



Haverhill School Committee
Finance Subcommittee Meeting - Friday, July 26, 2019
City Hall, Suite 206 @ 8:00 a.m.

Present: Ms. Gail Sullivan, Chairperson, Attorney Paul Magliocchetti, Attorney Richard Rosa, Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, and Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson and Mrs. Kathleen Smith, Accountant were also in attendance.

The purpose of this subcommittee meeting was to review the state and federal grants.

- \$130,000 approximately for Science Program consumables along with kits (pre-purchase)
- Scholarship Fund (NECC) seed the program = \$100,000 (kids who cannot fund college)

Ms. Sullivan's Priorities

- Teacher salaries
- Classroom books – classroom libraries
- Minimum Wage Proposal
- Grade 9 dropouts – highest grade

Attorney Rosa's Priorities

- \$200,000 reserves
- Minimum Wage Proposal
- Adjustment Counselors

Mayor Fiorentini's Priorities

- Minimum Wage
- Mandatory Summer School
- Grade level reading – grade 4 students who reads at Kindergarten level
- WRVTHS – after-school programs or summer programs for our students – provide transportation-Advanced Manufacturing

Dr. Marotta stressed the importance of the following:

- Getting students ready for the high school experience
- Planning Grant with WRVTHS – grant pays for transportation

The Mayor reiterated the importance of extended learning time in our schools.

Dr. Marotta stated that the mini-grants for schools with set priorities and buy-in along with an opportunity to use best practices (research-based goals thoroughly mapped out) (i.e., \$20,000) She further noted that the strongest teachers will submit proposals.

The Mayor commented on students struggling with math and reading needed to stay after school and get tutoring.

It was noted that the YMCA summer program had an enrollment of 66 children.

Attorney Magliocchetti joined the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Mr. Pfifferling related that there was a huge incentive program for converting to electric busses last year and he will look at pockets of savings in the budget.

The Superintendent noted that the goal was to provide extended learning opportunities and target the elementary schools. Dr. Marotta commented that there were programs such as the YMCA and our own Discovery Club. She felt the Discovery Club needed work to make it a more robust option.

The Mayor fully supported the Superintendent implementing extended learning programs.

Attorney Magliocchetti suggested extended learning i.e., robotics where proficient kids soar and balance enrichment with instruction.

Ms. Sullivan offered a different strategy such as, in school teaching vs. extended learning by engaging students with creative, thoughtful planning and setting parameters to encourage teaching in a creative way i.e., Shakespeare by doing a play.

Mr. Pfifferling gave an example of a Test Kitchen to engage students in a variety of curriculum areas.

The Mayor recommended targeted intervention for economically disadvantaged students.

Attorney Magliocchetti offered that balance is the key.

Dr. Marotta related the approach is to make school work fun and creative for students.

In relation to staffing, the Superintendent was holding two positions vacant in anticipation of opening of schools' need for additional classroom teachers.

It was noted that Behavior Specialists were budgeted at \$200K.

Ms. Sullivan noted that poor classroom management impacted a subset of children.

Dr. Marotta commented there was a combination of both chaos at home and in the classroom, that impacted learning.

Ms. Sullivan noted that there should be data collection as opposed to impressions. She recommended using the Skillful Teacher benchmarks.

Attorney Rosa questioned the need for behavior specialists or school adjustment counselors.

Dr. Marotta stated that behavior data should be imbedded in the school.

The Superintendent's recommendation was four (4) bicultural behavior specialists to develop a structure along with training and support, including embedded professional development.

Ms. Sullivan noted that build capacity would improve the quality of teaching.

Some options brought to the table included:

- Minimum Wage ELT (\$300,000)
- \$500,000 propose to the principals and leadership team- improve student learning
- \$40,000 FY20 classroom libraries

In reference to Maintenance, the Supervisor joined the Massachusetts Maintenance Association.

The Mayor suggested the Collins Center to assess our needs.

Attorney commented the department was overwhelmed and at present, it was a "bad" system.

Dr. Grannemann offered the following information on maintenance staffing Haverhill is at .8% instead of 2%, greatly under-staffed and the employees have to respond to fires and then there is a backlog of work projects.

The Mayor spoke of the success of managing out-sourcing model.

Attorney Magliocchetti preferred a hybrid model and not totally outsourcing.

Dr. Marotta noted that the budget included hiring a \$60,000 maintenance worker plus HVAC specialist.

Another item was a pilot program of an on-line library. The Mayor supported increasing books in libraries.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to adjourn (9:23 a.m.) the subcommittee meeting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.