



HAVERHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 23, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

This meeting was recorded.

Mr. Shaun Toohey opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Present were: Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Mr. Scott Wood, Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardiello, Mr. James F. Scully, Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. Mary Malone, Assistant Superintendent. Mayor James J. Fiorentini, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti (arrived at 7:03 p.m.) and Mrs. Susan Danehy (arrived at 7:21 p.m.) was recorded as absent.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None at this time.

Communication and Reports:

Student Advisory Council Report – Jillian Zuber

Jillian informed members the Student Council is meeting and reviewing the high school cell phone policy with the administrators, they are purchasing colorful lanyards instead of the yellow ones for students in the cafeteria as part of the new ID policy, and another coffee house is scheduled in March.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

The Superintendent distributed food service information including enrollment, attendance, and meal participation for 2012 and 2013.

ENROLLMENT AND AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE (ADA)

Aug-Dec	2012	2013	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
Enrollment	8097	8313	216	2.7%
(ADA)	7637	7798	161	2.1%

MEAL PARTICIPATION

2012 (Aug-Dec)	Average Daily Meals Served	Participation Based on Enrollment	Participation Based on (ADA)	
BREAKFAST	1229	15.2%	16.1%	71 Serving Days
LUNCH	4131	51.0%	54.1%	75 Serving Days

MEAL PARTICIPATION

2013(Aug-Dec)	Average Daily Meals Served	Participation Based on Enrollment	Participation Based on (ADA)	
BREAKFAST	1359	16.3%	17.4%	77 Serving Days
LUNCH	4271	51.4%	54.8%	71 Serving Days

Meals served include reimbursable school breakfast and lunch meals only - Analysis includes Saint Joseph's and Sacred Hearts

The Superintendent indicated they are looking at issues at the high school due to grading. One problem, referencing #3 in the distributed document is they are not in sync with time on learning in a number of areas. There is also a shortage of physical education requirements. They are working on correcting these issues that he will bring to the next meeting in more detail. Mr. Scully asked members to bring forward questions or concerns to him prior to next meeting for him to address.

Currently under Review for 2014-2015 at Haverhill High School

1. **Change the Grading System:** Currently at Haverhill High School the D range is 65-69. 64 and below is a failure. All other K-8 schools in the Haverhill Public School System follow the 60-69 = D range and below 60 is failing. Many high schools in Massachusetts including Methuen, Lawrence, Andover, North Andover, Whittier Tech, Greater Lawrence Tech and Tewksbury employ the 60-69 = D category.

Rationale: This will have an impact on Haverhill High School's drop out and graduation rate. Last year 62 students were identified as dropouts. Twelve (12) of these dropouts were seniors, of the twelve (12), six (6) students had passed their MCAS, but had the failing grades in courses they needed to graduate.

Many times students who fail first term are able to turn it around during the remaining three (3) terms. Some reasons include:

- a) *Response to Interventions (RTI) put in place that support student (IEP, tutoring, counseling, etc.)*
 - b) *Maturity/Urgency/Purpose- They just grow up*
 - c) *Social emotional investment by teachers with students results in increased emotional intelligence, which in turn increases investment in their learning (Student will develop a relationship with one or more faculty member and that relationship becomes the cornerstone on which they build their investment in learning).*
 - d) *Increased student engagement –Students participate in the school community.*
2. **Review policy for failing students in first and third terms:** Require that failing students receive no less than a 50%. This would allow students who have not done well first term to recover and have hope of passing as the year goes on. There are many students who start off slow, and then figure it out as mentioned in the paragraph above. Lowell has implemented a similar plan and they have seen a **decrease in student failure rate**. This gives students hope that they can still turn it around.
3. **Change Physical Education/Health classes to semesters:** This will change the credit requirement from one (1) to two (2). The graduation requirement will remain at 20 credits however; the elective credits will be reduced to 2.5.

Rationale: The change, which will increase hours of instruction in Physical Education and Health, which will allow all students to participate fully in the curriculum. Currently, these classes are broken into quarters equaling nine (9) weeks. Inconsistencies arise when a quarter is shortened due to storms, early release days and holidays. To ensure that all students get the content required, the semester course will allow for minimal interruptions as of result of these types of days. DESE's Curriculum Frameworks for Physical Education and Health has been developed for Grades K-12. With our current schedule, a student would complete the Physical Education and Health requirement in their freshman year. This change will ensure that students will be getting Physical Education and Health instruction for two (2) full years.

