



## Haverhill School Committee Meeting of Thursday, March 12, 2015

Mayor James J. Fiorentini called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were:, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Mr. Shaun Toohey, Mrs. Susan Danehy, Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Julie R. Kukenberger, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. Johnathan Letcher, Director of School Improvement and Accountability. Mr. Scott Wood and Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello (arrived at 7:10 p.m.) were recorded as absent.

Mayor Fiorentini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Public Participation

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced his email request for an agenda item regarding high school rank system, the Early College Program and AP Courses. He asked that this be discussed under this item. Several parents commented:

Mark Stemmler discussed the issue of class rank and the difference between honors and AP classes, adding quality points to the Early College Program high school and college credits, changing the rules and making the changes retroactively without informing anyone. He explained how the ranking system works, indicating no information in the handbook, no consensus among programs, and having zero transparency in the process.

April Derbogolian Kaloostian agreed with Mr. Stemmler and indicated how she was informed of the significant changes in ranks from the Honors to AP courses. She stated changes happened last week and with three months remaining the impact it will have on seniors. There needs to be a process and is unfair to students.

Pamela Conte gave an in-depth detailed report on the class rank system, the Early College Program and AP courses. She noted how students are devastated to find they may lose acceptance to a college, are put on a wait list, eliminate the chance for acceptance to a college and the ramifications for scholarships based on the class rank. She noted what the program was designed for, how rigorous the program is, its structure, and how the Early College Program is mostly for students in the middle. Stretch and AP classes were also discussed. Mrs. Conte indicated her information came from the student handbook, the program of studies booklet and from the NECC website on the Early College program.

Student Aubrey Campbell College Program and that this is a great program.

Mr. Scully read from a legal opinion on this matter. He distributed a packet answering questions Attorney Magliocchetti has raised in his email. This is a multi-pronged issue where an individual at the high school issued an incorrect listing of rank. Several families have spoken with the high school principal. It is not in his purview to release class standings of individuals outside of the parent. He referenced a document noting that of 400 students only four were impacted of this change in placement. Someone released a class rank list that is not the list and there was a problem in 2012 and the Guidance Department was directed to fix the errors on X2. Guidelines have been disseminated through the Department of Higher Education and DESE where AP and Early College Program courses are given the same weight.

Attorney Magliocchetti read a letter from Senator Ives which confirmed they do not regulate how they weigh this.

Mrs. Kitsos with the assistance of Tracie Encarnacao, Guidance Director, referenced an email that was sent to the faculty where some were allowing debates to continue and where stopped immediately. She explained how students need to test in their freshman year to participate in the Early College Program. She discussed the change in stretch courses to contract courses, how curriculum is the same for freshman at Northern Essex, and how all courses are transferred to all state colleges and most private colleges. She did indicate X2 was not pulling up the correct information in 2012. They are working to identify the glitches on 900 courses they have been dealing with for four years. Mrs. Kitsos shall be meeting with parents of students with significant changes.

Emily Brown, Student representative commented she is in the Classical Academy and has taken four AP classes. One needs to score a three or above to earn said credits. She felt that things should not change half way through the year. Also asked to look at and see why a seminar class is ranked as AP the same as a calculus class.

Anthony Grise stated his daughter is a Junior in the Classical Academy with a high GPA and a three sport athlete. He indicated the courses are far more challenging.

Attorney read a letter signed by 54 students.

Marcia Stemmler commented that mistakes made were not good enough an answer.

Gabrielle Ginn commented on the lack of transparency between students and the faculty. She stated how the Classical Academy challenges her and doesn't feel a nationally recognized college level AP class can compare to a regionally approved program. She would like workloads compared.

Karen Redfearn stated her sons are both in the Classical Academy and was disappointed they are not treated fairly.

Mr. Scully recognized Laurie Weir of NECC

Mr. Scully asked students to stop tweets relating to this. Information came from others not the staff and is trying to respond to things going out incorrectly.

Ann Neal reviewed the meeting for parents with NECC and teachers teaching the courses. It was indicated the courses were equivalent of AP courses and that is why they signed up.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to refer this to the Policy Subcommittee. A roll call vote was held with the results as follows:

Attorney Magliocchetti  
Mr. Toohey

Yes  
Yes

Mrs. Danehy  
Mr. Bevilacqua

Yes  
Yes

Approved 03.26.15

	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes
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Motion passes.  
Mayor called for a recess at 8:48 p.m. with the meeting resuming at 9:14 p.m.

### ***Communication and Reports***

#### ***Student Advisory Council Report – Emma Kaloostian***

Emily Brown informed members of the upcoming spring spirit week by the student council, working on a small beautification project, and stated the potholes on Brook Street have been repaired.

