



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Regular Meeting of May 11, 2017

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Mr. Sven Amirian, Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardiello (arrived at 7:09 p.m.), 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.

Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School students led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Mr. Wood questioned whether a suspension of the rules was necessary to move up the Model UN Presentation.

There was no objection from the Committee to change the order of business.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to move up the Model UN Presentation by Zachary Simmons. Mr. Toohey seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Mr. Amirian	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Toohey	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

Mr. Simmons briefly outlined the Model UN Program (Hillie MUN-a student-run program) including sample papers from students. He introduced Anna Rossi, a graduating senior who has been the head delegate at the high school. Ms. Rossi related that a middle school program called Hillie MUN involved collaboration between high school and middle school students. Anna introduced Hunking grade 6 student Elyse Goncalves (Israel – Human Rights) who spoke of her positive experience with the program. Ms. Rossi outlined the international conference in New York City that she had participated in for the past three years. She introduced Darby Connolly and Shiloh Puella, co-head delegates who shared their positive and educational experience at the NHSMUN (National High School Model United Nations) and the local Massachusetts MUN at UMASS Conference. Ryan Dekeon and Alejandro Lopez from HHS Class of 2014 commented on the research, leadership and public speaking skills that provided employment opportunities. All the students appreciated Mr. Simmons' guidance and supervision with this program.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about participation levels and Ms. Rossi replied the numbers have increased over the years.

Mr. Simmons related that alumni who participate in the program go into a varied careers and have been very successful.

Mr. Amirian recognized Mr. Simmons' commitment to the program and his teaching career.

Mr. Scully commended the Shiloh, Darby and Anna for their involvement in many activities in the school system. He specially noted that Anna Rossi had been recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution as an essay finalist and scholarship recipient.

Student Advisory Council Report.

Jacqueline Connolly presented her report on activities at the high school including:

- Spring Spirit Week
- First Annual Drive-in Movie Night (HHS back lot showing of Grease)
- Powder Puff Game (Seniors won)
- Spring Fling
- AP exams conclude tomorrow
- many different paths at the high school for students to pursue
- High School Hall of Fame this Saturday at the new Hunking School
- busy weeks for high school seniors with graduation activities

In conclusion, Jacqueline acknowledged this would be her last meeting and thanked everyone for making this a special experience for her.

Public Comment.

Mr. Thomas Grannemann (Leroy Avenue) spoke on behalf of the Haverhill Education Forum. He noted in the committee's approach to the budget (program budgeting) must be data-driven and performance-oriented to provide financial resources in the appropriate areas that support the district's goals.

Ms. Lisa Marzilli (1153 West Lowell Avenue) presented a signed copy of Malcolm Mitchell's book "Magician's Hat" and was presented as a thank you for matching the Maddox Foundation contribution. She spoke of her concern regarding Haverhill's dropout rate and the need to address this issue in the budget. Ms. Marzilli also recommended increased funding for professional development for teachers.

Mr. Jeff Grassie (1153 West Lowell Avenue) spoke in support of open, fair and transparent decision-making in the Haverhill Public Schools modeled after the strategic plan.

Mr. Peter Yannakoureas spoke against teaching of evolution in Haverhill schools and against the book "Chocolate Wars".

Silver Hill Re-chartering Process – Mr. Amirian.

Mayor Fiorentini announced that there was no vote tonight on Silver Hill's Rechartering.

Mr. Amirian noted that Silver Hill was going through a critical re-chartering process. He reiterated his support for choice in education. Mr. Amirian was concerned about the division or schism was developing in the district over this process. He reported that there was intense passion in support of this Horace Mann Public Charter School and offers an alternative for parents and families.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for clarification of the process from the Superintendent.

Mr. Scully reported that the Rechartering process was outlined by DESE and the first step was a vote by the majority of the Haverhill Education Association membership.

Ms. Margaret Shepherd, Silver Hill Principal offered a history of the SHHMCS and provided examples of their accomplishments. She concluded that the school had gone from an under-performing school to a Level 1 designated school. Ms. Shepherd concluded that the delay of the HEA vote on the charter would allow for accurate information being provided to its membership.

Ms. Devon Ferreira (12 Grant Street) spoke in support and commitment of the school.

Mr. Michael Murphy (62 Ledge Street) suggested reading Dr. Grannemann's information from the Reach Higher event sponsored by Haverhill Education Coalition and noted that there would be more parent and

teacher involvement. He noted that SHHMCS success story was incredible and complimented the other positives in the city. Mr. Murphy stated it was a perfect school for his kids.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi (HEA officer and parent) spoke as a citizen not in his official capacity. He spoke in favor of the many initiatives that were enacted at SHHMCS but could be done without a charter (except cap enrollment and sibling exemption). Mr. Parolisi stated that the HEA has not taken a position on the Rechartering process. He did however reject the premise that other schools were somehow inferior schools and/or neighborhoods.

Ms. Victoria Huang (13 West Parish Ridge Road) spoke passionately about the Silver Hill School and its positive environment.

Mr. Louis Martone (6 Rolling Meadows Lane) stated that as one of the committed parents it was expected that the school committee would follow their wishes and all wanted what is best for the children.

Ms. Alicia Smolar (2 Edwin Street) stated that the elitist stigma attached to the school was unfair. She noted the students learned better in this type of environment and should serve as a model.

