



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Regular Meeting of May 25, 2017**

Ms. Gail Sullivan, President called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mr. Sven Amirian, Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Mr. Shaun Toohey (left at 7:50 p.m.), Mr. Scott Wood, Vice President, Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson 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.

Public Comment.

Mr. Thomas Grannemann (Leroy Avenue) spoke about how to improve graduation rates in the Haverhill Public Schools. He stated what Haverhill has done in the past has not worked. Mr. Grannemann related that investing in teachers to better equip them to teach the changing student population.

Mayor Fiorentini indicated that there have been many studies on the graduation rate and he would send the Brookings Institute article to Mr. Grannemann.

Mr. Richard Smyth (2 South New Street) commented on his attendance at the forum sponsored by the Haverhill Education Coalition and urged members/public who had not attended to view on the HCTV website. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Grannemann and Ms. Papanikolaou for their advocacy on behalf of the public schools.

Attorney Magliocchetti commended both citizens for their activism.

Superintendent's Comments/Reports.

Mr. Scully outlined the following proposal:

- 2 grade 4 Tilton to Consentino Tilton K-3
- 2 Kindergartens Bartlett to Tilton
- Bartlett renamed Consentino Annex
- Grades K-2 as Bartlett Kindergarten School aka Consentino Annex
- Bartlett Kindergarten going to Greenleaf School (K Center)

The Superintendent also recommended moving the last meeting in June from June 22 to June 29 because of previous commitment.

Mr. Scully distributed a memo from the high school principal clarifying teacher certification.

Superintendent Scully announced the receipt of a Professional Development Materials for Early Literacy Participant Districts grant in the amount of \$13,075 which according to Humanities/Social Studies Curriculum Supervisor Rashaun Martin will support social studies literary instruction in Grades K-2 along with the purchasing of supplemental students' mentor text and teachers' professional resources.

Student Advisory Council Report.

Jacqueline Connolly announced that elections were held last week and the new student representative is Isabela Yepes.

Ms. Yepes introduced herself as the incoming Student Council President and current Junior at Haverhill High School. She explained the purpose of Student Council. Isabela informed the committee that seniors this summer would be able to take a course that prepared them for senior year. Ms. Yepes announced the Senior Events, which included Senior Chapel (May 26), Senior Prom (May 30) at the Seaglass Restaurant and Graduation (June 2). She looked forward to getting to know the members during the course of the year.

FY18 Budget.

In relation to the budget, Ms. Sullivan requested for an update because in the proposed budget teachers' salaries were allocated at \$1.6m and special education tuitions were \$1.5m and that was extremely concerning.

Special Education Director Kyle Riley noted that the amount was an increase in tuition (77 students – average for urban districts while suburban may have 100 students plus because they do not have the programming). He noted that transiency impacted Haverhill. Mr. Riley noted that outplacements numbers had decreased. In relation to Recovery Schools, tuition is covered but not transportation. The Special Education Director commented on the excellent collaboration in the special education department among himself and Pam MacDonald, Compliance Officer. Mr. Riley addressed strategies in the department to allow for bringing back students to the district along with an analysis of each student by Ms. MacDonald and the ETF in each building to find the appropriate placement. The director emphasized the importance of the parent connection through the SEPAC and the parent liaisons. He mentioned that the life skills program had been a real positive addition to the district.

Ms. Sullivan asked about strategies to keep students in district. Mr. Riley responded that class size and making the classroom a warm and welcoming place.

Mr. Amirian questioned the tuition for day services \$800,000 and could the monies be reinvested in other ways to pay better dividends.

Mr. Riley replied that investment does not necessarily pay dividends immediately. He referenced the hiring of deaf and hard of hearing teacher to the district that can bring students back and also provide tuition in students.

Mr. Scully mentioned that space was the critical issues.

Mr. Amirian stated long-range planning was essential.

Mr. Scully cited the competition between newer more modern facilities with our buildings that were aging and tired.

Mr. Amirian agreed and emphasized the requirement for long-term planning.

Ms. Sullivan continued to note that 77 out-of-district students were equal to teachers' salaries. She related that this would be a focus of the strategic planning discussions in future months.

