

Haverhill School Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 22, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

This meeting was recorded

Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Raymond Sierpina, Mrs. Susan Danehy, Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Dr. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum. Mayor James J. Fiorentini (arrived at 7:51 p.m., left at 10:22 p.m.) Mr. Shaun Toohey (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), Mr. Scott Wood (arrived at 7:10 p.m.) were recorded as absent.

Mr. William DeRosa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked suspend the rules to adjust the agenda and time commitments and allowing Mr. DeRosa to speak. Members showed no objection.

Introduction of William DeRosa, Superintendent-Director of Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School regarding Haverhill enrollment & applications

Mr. William DeRosa accompanied by Principal Maureen Lynch and Board members Charles LaBella, and Richard Early. Mr. DeRosa reviewed enrollment numbers, communication between Whittier and the middle schools, the standards in place that need to be met, school choice students, and the summer program.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to move up Mr. O'Brien. Members showed no objection.

Athletic Director Tom O'Brien regarding fall sports enrollment and payment collections
HPS Marketing Material

Mr. O'Brien reviewed participation numbers indicating an increase in all fall sports due to the decrease in user fees to \$125. Mr. O'Brien indicated a sense of pride with the improved facilities and equipment. Heating the stadium was discussed with Mr. O'Brien seeing whatever would be most cost effective. He anticipates bringing in \$100,000 in user fees. They are continuing to promote participation in all sports.

Communication and Reports:

Student Advisory Council Report – Jillian Meserve.

Jillian noted that student council will be holding new student elections to get more involvement, the scheduling conflicts on the opening of schools which since has been addressed, the class sizes, the disproportionate sizes at lunch break, spirit week at the end of October, and the good environment at the school. Mr. Nangle reviewed the lunch time scheduling adjustments and the class sizes. The average size is 22 with the highest level courses having larger classes. The AP classes are 17-22 with honors around 30-31. As issues come up, they are addressing them.

Public Participation

None at this time.

Superintendent's Comments/Reports.

Collaboration between Haverhill Public Schools and Hill View Montessori Charter School (Brief video presentation & commentary by Janet Begin & Dianne Connolly)

Janet Begin, Cofounder of Hillview and former Executive Director, introduced Ruth Ann Goggin new Director and several Board Members. Ms. Begin referenced the handouts relative to the collaboration and showed a brief video on the collaboration with Pentucket Lake School focusing on sharing and learning.

Introduction of Daniel Faircloth, Program Supervisor of YES (Youth Engaging in Success) Program @ Haverhill High School

Mr. Faircloth indicated his staff focuses on decreasing the dropout rate. Thirty five students were selected by federal guidelines. Staff members include a middle school outreach person for the high school, a middle school transition adjustment counselor, and an attendance officer. The students have an individual success plan with a second chance at education with direction and support. Mayor Fiorentini requested a report on attendance and how the dropout rate has been reduced.

Personnel Actions:

Recommendations

Mr. Scully indicated he has recrafted some positions to address issues and save money and apologized for his neglect to inform members. The in-house plumber position could save thousands of dollars where the position has been posted and a plumber hired. He anticipates as the project evolves there is a savings of \$60-90,000 in the repairs at Whittier Middle School alone. The second position is a non LEA position for the RTTT for assessment and measurement which is grant funded. He asked the members to authorize to create these positions and to fill them. There is no cost to us and both positions are cost neutral.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to authorize creating and filling the Plumber position and the RTTT project manager position. 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

Mr. Scully introduced Dr. Tiffany Luther who will hold the RTTT position.

Actions

Mr. Scully will provide members personnel changes on a monthly basis.

Review and Recommendation regarding Maintenance Pilot Program

Recommendations and review of the Maintenance Pilot Program will be discussed at next month's meeting and a job posting will be forth coming.

Recommendation regarding Bartlett School

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to authorize the Bartlett School be surrendered for disposition and accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and convey the building to the city. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes

Anticipated Release of MCAS Results to the Public

Mr. Scully referenced the distributed documents and reviewed the individual schools scores compared to the state's targets. The state is asking to reach 100 percent rate in English and Math. This is not a reality. They are looking at what we are doing, are making progress, stagnant, and where we are failing. They are looking at performance in individual classrooms, what they need to correct and how to fix these issues. They will also look at the entire building including teachers, staff and administrators. Positives in schools were noted and what schools are turning around. The data pinpointing weaknesses should see progress by February.

FYI Items

Members will receive information as to what's going on in the system on Monday every week or every other week.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Sierpina and Attorney Magliocchetti have met and developed a proposed schedule to review the draft Strategic Plan with individual schools.

School Committee Communications

Mr. Bevilacqua

Introduction of Lane Glen, President of Northern Essex Community College

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua to table this item to the next meeting. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Mrs. Danehy

HPS Marketing Material

Mrs. Danehy referenced previous marketing information for each school which showed the success of the schools. She questioned the development of such a brochure. Mr. Scully indicated they are developing a handout document for the high school. The Mayor asked to target students who have opted out of the system.

Attorney Magliocchetti

Update on Freshmen Academy & all new programs at the high school

Mr. Nangle gave an overview of the new programs at the high school, the transition of the students from the middle schools into the high school, the Freshman Academy, the scheduling issues virtual high school subjects, dropout rate, academic achievement, alternative evening program and MCAS results.

