



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2017**

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present: Mr. Sven Amirian, Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Shaun Toohey, Mr. Scott Wood, Vice President, Ms. Gail Sullivan, President, Mr. Jared Fulgoni, Assistant Superintendent and Mr. James Scully, Superintendent of Schools.

This message is read before each meeting: those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV (add any other media outlet/party which tells you they will be recording). Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Chair who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the Massachusetts wiretap statute.

The committee and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comment.**

Mr. Jeff Grassi, 1153 West Lowell Avenue, Haverhill, MA spoke about the recent City Council Citizens Outreach Committee that was televised by HCTV Media. He related that it was a great turnout with seven members of the City Council along with Haverhill School Committee President Gail Sullivan, Mayor's Chief of Staff, David Van Dam, representatives from Urban Kindness, Mount Washington Alliance, The Acre, POSE, Marigold Montessori, Wildflower Foundation, Team Haverhill, Creative Haverhill. Mr. Grassi noted that the purpose was to brainstorm the assets and challenges and it was wonderful to have a meeting with all these committed people. He reported that with the election of Ms. Sullivan as School Committee President hoping for a joint meeting between both bodies.

Mr. Grassi provided a bullet point listing of topics that were covered:

- How to engage neighborhoods with schools and work with City Council and School Committee
- Public education needs a total long term budget and plan
- More resources for education
- Discipline issues not addressed and not to legal standards and meet requirements according to Chapter 222
- High number of suspensions
- Proper day care and early education
- Funding from city and state
- Tax to the 2 ½ levy
- Replace three schools
- More early childhood education before age 6
- Citizens would be willing to pay more in taxes for fix all problems
- Out dated way of thinking in that citizens are not willing – that is not true

Mr. Grassi encouraged the School Committee to follow the City Council's lead and form there own Citizens Outreach Committee for schools.

Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged the good turnout and it was a great thing for the city. He related that it bridged a gap between the School Committee and City Council. Attorney Magliocchetti stated that Gail Sullivan has a good relationship with many people and hopefully this will bridge the gap between the two governmental bodies. He acknowledged that Haverhill High School's standing needed to be increased and he look forward to hearing from members of the community because Haverhill is a great city.

Mr. Grassi noted that Haverhill was unique city with involvement of many volunteers from various groups and that there was presently positive momentum and good, respectful communication between all parties.

Mayor Fiorentini commented on his community meetings of which one will be held tomorrow at the hospital.

### **Communications/Reports.**

#### **Superintendent Comments.**

Mr. Scully reported that at the last meeting there was a question on a bill for \$24,999 Whalley Computer Associates. He responded that the school district had received a donation of \$25,000 from Dunkin Donuts' Affiliate (Skrivanos Group) that was earmarked for technology and the Superintendent was asking for approval of the bill.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about another bill in the amount of \$85,000. Mr. Scully reported that was an error and was part of the Hunking School Building Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the bill for Whalley Computer Associates in the amount of \$24,999. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Mr. Amirian	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

7 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

Mr. Scully commented that if our expenses were kept to \$500,000 per month according to Mr. O'Connell that the school department would have a balanced budget.

### **School Committee Communications.**

#### **Update on Softball Facility – Ms. Sullivan.**

Ms. Sullivan related that City Councilor LePage had asked that Softball Facility be on this agenda. She noted that a parent letter had been sent to the Mayor asking if the boys' facility was comparable to the girls' facilities.

Mayor Fiorentini interjected that there was no gender specific facility and that it was open to all. Furthermore, if that was not the case, he needed to be informed.

Ms. Sullivan stated the letter referenced the boys' baseball and since budget discussion would be beginning this issue was being addressed to the Superintendent.

Mr. Scully noted that boys played baseball and girls played softball. The Superintendent commented that discussions on this matter and other issues had been held with the Mayor and that next week, the conversation would continue with Athletic Director O'Brien in attendance to explore alternatives.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that a facility would cost approximately \$700,000.

#### **Update on overcrowding issues and plans to resolve them– Ms. Sullivan.**

Ms. Sullivan stated that since budget discussions would begin in the next two weeks along with the MSBA deadline for submission of Statement of Interests by April 7, 2017 and it was an appropriate time to receive an update from the Superintendent on the overcrowding issues/plans.

Mr. Scully responded that there was indeed overcrowding in the Tilton/Consentino area. He further noted that Assistant Superintendent Fulgoni and his team would be developing the data for the submission. The Superintendent stated a proposal would be submitted for the Consentino School.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated his concern about equity across the district and fairness to all students. He asked how often district lines were reviewed.

Mr. Scully responded the Washington Street area has the highest concentration of students in all grade levels was in this area. The Superintendent reiterated the concept of middle grade concept with the new Hunking (Technology), Consentino (Fine Arts), and Nettle (Languages) was being implemented. He further commented that the open classroom is at Silver Hill.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the principals were using available space.

Mayor Fiorentini asked his staff for a long-term trend line and exploration of all alternatives including redistricting.

Mr. Scully cautioned against moving children without valued reasoning.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that there were 800 more students 10 years ago.

Mr. Wood answered that many school buildings were closed in 2003 (i.e. Wood, Knipe, Fox) and the students went into other buildings.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the Policy Subcommittee met again yesterday. He related that policies that were discussed that would provide assistance at the Haverhill High School. In addition, the subcommittee was exploring working with schools' administrations on various matters.

Mr. Scully noted the Massachusetts Association of School Committees was contracted to assist the school committee in this endeavor.

Attorney Magliocchetti responded that in the near future that organization would be engaged again. He commented that only sections A and B had been received.

It was noted that the other portions had been completed and that the administration would reach out to the association to obtain those sections. Attorney Magliocchetti was not aware that MASC had completed other parts of the manual.

There was no request for executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Mr. Amirian	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Toohey	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

7 members having voted in the affirmative  
0 members having voted in the negative  
0 members having abstained

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm