

HAVERHILL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Meeting of August 19, 2010

This meeting was recorded.

Mr. Shaun Toohey, President opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mr. Raymond Sierpina; Mr. Scott Wood; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Vice President; Mrs. Susan Danehy; Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Mrs. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction. Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson was recorded as absent.

Mr. Toohey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

John Meuse, 15 Mechanic Street, questioned the middle school instrument program referring to an article in today's *Gazette*. Ms. Kosmes informed him a .4 position has been hired for this program.

Chavonne Flemming questioned the status of the art program at the high school. Mr. Scully stated he would address this under his updates and recommendations

Amy Jones and her daughter Maggie spoke on the cuts to the arts and gym program at Golden Hill. They asked to save the positions which are a key part of kids' education.

Communication and Reports

Superintendent's Communications

Staffing Updates and Recommendations

Mr. Scully offered a favorable report to handle the shortfalls of the critical positions they need. Ms. Kosmes indicated the staffing requests that were filled with the resources used totaling \$406,234. This was as a result of holding the line on spending and hiring, a mild winter for utilities, more stimulus and carryover funding.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the staffing requests as indicated on the sheet. 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. Scully informed members they have received a general notification from DOE yesterday. Haverhill was notified around June 17th that they were to comply with state requirements relative to teachers teaching in the areas they are certified in and improvement plans that were to be done individually and collectively by schools in the district. Due to failure some funds are being mandated by them to address the deficiencies. He was unaware of this and they are working daily with the state and Mrs. Malone to comply. This is an intense effort which is being addressed Monday morning with a detailed report forwarded to members. This is a labor intensive effort and there is a need to purge all certifications. Members requested of the Superintendent to inquire if other communications have been sent by DOE they are unaware of.

High School Updates

Security

Approved 10.28.10

This week the Haverhill Police Department in cooperation with a school resource officer are working to build a team of four to five people at the high school to train them in first aid and other issues they deal with. They have approved uniforms for them. A device has been put in place at the front door where the driver's license will be placed to see if visitors are welcome. There will be a full time police officer at the high school and Consentino with another rotating at the middle school and Officer Alvarado will teach the gang outreach program at the middle schools.

Cleanliness

Tonight Mr. Scully and the custodial subcommittee met with custodians and put on the line with the union leadership that they have four months to work with the principals and address the cleanliness issues and to continue to keep the schools clean. If this does not work, they were made aware they will go ahead with the privatization.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Sierpina to suspend any move towards privatization until January at which time they will receive a formal report from the Superintendent for his recommendation. 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. Scully indicated they are required by the NEASC report to have three Assistant Principals. He would like their nod of approval to explore the issue for funding and to see how the opening goes. He will update members weekly with or without that person prior to the next meeting. This is in anticipation of federal revenues with a formal notification next Tuesday with a possible \$1-1.2 million earmarked for Haverhill teachers only.

Mrs. Danehy questioned the five day schedule. Ms. Kosmes reviewed this including the teachers travel time. The computer labs and/or libraries will have a .5 ESP. The smaller buildings will have more art, music, and phys ed since they don't have a library or computer lab. Mr. Scully stated there are numerous deficiencies which are being addressed. Students will have one of these subjects daily. Mr. Scully indicated they will be laying this out differently when developing next year's budget this spring. Mrs. Danehy recommended looking at having student athletes who are unable to pay for their sports to give their time as tutors to work off the scholarship monies. Students who are failing can be pared with other students for tutoring.

School Committee Communications

Mr. Sierpina questioned the condition of buildings. Ms. Kosmes will have Mr. Dill forward the most recent evaluation of buildings. Mr. Scully stated they have the ability within to identify the substantial issues. He indicated Hunking School is the number one issue to address. They need to come up with solid, sensible issues, looking at what problems are at each school, the year built, the cost to fix or cost to replace the building, then look at the next school. Hopefully in late fall they will have something developed for them. Mr. Sierpina referred to the next Haverhill academy charter school application filed with a decision in 2011. His concern was on the LEA budget. He asked when the MCAS results will be official and assume they include the charter school results. Mrs. Malone indicated the results will be released in September. Mr. Scully stated they are going to start their own charting system going back for a reasonable period, one or two years, and forward a draft to members. He wants to see what students are failing and why.

Moved by Mr. Wood to move up Item IV-A, Whittier Regional Follow-up and to remove it from the table.

Seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua. 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

Old Business

Whittier Regional Follow-up (tabled at 05.27.10 meeting) – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti has met with DeRosa and have come to a consensus on some issues and agree to disagree on others. They have identified an issue in the district with a problem with guidance counselors in middle schools, report card comments, and discrepancies on scoring. He discussed the problems in preparing the students who have problems making the standards. Mr. DeRosa has offered assistance which Mr. Scully is working on. Discussion included enrollment numbers with ratio to the paid amount, school choice, standards used including interview criteria, eliminating the subjective criteria to have students on the bubble with a score of 62 -65 and just missing being accepted, and getting the school choice policy changed.

Representative Christopher Kelley and Richard Early commented on the above indicating this is very close to coming to a final consensus. They reviewed the process and questioned the rubric for the comment section which needs to be addressed. Representative Kelly reviewed the requirements of the state's policy for admission and agreed with members on how to help and work with the Haverhill students to have defined goals on a technical education, have good grades, and good attendance.

Mr. Toohey moved to suspend the rules to continue Public Comment.

Chavonne Flemming questioned the cutting of the art classes. Mr. Scully indicated they have added staff tonight and the principal has been notified. The principal will have the specific answers in each building.