4. **Implement Common Mid-Term Assessments:** Currently Haverhill High School has final exams in June in most courses.

Rationale: Mid-term assessments would give teachers valuable data on how well their students are doing up to the mid-point, as well as how well they are getting the material across to their students.

DESE (*Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*) has adopted new regulations that require all districts to have two measures of teacher impact on student performance. These are called District Determined Measures, (DDMs). The implementation of common mid-term assessments, along with existing final exams, would give Haverhill High School the two measures required per DESE for the DDMs. These would be created by the teachers and be common across Haverhill High School for all educators in the grade or subject. Currently, most districts in the Merrimack Valley already have mid-term assessments built into their schedules. These districts include: Lowell, Methuen, Tewksbury, Billerica and Lawrence. With HHS in the lowest performing 16% of districts, I believe the implementation of common mid-term assessments would give us valuable data.

Mr. Wood requested the Superintendent meet with the subcommittee in reviewing these issues. Attorney Magliocchetti requested an update on the Program of Studies including last, this and next year and the progress made.

Mr. Scully showed members pictures of the high school Weight Room detailing the improvements and indicated they are exploring options and looking at the costs to keep it open to the public.

School Committee Communications

Approved 02.27.14

Subcommittee Assignments – Mr. Toohey

Mr. Toohey read the following list of member assignments:

Negotiating Teams	Chairperson	Members
Administrators	Mrs. Danehy	Attorney Magliocchetti
Cafeteria	Mr. Bevilacqua	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello
Custodians	Mr. Wood	Mr. Bevilacqua
ESP's	Mr. Bevilacqua	Mr. Toohey
School Bus Drivers & Monitors	Mr. Toohey	Mrs. Danehy
Secretaries	Attorney Magliocchetti	Mr. Wood
Teachers	Mr. Wood	Mrs. Danehy
Nurses	Mrs. Ryan- Ciardiello	Mrs. Ryan- Ciardiello Attorney Magliocchetti
Sub-Committees		
Athletic	Mr. Toohey	Mr. Wood
District Steering	Mrs. Danehy	Mrs. Ryan- Ciardiello
Finance	Attorney Magliocchetti	Mr. Wood Mr. Toohey
Joint Communications	Attorney Magliocchetti	Mr. Toohey
Joint Maintenance/Facilities	Mr. Wood	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello
Legislative Liaison	Mr. Bevilacqua	Mr. Toohey
MASC	Mrs. Danehy	
Policy	Mr. Wood	Mrs. Ryan- Ciardiello Attorney Magliocchetti
St. James	Mrs. Ryan - Ciardiello	Mr. Wood
Stadium	Mr. Wood	
Strategic Planning	Attorney Magliocchetti	Mrs. Danehy
Transportation	Mrs. Danehy	Mrs. Ryan- Ciardiello
Liaisons to the Superintendent		
Athletics/Clubs	Mr. Wood	
Federal Laws/Policies	Mr. Bevilacqua	
Hunking	Mrs. Danehy Wood	Attorney Magliocchetti
MCAS	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	
Maintenance & Buildings	Mr. Wood	
Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School	Mr. Toohey	

Subcommittee Reports

No reports were given at this time.

New Business:

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20140124A (LEA) totaling \$290,408.83; Warrant Number EV20140124 (Grants) totaling \$74,971.13; Warrant Number EV20140124B (LEA) totaling \$690.00; Warrant Number EV20140124B (Grants) totaling \$88,183.50; Warrant Number EV20140124C (LEA) totaling \$38,092.68 and Warrant Number JE20140124 (LEA) totaling \$8,203.77. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Bevilacqua	Abstained
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes		

Motion passes.

Approved 02.27.14

Items by Consensus:

approval of conference request(s):

- Alberto Rosso, Golden Hill, School Mental Health, January 31-February 1, 2014, Boston, \$280
- Felicity Liebke, Teach/Golden Hill, April 7-8, 2014, Connecticut, Pyramid Educational Consulting, \$395

approval of the field trip request(s):

- Andrea Laws, HHS, Grade 11, April 11, 2014, New York City, \$210

approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2014

approval of the legal bills from Attorney Grunebaum totaling \$722.50

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Items by Consensus. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

Executive Session/Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Wood and seconded by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

Motion passes.

List of Documents: School Committee Agenda; Warrants; Conferences; Field Trips; Minutes; Legal Bill from Attorney Grunebaum

Distributed at Meeting: Proposed Changes currently under review at Haverhill High School; Food Service Participation Comparison