



Haverhill School Committee
Finance Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019
City Hall, Suite 206
8:30 a.m.

Present: Ms. Gail Sullivan, Chairperson, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Attorney Richard Rosa, Ms. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brian O'Connell, School Business Manager, Mrs. Kathleen Smith, Accountant

It was determined that this subcommittee would meet on a bi-weekly basis to discuss the current and next year's fiscal budget.

Superintendent Marotta emphasized the following topics as part of the budget review and development:

- Resources are not equitable through the District
- Coaches need to be licensed in Reading, which will require a rewriting of job descriptions and proper licensure
- Adoption of Letter Land for Grades K-2, an affordable, research-based program that will be rolled out in underperforming schools and will include professional development each year
- Lesley Literacy will be moved off-line
- STAR Assessment is three times each year and is more robust; teachers will be encouraged to use this program to determine interventions for students
- Professional development will be embedded in the calendar with an extra day prior to the beginning of the school year along with Wednesday 1/2-day professional development days
- An amount of money to be budgeted for non-unit personnel who have not had raises in six years and principals to be distributed by Ms. Marotta tied to performance – principal evaluations will be conducted by the superintendent
- The establishment of Family-Parent Center where resources are in one place
- There is no bilingual capacity in our schools, the district must do better
- A Bilingual Parent Liaison was hired for short money
- Translations are budgeted in one line item
- Removal of K tuition since the middle class is severely impacted
- Classroom Management to allow for the following maximum class sizes PreK (20 – (23) – (25)
- Moody School PreK programs are half-day – conversion to full day autism – to avoid out of district placement
- Movement of staff out of federal grants
- New strategies to deal with bus driver shortage
- Budget does not allow for major purchases
- Purchase of eSped
- Budgeting for Student Supports, Curriculum Investment, Compliance Mandated Program Review

Comments from Subcommittee members:

Ms. Sullivan:

- Appreciative that job descriptions were being developed for Reading Staff
- Grades K-2 scope and skill by each grade – tracking by specificity – curriculum maps which will lead to change
- evaluation of principals

Attorney Rosa:

- ⇒ \$1m raises and \$1m step increases
- ⇒ Increase 6% for budget

- ⇒ bussing is a problem
- ⇒ supplies from WB Mason

Attorney Magliocchetti:

- serious hiring problem with bus drivers
- Haverhill is a huge land area
- A backup plan is needed
- Supportive of the emphasis on Professional Development in FY20 budget

Mr. O'Connell noted that the district did group purchasing, belonged to consortiums and used vendors on the state contract list.

The next meeting will be held in two weeks – January 31, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.