Administration's plan for technology upgrades in our schools

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for an overall vision with all schools collectively and tying them into technology. Mr. Scully gave a snapshot which included the Mayor going for bonding for computers, purchasing computers for the high school, and have a vision is to have a blend of technology available to students. They lost 27 computers today and it's difficult to keep up with ongoing problems. On October 19th they are bringing in people who are nationally involved in technology. There is a fiscal reality and trying to do things in the right spots.

Mayor Fiorentini left the meeting; Mr. Bevilacqua took over as Chair.

Maintenance Update

Attorney Magliocchetti reported on the condition of fields behind the schools noting some issues. Mr. Scully stated they are working with Mr. Ouellette to address the issues.

Whittier Vocational Update on enrollment and school choice

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Sierpina

Role of Supervisors

Mr. Sierpina questioned if the supervisors are going into the schools to do their formal evaluations of the staff. Mr. Scully stated the principals need to get into the classrooms in order to evaluate their staff. Dr. Malone reviewed when teachers are evaluated.

Testing Programs (Data Walls)

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Early Release Days

Mr. Scully indicated the schools underperforming have to sit down and identify their problems. This is top priority and done daily not just on early release days.

Progress Reports

Dr. Malone stated the reports are given out quarterly and are listed on the school calendar.

New Business:

Approval of Warrant Number EV201100923 totaling \$757,947.13

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the warrant. 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

Motion passes

Acceptance of donation of two sets of soccer goals from the Haverhill PAL Youth Soccer Program.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to accept the donation. 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

Motion passes

Mr. Bevilacqua asked the Superintendent to send out a letter of appreciation.

Items by Consensus:

approval of Use of Facilities:

- Requested by Bernie McCann of the Consentino Men's Basketball for the use of the Consentino School on Friday, September 30, 2011 thru June 24, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for Basketball. Process Fee: \$ 10.00; Utility Fee: \$ Waived; Custodial Fee: \$ 30.00 per hour; Rental Fee: \$ Waived

Approved 10.13.11

- Requested by Tama Spencer of the Consentino Middle School Cheerleading for the use of the Consentino Middle School on Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 300 p.m. for Cheerleading Camp. Process Fee:\$ 10.00; Utility Fee: \$ Waived; Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend rate; Rental Fee: \$ Waived
- Requested by Frank Bellistri of the Massachusetts Sports and Social Club/Merrimack Valley Division for the use of the Whittier Middle School on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 thru December 7, 2011 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Adult Dodge ball. Process Fee: \$ 10.00; Utility Fee: \$ Waived; Custodial Fee: \$ 30.00 per hour; Rental Fee: \$ Waived

approval of the legal bill from Attorney Grunebaum totaling \$1,525.04

approval of the following minutes:

Regular Meeting of February 10, 2011	Regular Meeting of July 14, 2011
Regular Meeting of March 10, 2011	Special Meeting of March 30, 2011
Regular Meeting of March 24, 2011	Special Meeting of May 24, 2011
Regular Meeting of April 14, 2011	Special Meeting of June 3, 2011
Regular Meeting of April 28, 2011	Public Hearing on FY12 Budget & Regular
Regular Meeting of May 12, 2011	Meeting of June 6, 2011
Regular Meeting of June 23, 2011	

Mr. Wood asked to remove Item C, minutes.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Items 5A and 5B. 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

Motion passes

Moved by Mr. Wood to table Item 5C, minutes. 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

Motion passes

Executive Session/ Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey at 10:28 p.m. to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to personnel and litigation. 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

Motion passes

List of Documents: School Committee Agenda; Article entitled "District-Charter Collaboration on the Rise";Memo from Superintendent regarding New Positions with supporting documents; Memo from Superintendent regarding Maintenance with supporting documents; Memo from Superintendent regarding Bartlett School; FYI Items including: Parents as Partners – An Anti-Bullying District Presentation; envisions for Parents Information Session; Interpreting MCAS Parent/Guardian Reports Informational Session; Supplemental Educational Services Informational Meeting for Parents; Memo from Kara Kosmes regarding School Choice; 2010-2011 8th Graders Attendance Rate at High Schools; Agenda Request from Mr. Bevilacqua; Agenda Request from Mrs. Danehy; Approved 10.13.11

Agenda Item Request from Attorney Magliocchetti; Agenda Request from Mr. Sierpina regarding agenda items; Warrant Numbers EV201100923; Use of Facilities; Invoice from Attorney Grunebaum; Minutes of Regular Meetings of February 10, 2011; March 10, 2011; March 24, 2011; April 14, 2011; April 28, 2011; May 12, 2011; June 23, 2011; July 14, 2011; July 21, 2011 and the [Special Meetings of March 30, 2011; May 24, 2011; June 3, 2011](#) and the Public Hearing on FY12 Budget/Regular Meeting of June 6, 2011

Distributed at meeting:

Ms. Begin – District Charter Collaborations on the Rise; Partnerships in Service of Children: Hill View Montessori Charter Public School and Haverhill Public Schools

Ms. Kitsos – Haverhill High School Gateway to the Future