### **Superintendent Comments/Reports**

#### ***Tilton School – Mr. Letcher***

Mr. Letcher presented a PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the status of Tilton School including:

- Tilton's Historical MCAS Performance
- Student Performance Based on MCAS in ELA and Math
- Tilton's Current State
- Tilton Staffing
- What is the effect of this
- First things first
- Hallway before and after
- Outside stairs before and after
- Book room closet before and after
- Staff storage room before and after
- Staff lunch room
- Foyer
- DESE Audit Findings 2013-14
- Effective School Improvement
- Effective School Leadership
- Align Curriculum Data – Tilton
- Aligned Curriculum
- Effective Instruction
- Student Assessment
- Tiered Instruction and Adequate Learning Time
- Academic Improvement Plan
- Students' Social, Emotional, and Health Needs
- DESE 2014 Accountability
- From the DESE Website
- Comparison of Tilton to Fitchburg-Crocker Elementary
- The Assessment of the Two Schools
- Year 1 of a Three Year Process
- Many of these structuring heavily are in place
- American Institute of Research
- Tilton's Mission Statement 2014-15
- Why We Are Here
- Mini Lesson
- Guided Reading
- Professional Assessment

Mr. Letcher indicated this is a starting point and shall focus on a turnaround plan referencing the distributed document. This will allow teachers to have more clarity of their mission and students not making progress will have short term goals leading to student achievement. The turnaround plan takes from three to five years for results. Discussion is being held on extended learning time and summer school.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti to table the remaining agenda except for Items 4 and 5. Mr. Scully indicated Mrs. Kukenberger had pertinent information for parents relative to kindergarten. Attorney Magliocchetti withdrew his motion.

#### ***Neighborhood Schools- Mrs. Kukenberger***

Mrs. Kukenberger discussed the rethinking and reorganizing of kindergarten placements. She reviewed the current structure, two parent informational nights, adjusted past practices, common questions and perception in the K-8 schools. She stated the child would be in a neighborhood school and parent notification would be no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>. They are looking at developing a high quality

early childhood centers with a goal for integrated schools. They will be reallocating the current resources in phases and will continue to give more concrete projections.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to table the remaining items excluding number 4, Warrant, and 5, Items by Consensus. A verbal vote indicated all in favor

Motion passes.

#### *Financial Update*

Tabled to next meeting.

#### *General Updates*

Tabled to next meeting.

### **School Committee Communications**

#### *FY16 Budget – Mr. Wood*

Tabled to next meeting.

#### *Subcommittee Reports*

Tabled to next meeting.

### **New Business**

Attorney Magliocchetti asked to remove Coppola Bus from the Warrant due to a conflict.

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to approve Warrant Number EV20150313 totaling \$983,027.15 minus Coppola Bus. A roll call vote was held with the results as follows:

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

Motion passes.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Mrs. Danehy to approve Coppola Bus. A roll call vote was held with the results as follows:

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

Motion passes.

### **Items by Consensus**

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26, 2015

approval of the use of facilities:

1. Requested by Lexi Deschene of the YMCA for the use of the Haverhill High School Auditorium on April 7, 2015, April 8, 2015 April 9, 2015 April 10, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and April 11, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a play.  
Process Fee: \$ 10.00  
Utility Fee: \$ 30.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 30.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend  
Classroom Fee \$ 35.00 per hour  
Rental Fee: \$ 50.00 per hour
2. Requested by Karen Ambrose of the Human Resources Division for the use of the Consentino School for April 25, 2015 from 6:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Civil Service Police Officers Exam.  
Process Fee: \$ 10.00  
Utility Fee: \$ 20.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend  
Classroom Fee \$ 3.00 per hour
3. Requested by Karen Ambrose of the Human Resources Division for the use of the Consentino School for September 19, 2015 from 6:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Civil Service Police Officers Make up Exam.  
Process Fee: \$ 10.00  
Utility Fee: \$ 20.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend  
Classroom Fee \$ 30.00 per hour

Approved 03.26.15

4. Requested by Karen Ambrose of the Human Resources Division for the use of the Consentino School for October 17, 2015 from 6:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Civil Service Police Promotional Exam.  
Process Fee: \$ 10.00  
Utility Fee: \$ 20.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend  
Classroom Fee \$ 30.00 per hour
5. Requested by Karen Ambrose of the Human Resources Division for the use of the Consentino School for November 14, 2015 from 6:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Civil Service Fire Promotional Exam.  
Process Fee: \$ 10.00  
Utility Fee: \$ 20.00 per hour  
Custodial Fee \$ 45.00 per hour weekend  
Classroom Fee \$ 30.00 per hour

approval of the conference request(s)

- Suzanne Coffin, Consentino, SLIFE Institute, Culturally Responsive Teaching for Students of Limited & Interrupted Formal Education, Leominster, MA, 4/16-4/17, \$503.16

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to remove the minutes for an amendment.

Moved by Mr. Toohey and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Items B and C. A verbal vote was held indicating all in favor.

Motion passes.

Mr. Bevilacqua asked to amend the minutes. The minus stated it was recorded he and Mrs. Ryan Ciardiello were absent as of 7:03 p.m. but should reflect the time of arrival. A verbal vote indicated all in favor of the amended minutes.

Motion passes.

### **Executive Session/Adjournment**

Moved by Attorney Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Toohey to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 p.m. and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Contracts. A verbal vote was held indicating all in favor.

Motion passes.

*List of Documents included as part of packet: School Committee Agenda; Warrants; Minutes; Use of Facilities; Conference Request*