Mayor Fiorentini stated that the committee would hear from three more audience members.

Ms. Helen Zbitnoff (28 Brandon Road) stated that she loved Haverhill and all three of her children attended Silver Hill. She noted that all of her children were successful and it was all about choice. Ms. Zbitnoff recommended helping the other schools excel and making Haverhill better.

Mr. Jeff Martineau (46 Russett Hill Road) commented that the HEA was fighting with the wrong entity. He further stated that the district did not fund education properly, for example, it granted a raise to the superintendent this year and he talks on his phone and does not pay attention to someone who pays his salary. Mr. Martineau urged funding of education and teachers' salaries.

Mayor Fiorentini commented although he could not vote on teachers' salaries (his son is a teacher) that the teachers did receive pay increases and that the superintendent did not receive a pay raise.

Madison and Victoria Dawkins, former students of the school spoke in support of the school and their education.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged the parents and the students for attending the meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti was appreciative of the discussion and involvement. He focused on the implementation of Lucy Calkins and the difference between SHHMCS and the district. Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged the importance of the professional development that was afforded the charter school because of its autonomy.

Mr. Toohey reiterated his support for charter schools.

Five minute Recess

Superintendent Scully recommended a revision to the school calendar to include the observance of Veterans Day on Friday, November 10, 2017 since most school districts in the commonwealth were observing the holiday on this day. He noted that the inclusion of this holiday would extend the school year by one day.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the revision in the calendar for the 2017-2018 school year to include the observance of Veterans Day on November 10, 2017. Mr. Toohey 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	No		

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

FY18 Budget.

Mr. Brian O'Connell, Business Manager gave a general overview/summary of the FY18 Proposed School Budget and explained a document outlining the Superintendent's recommendation on a proposed increase in the school budget summary of 7.1% (\$79,057,003.00).

In response to Mr. Wood's inquiry, Mr. O'Connell noted that DESE information was a few years behind.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that former HEA President Marc Harvey still stated that average teacher salary did not matter.

The Business Manager noted that state information (House & Senate budgets) would be closely monitored.

Ms. Sullivan asked about an explanation of the Greenleaf School (page 20) cost center.

Mr. O'Connell replied that there was no expressed use finalized for this facility.

Mr. Scully stated an alternative school setting was being discussed and that the costs could be offset by tuitions.

Ms. Sullivan asked about each line items contained in this cost center including principal, noon supervisor, clerk etc. She also recommended an intelligent discussion of professional development monies allocated in the budget and grants.

Mr. Scully related that the Greenleaf cost center would continued to be refined.

Mayor Fiorentini indicated that budget development was a key responsibility of the School Committee.

Mr. Amirian indicated his support of more professional development in the district.

Mr. Wood asked for budget workshops to review the budget. He stated that the change in the Greenleaf School would impact district overcrowding and what are the long-term plans for facilities. Mr. Wood remained concerned about a long-term plan and a different usage of the Greenleaf School and would not support a budget that did not address this issue. He indicated that these were important questions.

Ms. Sullivan concurred with Mr. Wood. She related that when the plan for the new Hunking was proposed that the Greenleaf students would go to the new school.

Mr. Scully stated the district needed flexibility.

Mr. Wood related that the movement of students from Greenleaf to Hunking and the savings of \$1m was a selling point. He again reiterated the need for a long-range plan.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the \$96,000 Attendance Officer and that the individual was retiring.

Mayor Fiorentini noted motions would be made on reductions in line items.

Attorney Magliocchetti commended the superintendent for the budget proposal.

Mr. Scully related the proposed budget increase was 7.1%.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked about updated information that the Mayor referenced earlier in the meeting. She was also concerned about class size and student enrollment.

Mr. Toohey asked for the Mayor's updated information by the next meeting. He asked for if the items below the 7.1% would be the first priority.

Mr. Wood asked about contractual only steps/raises and the validity of the information.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the graph only indicated that Haverhill gave raises, as did other districts. He asked about other data sources referenced by Mr. O'Connell.

Mr. O'Connell stated Gateway Cities did provide some additional data.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about salary reserve in the budget. He further noted that negotiating salaries were complicated and required tradeoffs.

Mr. O'Connell responded no salary reserves were budgeted.

Mr. Scully related the budget was teacher-centered. He wanted to discuss negotiation with the school committee in executive session.

A brief discussion ensued about scheduling a budget workshop. The consensus was Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in School Administration Office conference room.

Mr. Amirian had a out of town meeting and could not attend on Tuesday.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to hold a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. Mr. Toohey 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

Ms. Sullivan reported on a productive finance subcommittee meeting; the committee would be meeting on May 24, 2017.

New Business.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20170512 totaling \$405,974.46 as indicated in the agenda material. Mr. Toohey 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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20170512A totaling \$644.31 as indicated in the agenda material. Mr. Toohey seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

6 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 EV20170512B totaling \$261,928.36 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello 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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number JE20170512A totaling \$20,182.88 as indicated in the agenda material.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number JE20170512 totaling \$11,278.06 as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Sullivan 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

Items by Consensus.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2017 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. 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

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to adjourn the regular meeting (9:50 pm) and go into executive session for the purpose of negotiating proposals for union and non-union employees for FY18. 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. 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