



Haverhill School Committee
Regular Meeting of April 9, 2015 – Approved 05.14.15

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were: Attorney Paul Magliocchetti; Mrs. Susan Danehy; Mr. Shaun Toohey; Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua; Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello, Vice President (arrived at 7:05 p.m.); Mr. Scott Wood, President; Mr. Johnathan Letcher, Director of School Improvement and Accountability and Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools.

Mrs. Julie Kukenberger, Assistant Superintendent of Schools was not present.

Emma Kaloostian led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation.

No one was present for public participation.

Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report – Emma Kaloostian.

Ms. Kaloostian related that the first year of PARCC testing went well; AP testing registration will be underway shortly, the senior class won the first Spirit Week competition and the recent Power Puff game was a success and very fun.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Financial Update.

The Superintendent noted that Mr. Sullivan would be arriving shortly after the financial material is copied.

General Updates.

The Superintendent distributed to the members a communication from Haverhill Community Television. The committee received the document and it would be placed on a future agenda.

School Committee Communications.

Attorney Magliocchetti had placed the following items on the agenda:

Haverhill High School Guidance - College Selection and application process?

Attorney Magliocchetti encouraged parents to reach out to guidance department to assist students in the college selection process.

School Committee Scholarships, what is available and how to apply?

Mr. Scully indicated that the scholarships are available online in three places.

Early College Program - How do students apply? - When does testing take place?

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced a parent (Kelly Martin) whose son had returned to Haverhill High School and she spoke highly of the Early College Program.

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Mr. Scully commented on an Eagle Tribune article from earlier in the year that spoke of the successes students were achieving in the Early College Program. The superintendent stated that Early College Program test should be held soon.

Mayor Fiorentini reported that he had sat in on two courses (Early College and Advanced Placement) at Haverhill High School; he noted both courses were very good and interesting. The Mayor could not make a judgment on whether one course was more rigorous than the other.

Mr. Bevilacqua commented that the issue had resulted in parents and students being pitted against each other and that the school committee meeting was not the proper venue/forum for this discussion. He cautioned against inflaming situations and not harming students.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello concurred that the meeting was not the proper forum for discussion and felt that students and parents were subjected to criticism/abuse that was harmful.

Financial Update.

Mr. Scully distributed a budget document for the committee's review. He noted that the budget would increase by \$1 million dollars with step increases. The superintendent related that a more detailed budget would be distributed next week. In addition, the budget includes a \$500,000 deficit from this fiscal year.

Mr. John Sullivan from Melanson Heath introduced his colleagues to the committee Sara and Zach from his office. He noted that he had met with principals and department heads regarding their budgets but the proposed budget does not contain all requests; it does not mean it is not necessary but it cannot be funded.

Mr. Sullivan explained the 2016 Budget Summary page:

School Committee Appropriation Last Year	\$67,802,127	
Fiscal 2015 Projected Deficit	\$500,000	
Step Increases Net of Retirement and Vacancies	\$1,153,700	
Other Contracted Increases	\$676,438	
2016 Proposed Budget Before New Hires	70,132,265	3.44%
Proposed New Hires	\$1,198,026	
2016 Proposed Budget with New Hires	\$71,330,291	5.20%

Assumptions:

Payroll rolled forward in budget module taking into consideration step increases

Retirements and Vacancies being filled on average or 2015 new hires

Provided for some requests from schools and departments but not all

Equipment not funded as requested

Level funded most accounts except contractual increases

Mr. Wood stated that some of the proposed new hires would not be approved. He recommended budget review workshops be held downstairs or at schools. Additionally, Mr. Wood commented that the business manager would be retiring and asked if the posting had gone out.

Mr. Scully stated that the posting was being crafted.

Mr. Wood stated that the posting should be done quickly since the availability of talent would decrease if the posting were delayed. He further related that the process for hiring the business manager was done the last time 13 years ago. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Bevilacqua about the process.

Mr. Bevilacqua stated that finalists were brought to the committee and interviews were conducted.

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Mr. Wood stated that the superintendent's input should be sought however; the school committee hires the business manager. He recommended a subcommittee being formed; but would defer to the full committee.

Mr. Scully stated the job description would be available next Friday.

Mayor Fiorentini commended Mr. Scully and Mr. Sullivan for correctly projecting salaries and attrition. He stated that the budget would be treated as a request and that he might not even meet the lower number on the budget.

The Mayor recounted the following factors:

- *Health care increasing by 7%*
- *Pensions going up \$900,000*
- *2 ½ increase in revenue only*
- *\$2m snow/ice deficit*
- *Medicaid projected to go down \$387,000*
- *60% of the city budget goes to the schools*
- *City has a deficit this year too*

Mr. Bevilacqua commended the superintendent for complete information and asked for the superintendent's recommendation for reductions to meet a balanced budget.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked if the early childhood center proposal submitted by Assistant Superintendent Kukenberger was included in this budget.

Mr. Scully stated the proposal was not included in the budget.

Mr. Toohey asked about salary increases were factored into the budget i.e., 1% increase for all groups.

Mr. Sullivan did not have that figure.

Mr. Wood noted it would cost approximately \$1m.

Mr. Toohey asked about additional state money \$2.4m being received by the City. Mayor responded a definitive answer might be received in May.

Mr. Toohey noted that Medicaid forecast was down with a projection of \$450,000.

Additionally, Mr. Toohey asked about circuit breaker etc.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the offsets were being projected at \$3,315,887.

Mr. Toohey commented it would be a tough budget year.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked for clarification on the budget workshop process.

Mr. Wood related that the superintendent would present the budget and if any additional clarification is needed it would be requested at that time.