In response to committee's comments on lack of professional development, Mr. O'Connell had prepared a report on grant funding.

Ms. Sullivan's apprehension was the potential in drastic cuts in grant funding.

Attorney Magliocchetti concern was that the implementation of new programs may not allow for proper training of staff.

Mr. O’Connell concurred that Title IIA had provided for flexible spending. The business manager related that new funding opportunities have arisen and the administration continued brainstorming ideas for professional development.

Attorney Magliocchetti had indicated, “his eyes were opened” when former Assistant Superintendent Kukenberger had stated that \$1.2m was needed for the proper implementation of Lucy Calkins Program.

Mr. O’Connell commented that administration was aggressively looking at other opportunities to fund very extensive staff development.

Mr. Wood stated the good news on the federal level was that Congress not the President provided the funds. He asked if monies were consistent.

Mr. O’Connell responded the monies had increased.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged his own extensive professional development and its value. The mayor related that recent studies called into question the appeal of staff development in improving teacher performance. He stated that his priorities were: reducing the dropout rate, early childhood education, improving reading, and lowering class size in grades K-3.

Ms. Sullivan commented that the Lucy Calkins example was an example of poor professional development that is “too little, too late and not well planned”. She said good professional starts with teachers being asked what they need to improve instruction and it must be long-term and sustainable. Ms. Sullivan noted that broad statements should not be made about staff development because it does a disservice to the entire initiative.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted a careful and considered approach to professional development was needed. He was considered with the funding level for staff development and it was a budget priority.

Mr. Scully referenced his collaboration with HEA President Lisa Begley not only on union but academic issues. He additionally noted that the district was on the right track with professional development.

Mr. Amirian suggested an additional budget workshop be held before it is presented to the City Council because there were a number of issues that needed to be clarified.

A motion was made by Mr. Amirian to schedule another budget workshop 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

After a brief poll, it was agreed the membership was available on Wednesday, May 31, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the School Administration Office, City Hal (Room 104).

Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported on the policy subcommittee's work on policy review. He noted that the subcommittee was on Policy Section G and would be meeting bi-weekly to update the policy manual and work should be completed by the fall.

A motion was made by Mayor Fiorentini to suspend the rules to recognize a long-standing educator in the City of Haverhill. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged the passing of Barry Kittredge, a long-time educator who passed away earlier this week. He was a teacher and assistant principal at Consentino and Hunking School. Mr. Kittredge helped numerous children. The Mayor reflected Mr. Kittredge's love of his children and grandchildren. Mayor Fiorentini related that when he visited Barry in the nursing home or rehab centers, he spoke of his time in the schools. The Mayor noted that Mr. Kittredge was a good friend and asked that a moment of silence be observed in his memory.

A Moment of Silence observed in memory of Barry Kittredge.

Mayor Fiorentini left to go to the Council Budget Conference.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20170526 totaling \$135,563.71 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20170526A totaling \$154,202.61 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

5 members having voted in the affirmative
0 members having voted in the negative
1 member having abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20170526B totaling \$915,631.67 as indicated in the agenda material. 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. Wood	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the renewal of the food service contract with Whitsons New England Inc. as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mr. Scully acknowledged Joe Armenti and Gus Travassos from Whitsons. The Superintendent recognized the many contributions the company had made to enhancements at both the high school and the Learning Café along with improvements to the menus. Mr. Scully thanked the cafeteria staff for their efforts. He announced that Mr. Travassos would be leaving Haverhill to work in a community closer to his home.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

The agenda items included:

the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2017 and,

the use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material:

Requested by Kayla Grover from Atlantic Keeper Academy for the use of Haverhill High School fields on June 29 & 30, July 7, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21, 24 & 28, August 14-18 from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm for goal keeper training.

Process Fee: \$10.00

Custodial Fee: \$30.00 per hour

Rental Fee: \$100.00 per event

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

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

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello acknowledged the wonderful event at Hunking School this past Sunday.

Mr. Scully asked about the change in the June date from June 22 to June 29. The members would be checking their schedules

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. Wood	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes		

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.