

Haverhill School Committee Meeting  
Thursday, October 27, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.  
Approved 01.12.12

This meeting is being recorded

Mayor James J. Fiorentini opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Raymond Sierpina, Mrs. Susan Danehy, Mr. Shaun Toohey, Mr. Scott Wood, Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools, , Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Dr. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum.

Mayor Fiorentini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation**

Joe Sherlock and Jason Toney discussed the lunch program indicating the prices were too high and requested a reduction for students to a flat rate. Discussion was held with comparison of surrounding towns.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua to instruct the Superintendent to reduce student lunches. No second to motion.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to have this matter put on the next meeting's agenda. In the interim, members shall meet within the next two weeks with the Superintendent and invite the student council to arrive at an appropriate number. Mayor Fiorentini asked for a friendly amendment to include Whitsons. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

Kelly Valaskatgis, President, Haverhill Parents Shaping Schools, urged members to replace the aging middle school structures referencing the safety concerns and wellbeing of parents, children, and staff. In addition, to replacing Hunking School, they asked for a clean healthy working environment at Whittier and Greenleaf schools. Numerous parents spoke in support of a new school and the current impact on the students.

Mr. Scully reviewed the issues at Hunking including the findings of the industrial consultant. A meeting is scheduled to determine the cost of the west wing and if not prudent to fix what options there are. Once determined to build a new school a statement of interest needs to be filed relatively soon. The Superintendent assured parents this is his main concern and is checking it daily. This item will be put on the next agenda.

**Communication and Reports:**

Student Advisory Council Report – Jillian Meserve.

Jillian stated Spirit week was last week with a good participation at the bonfire. She indicated the student council endorses the lowering of lunch prices and everyone is enjoying the look of the high school.

Moved by Mrs. Danehy to suspend the rules to discuss the MASC Resolutions. A verbal vote indicted all in favor.

Motion passes

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to appoint Mrs. Danehy as the MASC Representative. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Resolution 1 – Providing Greater Access for Students to Exploratory Visits to Chapter 74 Approved Vocational Education Programs. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Resolution 2 – Teacher Evaluation. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mayor Fiorentini to approve Resolution 3 – Charter School Funding. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to support Resolution 4 – Enactment of a Freezer on Federal Regulations Pending the Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion fails.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to allow the representative to vote appropriately on Resolution 5 – State Educator Evaluation Process. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes

#### Superintendent's Comments/Reports.

The Superintendent addressed members on cutting the budget user fees and to take into consideration his instruction to follow their votes and asked them to take into consideration all the facts and his input. He does not want to come in with a deficit.

#### **Donations – Vote to Receive**

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to accept the \$25,000 endowment anonymous donation which is a condition of said gift which will benefit Haverhill athletics. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

### **Technology Update**

The City Council has authorized \$803,000 and up to \$1 million in available funds to redo the technology program at the high school.

### **High School – Open House Update – November 14, 15, 16, 2011**

A promotional brochure is available describing the program for students. Placement exams for all eighth grade students will be held on November 7<sup>th</sup> in middle and parochial schools. Tours are available with a theater presentation and a performance by the band.

### **Personnel Actions**

The Superintendent referenced the packet. All supervisor positions are filled with two teaching still available. The recently hired technology person has resigned for a higher paying position.

### **Subcommittee Reports.**

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked all who attended the meetings. This completes a phase of the Strategic Plan. The public is invited on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> for final input on the plan which is on track for its deadline at the end of the year.

### **School Committee Communications.**

#### **Attorney Magliocchetti**

##### HHS Academy Exams

This item was previously addressed.

##### Status of City-wide School Building Plan

Attorney Magliocchetti asked the Superintendent to apply the information received in addressing Hunking and apply it to a district wide building plan. There is a need for a framework for a five to ten year plan.

##### Status of unfilled positions – History & English

This item was addressed previously.

##### Status of Green Schools funding

The Mayor has asked for an extension of 60 days from the state and not go ahead with the program at Hunking. The Mayor stated they received an offer of \$200,000 for one of the schools for sale and are trying to negotiate the P & S. No offer was made for the Cogswell School and the Winter Street offer was per unit. Attorney Magliocchetti recommended using an auction company to auction the buildings. The Mayor wants to be assured they won't need Cogswell for other purposes before going forward with a sale.

##### Mr. Sierpina

##### Plan for encumbered funds

This item was previously addressed.

##### Hunking School Update

Mr. O'Connor is assisting with a review of the human resource department's issues which will be discussed in personnel.

Technology

This was previously discussed.

**Old Business:**

MCAS Workshop – Mr. Bevilacqua (tabled 10.13.11).

Moved by Mr. Wood to remove the item from the table. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

Mr. Bevilacqua discussed the recent MCAS scores and expressed his concerns as to working as one system. He suggested a workshop to make sure all children are on the same plan to address the deficiencies and how they are going to address it and also asked to invite the Whittier VoTech Superintendent.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Wood to have the School Committee host a public workshop on MCAS and invite the Whittier Superintendent for input.

A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

Status of Electronic Books - Mr. Bevilacqua (tabled 10.13.11).

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

Motion passes.

A walk is being held this weekend to help raise funds to replace the out of date textbooks with electronic textbooks.

**New Business:**

Approval of Warrant Number EV20111028 totaling \$1,044,162.33.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the warrants. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

**Items by Consensus:**

Approval of the field trip request(s):

- Robert D. Estes, Whittier Middle School, May 14-18, 2012, Ecology School, Saco ME, \$280

Approved 01.12.12

Approval of the following minutes:

Regular Meeting of October 13, 2011

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Items A, B, C, and D. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

### **Executive Session/ Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Toohey at 9:45 p.m. to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to personnel and legal issues. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes

*List of Documents: School Committee Agenda; Technology Information; Personnel Actions; Agenda Item Request from Attorney Magliocchetti; Agenda Request from Mr. Sierpina regarding agenda items; Warrant Number EV20111028; Field Trip Request; Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 13, 2011*