Mrs. Danehy asked about Medicaid process.

Mr. Wood responded that the school department procured the funds and that the city received the funds.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that he would look into the Medicaid receipts and projections.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about Chapter 70 funding and any potential changes.

Mr. Sullivan noted he used the Governor's proposal.

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Mayor Fiorentini related that figure would not change.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked how grants fit into the budget.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the figure was built into the offset amount. He also noted that positions that were no longer grant-funded had been absorbed in the LEA budget.

Mr. Scully recounted that there was a real \$2m deficit that had been decreased to \$500,000.

Mr. Letcher observed that Haverhill had done a good job of procuring grant funds.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about transportation costs and projections.

Mr. Scully responded the district was looking at K-8 bussing and modifying contractual obligations to affect cost savings and also the whole transportation delivery system

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to hold two budget workshops at either a school or another location.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

<i>Attorney Magliocchetti</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mrs. Danehy</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Toohey</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Bevilacqua</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Wood</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mayor Fiorentini</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

Motion passes 7-0

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey that an initial subcommittee will be formed to review the applications for Business Manager; the subcommittee will include some members of the school committee along with members of the administrative staff to bring 3-5 finalists to the full school committee for interview.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

<i>Attorney Magliocchetti</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mrs. Danehy</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mr. Toohey</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Bevilacqua</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Mr. Wood</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mayor Fiorentini</i>	<i>Yes</i>		

Motion passes 7-0

Mr. Scully announced the Hunking School Groundbreaking on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. He noted that the completion date should be December 2016/January 2017.

Subcommittee Reports.

Mr. Wood referenced a letter that was distributed this evening to the committee. He noted that the Board of Selectman in Merrimac, Groveland and West Newbury were inviting Whittier Regional member communities to a meeting on May 14, 2015, at the Merrimac Public Library to discuss concerns with several policies at the school relative to admissions, school choice and bussing policies. Mr. Wood noted that the members could rsvp to Carol MacLeod, Finance Director of the Town of Merrimac.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about the concerns.

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Mr. Wood stated that member communities' students are being denied admission while school choice students were being admitted and the busing of school choice students. He further noted that there were no open slots for school choice students this upcoming school year.

Mr. Wood further noted that the applications to Whittier Regional had increased but that the acceptance rate had decreased 82% vs. 75%. He explained that 258/344 Haverhill students would be accepted for the 2015-2016 school year - the highest rejection rate of member communities.

Mr. Wood also reported that at last night's Whittier Regional School Committee meeting a vote was held on the FY16 budget; the budget passed by a 9-3 vote. He related that Haverhill's representatives along with Groveland voted against the budget. Mr. Wood stated that Whittier had \$900,000 in free cash (reserve) and also school choice revenue reserve (\$600,000); he remarked that some of those monies should be returned to the taxpayers of those communities.

Mr. Wood reported that in reference to the superintendent search, the WRVTHS school committee had voted in March to only accept applications from WRVTHS staff members who had five (5) years administrative experience. He noted there were four applicants with only one with a certification and another with a pending certification. Mr. Wood stated that some said the committee should be loyal to the staff and that there appeared to be a chosen candidate. He was in favor of getting a broader applicant pool. He noted his disappointment in this process.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about excess cash and if it happened every year.

Mr. Toohey responded in the affirmative.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about expansion of the school to accommodate higher enrollments.

Mrs. Danehy thanked Mr. Wood for trying to get the best superintendent candidate. She also noted that in reference to the free cash; it was the

New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of Warrant Number EV20150410 totaling \$1,060,221.90 as indicated in the agenda material.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello to approve the Warrants.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Attorney Magliocchetti	Present	Mrs. Danehy	Yes
Mr. Toohey	Abstain	Mr. Bevilacqua	Abstain
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes with 4 votes

Items by Consensus.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the field trip request(s) and use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material:

Whittier Middle School Grade 8 (Jeffrey Blaustein) to Springfield MA from June 8-13, 2015 at a cost of \$749.00

Requested by Michelle Joubert of the Warriors Girls Basketball for the use of the Nettle School on Wednesdays, April 15, 2015 thru June 1, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for Girls Basketball Practices.

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Process Fee: \$ 10.00
Utility Fee: \$ *Waived
Custodial Fee \$ 30.00 per hour
Rental Fee: \$ *Waived

**Fee Waived 100% Haverhill Students*

Requested by Brandon Yeo and Dan Smith of the Bradford Christian Academy for the use of the Silver Hill School on Friday, April 10, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for Teachers vs. Student Basketball Night.

Process Fee: \$ 10.00
Utility Fee: \$ 20.00 per hour
Custodial Fee \$ 30.00 per hour
Rental Fee: \$ 100.00 per event

Requested by Vincent Ouellette of the Haverhill Recreation Department for the use of the Haverhill High School June 29, 2015 thru August 14, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for Summer Program.

Process Fee: \$ 10.00
Utility Fee: \$ *Waived
Custodial Fee \$ 50.00
Rental Fee: \$ *Waived

**Fee Waived 100% Haverhill Students*

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes
Mr. Toohey	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes 7-0

Executive Session/Adjournment.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was held and the results were the following:

Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mrs. Danehy	Yes
Mr. Toohey	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

Motion passes 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

List of Documents included as part of packet: School Committee Agenda; Agenda Request Letter from Attorney Magliocchetti; Warrants; Use of Facilities; Field Trip Requests

Distributed at meeting Haverhill Public Schools Initial Proposed FY16 Budget; Letter dated March 24, 2015 from the Town of Merrimac Office of the Board of Selectmen