Kendra Zagarella, high school student, questioned if funding is received will it go into the high school. Mrs. Patricia Zagarella indicated that Kendra needs to provide a portfolio to be a successful applicant to her prospective college. She asked if the classes she needs will be provided to meet her goals. Mr. Scully indicated he did not have the specific courses and indicated they have provided the funds for the needs of the school. It is his understanding that they will be able to meet the requirements of students at the high school and will speak to the principal tomorrow. She then referenced an article in today's newspaper with respect to the arts, drama and athletic program that it is disturbing to ask families to pay to participate. This is another type of education that students benefit from. Ms. Kosmes indicated \$25,000 was cut from clubs at the high school and were to become self sufficient. The principal has the ability to do fundraisers to help offset the fees.

Ellen Malaine, 68 Race Street, questioned the anticipated \$1.2 million and what the guidelines are. Mr. Scully stated they are waiting to see where they can apply the funds and recognize the needs and value of the cut programs. She asked for clarification of the five day program being taught by ESP's and not certified teachers which contradicts DOE's request. Mr. Scully stated some of the aides that work in the library sciences are very well trained and skillful in this area. Mr. Scully indicated the library aides follow a curriculum, guidelines and skill sets and the implication is mixing two different issues. She also noted that the fun thing such as concerts or art shows will be cut if the teachers move daily to other buildings. These programs are irradiated and never brought back.

Stadium Custodian Position

Approved 10.28.10

Discussion ensued relative to the \$2 million stadium renovation and its upkeep. Attorney Magliocchetti recommended renewing the existing lease for six months which has lapse for two years. There needs to be language changes in the city ordinance that governs the stadium commission and in the lease document.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve the lease renewal subject to legal review. Seconded by Mr. Toohey. Mr. Bevilacqua removed his motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti moved to amend Paragraph 6 adding "the School Committee approves the renovation of the stadium including but not limited to the installation of artificial turf and repair of the existing stadium seating to be paid for with a \$2 million grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts". Seconded by Mr. Wood.

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

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for the position of the groundskeeper be put back for a six month term to match the lease to see what type of duties and funding will be needed.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve the amendment. There was no second to the motion.

Mr. Wood expressed concern on funding this position with one time monies and the lack of a plan to fund this position. Attorney Magliocchetti stated they need the time to review this as to the time needed to maintain the stadium. Mr. Varis reiterated provides an opportunity for many student athletes. There is a need for someone to care for their investment. Six months would allow them to evaluate the care and position at the stadium. Mr. Wood questioned the rate, the hours worked, and the substitute position. Mr. Varis stated the person will secure and care for the multi million dollar facility. Ms. Kosmes explained how the hourly rate was derived and a substitute rate. Attorney Magliocchetti stated this is the value of the position put on by the Stadium Commission.

Moved by Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Mr. Wood to accept the position of the groundskeeper for six months. 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. Danehy to fund the position at \$15 per hour with health insurance paid for by the city as the agreement states.

Mr. Peter Shanahan, former athletic director, informed members that the position calls for more than eight hours per day including the care of the high school fields, a pesticides license, the need to be trained to care for the field, the number of people using the field such as the possibility of Amesbury. He indicated the rate was that of a senior custodian rate and the position calls for a skilled person. Mr. Varis stressed the physical work and knowledge required for this position warrants the hourly rate.

Mrs. Danehy made a friendly amendment to \$120 per day. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

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

Motion fails.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the pay as stated (\$21.12 per hour x 8 hours per day x 126 days = \$21,299.96). Seconded by Mr. Sierpina. A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

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

Motion passes

Request for a presentation of the federal standards vs. MCAS

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to table this item to a later date. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

New Business

Approval of Warrant Number EV20100820 totaling \$312,610.47.

Approval of the legal bills for Attorney William Cox totaling \$6,249.99 (first quarter billing) and Attorney David Grunebaum totaling \$964.37

Approval of the minutes of the Special Meetings of May 17, 2010; May 18, 2010 and August 5, 2010; the regular meetings of May 27, 2010 and June 24, 2010.

Approval of the recommendation of items listed to be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to remove Item A.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to approve Items B, C, and D. as indicated. 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 Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Item A as indicated. 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

Approved 10.28.10

Motion passes.

Executive Session/Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Wood at 10:14 p.m. and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to go into executive session for the purpose of negotiations and litigations, and will return to open session only for the purposes of adjourning. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

List of Documents:

School Committee Agenda

Agenda Request from School Committee Member Paul Magliocchetti (7.21.10) including memoranda from Superintendents' DeRosa (8.17.10 & 7.13.10) and Scully (8.03.10; 8.10.10); WRVTHS Comparison of Budget Categories FY2010 vs. Proposed FY2011; WRVTHS Percent of Contribution by Community FY10 to FY11; WRVTHS Enrollment vs. Special Education Enrollment as of October 1, 2009; WRVTHS Analysis of Enrollment and Percent of Contribution by Community October 1, 1995 to October 1, 2009; WRVTHS FY11 Proposed Budget/ Budget Recap; WRVTHS Comparison of Assessments FY2010 vs. FY2011; WRVTHS Required Net School Spending for FY2011; WRVTHS Other Assessments FY2011; WRVTHS Other Educational Assessments FY2011; WRVTHS Proposed School Choice Expenditures FY2011; WRVTHS Analysis of School Choice Account FY06 Actual to FY11

Warrant Document EV20100820

Legal Bills from Attorney Cox and Attorney Grunebaum

Minutes of the Special Meetings of May 17, 2010; May 18, 2010 and August 5, 2010; the regular meetings of May 27, 2010 and June 24, 2010

Documents distributed at meeting:

Proposed Funding for FY11 Staffing Requests

Letter from Elementary and Secondary Education (DOE)

Proposed Funding for 6 month Groundskeeper Contractor