of the Haverhill School Committee, Please be informed that I just read in the Tribune that Mr. Magliocchetti plans to discuss the Whittier Application process at this evening's meeting. This is the first I have heard of this. The last time I was asked to attend the School Committee Meeting regarding the principal, I received written notification only two days before I was asked to attend. I made that meeting and would have done the same this evening had I been notified the Whittier policy had been placed on the agenda. I am working this evening, teaching a class, and will be unable to attend. As a common courtesy, if I were to cancel the class, I would give the students more than a five hour notification of cancellation.

I have been your representative on the Whittier board for the past two years. As I stated in my first presentation to you, I have represented the citizens of Haverhill quite well and I am very proud of the Whittier students, teachers, administrators and their accomplishments. I also spent thirty four years working at Whittier. I am well aware of the admission policy and the opposition to it. Know that I am a firm believer in holding students to high standards and I do not believe the Whittier should lower its standards for acceptance. Accountability from Haverhill parents, students, administrators, teachers, the school committee and the mayor must be addressed when we discuss why many Haverhill students are not prepared for vocational education. The Whittier is doing its job. The Haverhill School system is failing to prepare a number of students for acceptance to Whittier? The policy has been clearly explained to you a number of times. I believe it is now our role to ask why our Haverhill middle school students are not meeting the standards set and how we, as a school community, can work to help these underachievers reach the goal of becoming prepared to enter Whittier.

I am asking that one of the members of the committee read this to the public this evening. If there are any more meetings regarding this topic, I would appreciate notification. Again, we need to look at why Whittier is succeeding and how Haverhill can begin to follow Whittier's lead. We need not continue to insist that all students who want a vocational education should be allowed to go to Whittier. Whittier is not your father's trade school n or is it a reform school. It is a vocational school preparing its students (700 Haverhill students I might add) for success after high school.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked to work together to see why more children are not attending Whittier. . The city contributes 70% to their budget with only 52% attending. Mr. Early commented that he has never been contacted to address the committee. He discussed a recent incident where a student was not accepted. He stated the paperwork did not coordinate. He welcomed a meeting with the committee.

Moved by Mr. Wood to table this to the next meeting.

Mr. Wood withdrew his motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked to look at school choice students who are being accepted before Haverhill students. Mrs. Danehy asked to meet with Mr. Early and Mr. Scully prior to the next meeting to discuss and clarify this.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to table this item to the next meeting. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to move up Item VIE.

Interim Superintendent Contract

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve Mr. Scully's contract.

The term of the contract is for one year beginning 7.1.10 and ending 6.30.11. Mr. Koocher recommended beginning the search for a new superintendent this July 1st.

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
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Warrant EV20100625 (payable 6.25.10) totaling \$777,546.33 and Warrant Number EV20100701 (payable 7.2.10) totaling \$412,952.8. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

Special Education Department Designation as Level 1:

Mr. Sierpina praised the special education department in achieving a Level 1, the highest level. The Superintendent attributed this to portfolio assessment, tutoring and meeting the standards.

Time line for Staff Hiring – Mr. Sierpina.

Ms. Kosmes indicated 108 of the 136 staff receiving slips will be brought back next week. This is contingent on Medicaid monies. Mayor Fiorentini informed members they did not cut general local aid or Chapter 70 but did cut charter school reimbursement. Ms. Kosmes stated they do hold out positions until they get a final notification. Open positions are on hold until they get clarity and will move forward when they receive word.

Haverhill Public Schools Ranking and Achievement as reported by the State

Mr. Bevilacqua expressed concern on the lack of progress the state interprets our achievement. He referenced a document furnished by Karen Sarkisian indicating the AYP in past years to 2009 with corrective action being recommended in a number of schools. He also noted the drop out, attendance, absence, and graduation rates.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Sierpina that the number one priority of the Interim Superintendent will be addressing student achievement. 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
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes.

Temporary Construction Easement at Cogswell School

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey that the Haverhill School Committee hereby authorizes the Mayor, and the City's agents, employees and contractors, to use the following School Department parcel, as shown on Sheet 15 of 27 of a plan entitled: "Permanent and Temporary Easement Plan of South Main Street (Route 125) and Salem Street in the City of Haverhill Essex County", dated June 17, 2010, prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, for a four year period for highway construction purposes, and authorizes the Mayor and/or the Superintendent of Schools to grant access by any means or documents necessary for the MassHighway Project to reconstruct South Main Street, also known as Route 125: Parcel No. Address; Assessors Map Block Lot TE – 83, 351 South Main Street, 719 666 9.

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
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

The Superintendent introduced the Items by Consensus:

approval of the legal bills for Attorney Grunebaum totaling \$3,133.24 and for Murphy Lamere & Murphy totaling \$108.50

approval of the field trip request(s):

- Major Workman, HHS, Grades 9-11, August 23-27, 2010, Camp Edwards, Leadership Training, No fee

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 20, 2010; the Public Hearing on the FY11 Budget of June 7, 2010 and the regular meeting of June 10, 2010

approval of the use of facilities:

- Vinnie Ouellette, Haverhill Recreation Department, use of Hunking Gym and Auditorium from June 28 – August 6, 2010 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for Haverhill Summer Camp Program. Process Fee: \$ Waived; Utility Fee: \$ Waived; Custodial Fee: \$30.00 (3 hours per day); Rental Fee: \$ Waived

Attorney Magliocchetti removed Item III.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the Items I, II, and IV. 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.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the June 10 minutes with appointing Mrs. Malone and bringing in Mr. Quatralo. He asked for clarification of Mr. Quatralo's role and the language in the minutes. It only indicates Mr. Quatralo being used for the Title I grants.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the minutes of May 20 and June 7. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Approved 08.19.10

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the minutes of June 10. A verbal voted indicated all in favor with Mr. Bevilacqua abstaining.

Motion passes.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to suspend the rules to discuss the extent of Mr. Quatralo's employment. A verbal voted indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Mr. Scully indicated Mr. Quatralo has knowledge of the program and would like to sit with him to see what the needs are and use him for the authorized designated time.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to suspend the rules to acknowledge Dr. Buchanan's last meeting.

Members wished the Superintendent well in his new position in Hamilton.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Wood at 10:52 p.m. and seconded by Mr. Toohey to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel and negotiations, and will return to open session only for the purposes of adjourning. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.