

HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 6, 2013 - 6:00 P.M.



This meeting was recorded

Mayor James J. Fiorentini opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Present were: Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Attorney Magliocchetti, Mr. Shaun Toohey, Mr. Scott Wood, Mr. Raymond Sierpina, Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools, Ms Kara Kosmes, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and Dr. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Susan Danehy was recorded as absent (arrived at 6:55 p.m.).

Mayor Fiorentini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing on FY14 Budget – opportunity for public to comment on the FY14 budget
No comments at this time.

Communication and Reports:

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Recommendation for the Adoption of new Social Studies textbook

Mr. Scully went through process to review books and how to handle the program as they go forward. Dr. Malone explained the need for high school world history books. An RFP with criteria was put out, met with publishers, committee made recommendations from three publishers that met the criteria, and selected a text book with an online program. The cost is \$70,000 for this hybrid program.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the recommendation of the purchase of the new social studies textbooks.

Dr. Malone reviewed the new series that is in alignment with the common core standards. The full purchase falls under a three-year payment plan. Students will be able to access the on line program at home or at school.

Mayor Fiorentini indicated since this item is included in the budget there was no need for a vote. Mr. Bevilacqua withdrew his motion and Mr. Toohey his second.

Business Items:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve Warrant Number EV20130607A totaling \$407,810.05. A roll call vote was held with the following results

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

Motion passes.

Approval of field trip request(s):

- A. Diskin, Haverhill High School, Grade 10-12, June 19-28, 2014

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the field trip request(s). A roll call vote was held with the following results

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

Motion passes.

The Superintendent recommends that items be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Toohey to approve the items to be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances. A roll call vote was held with the following results

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

Motion passes

Mr. Scully asked to add an item relative to the Hunking School.

Moved by Mr. Bevilacqua and seconded by Mr. Toohey to suspend the rules to discuss the Hunking School. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

He referenced the project payments that go to the building committee for payment. They will be forwarded to members for review and understanding. If there is an issue, they can address it the next month. He would like to keep the members up to date with this information.

School Committee Interview of Two Interim Business Manager Finalists

Mr. Scully introduced the two candidates, Ruth Berdell and Leighton O'Connor, for the Interim Business Manager's position. Mr. O'Connor left the chamber while Ms. Berdell would be interviewed.

Ms. Berdell introduced herself and gave a synopsis of her background including education and experience. Members asked questions of Ms. Berdell including:

- Policies or procedures has she instituted to stay within funding for special education
- Would town provide supplemental funding if cost went over allocated funding
- Monitoring of line items for expense accounts, substitute accounts and dealing with building principals
- The financial system used and the control not to go over the bottom line in each line item
- When line items should be transferred from one school to another
- Notification to school committee of said transfers to align the budget
- The frequency of reports to members
- The interference of consulting work
- The experience with working with the city and coordinating the finances
- Cost control mechanisms in place with cost overruns.
- Transportation program, health costs, van maintenance
- Charter school experience and interaction in overseeing the budget
- Size of budget and capital budget, the number of buildings, size of district and number of students to oversee
- How to spend dollars effectively as possible and be an advisor to move system forward
- Working with the state and federal level
- Termination from previous position
- View on school choice
- Ways to streamline the budget in the past
- Being an interim position and considering applying for permanent position
- Designing multi-year budgets

At 7:06 p.m., Mayor Fiorentini left the meeting; Attorney Magliocchetti took over as Chair.

Introduction and Recognition of Eagle Scout Badge Recipients: Zachary Brown, Robert Conte III and Andreas Sialatis

Mr. Scully introduced the three recipients of the Eagle Scout Badge with Zachary Simmons, Scout Leader, whom informed members of their service projects.

Mr. Scully introduced Leighton O'Connor who has had past history with him over ten years when he was the Lawrence Superintendent and recently has been a contract employee the past few years.

Members asked questions of Mr. O'Connor including:

- Overview of background and past experience
- Policies and procedures he instituted to keep within funding

Mayor Fiorentini returned to the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

- When line item transfers should come to school committee
- The legal ruling if any transfer can't be done without school committee approval and the best way of informing members of said transfers
- How he views the role as an advisor to the Superintendent and committee
- What his role has been working these past few years
- His awareness of the current budget and the projection of a deficit
- Cost centers

- Multi-year budgets
- Steps to take not to make a deficit and when to notify the committee
- Implementing mid-year cuts to finish the year
- Working with reserves and a policy
- Currently being retired and working within the state guidelines
- Interest in a permanent position
- Special education cost controls
- Medicare and Medicaid funding and health insurance costs
- Dealing with financial directors and the city auditor
- Areas he feel need to be more efficient

Mayor Fiorentini requested a voice vote on each candidate for the position of Interim Business Manager. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Mr. Sierpina	Leighton O'Connor	Mrs. Danehy	Leighton O'Connor	Mr. Toohey	Leighton O'Connor
Mr. Wood	Leighton O'Connor	Mr. Bevilacqua	Mr. O'Connor	Attorney Magliocchetti	Leighton O'Connor
Mayor Fiorentini	O'Connor				

Mr. O'Connor was the unanimous selection of the committee for the position.

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to see a contract negotiated and the Superintendent bring back for one year to July 1st and post a position by April or May. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Mayor Fiorentini took over as chair at 8:17 p.m.

Update on FY14 Budget with the most recent additions/deletions.

The Superintendent reviewed the academic priorities which are a key part of budget planning including priorities to improve student performance and improve student performance on MCAS. The budget is focused on education, salaries, utilities and costs associated with out of district students. The revised budget totals \$90,638,215. Adjustments were made per requests of the previous meeting to the salaries, expenses and city charge line items totaling \$966,160.

Approval of the FY14 Budget

Moved by Mrs. Danehy and seconded by Mr. Wood to approve the FY14 Budget as presented. A roll call vote was held with the following results

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

Motion passes.

Executive Session/Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mr. Bevilacqua to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of litigations and negotiations. A verbal vote indicated all in favor.

Motion passes.

List of Documents: School Committee Agenda; email from Zachary Simmons regarding Eagle Scout Badge Recipients; memo from Assistant Superintendent regarding Social Studies adoption; Warrant; field trip request; memo from Thomas Geary regarding surplus items