

March, 2015

Haverhill Education Association News

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Joseph V. Cunha, President – Ted Kempinski, 1st Vice President – Anthony J. Parolisi, 2nd Vice President

John Craven, Secretary – Lisa Begley, Treasurer

Lois Silva, ESP Rep. – Patti MacRae, Secretarial Rep. – Linda Kiefer, Office Secretary

From the Desk of Joe Cunha: “SNOW JOB!”

Dear Colleagues,

The continued accusations by School Committee members that teachers don't care about their students are foolish and disrespectful but unfortunately not surprising to any of us. Parents and teachers understand that those who sit at School Committee meetings are politicians. I do hope the citizens of Haverhill question whether making such statements is appropriate in what is supposed to be a professional public meeting rather than a soapbox for political speeches. Ask one of our students who cares more about them: the School Committee and District Administration or their teacher?

The thought of altering vacation and causing such a huge change to the students' lives with 2 days notice on the part of the Administration and School Committee was not the proper course of action to follow. In fact, it makes me wonder how much *they* care about our students and families. I feel the same way about the Administration's statement that some schools have poor ventilation as a reason to alter the calendar. If buildings have poor ventilation, it affects people all year long, not just in June. If you were in charge of such buildings and cared about their inhabitants wouldn't you fix this problem?

Stating that we would only talk about contract negotiations at our February 11 negotiation meeting was a lie. All we talked about were snow days. We informed them that we would stick by the June 30 date agreed to previously and that our polling refuted what Administration purported in its emails. We asked multiple times to create a plan should the year reach beyond June 30. **They refused, threatened us with the possibility of a unilateral decision to defy the contract and hold school during February vacation, then they got up and walked out of the meeting.**

The same goes for School Committee saying that we refused to meet with them before their February 26th meeting. While School Committee promised the Mayor on the 12th that they would contact us the next day, we heard nothing until February 18, the Wednesday of February vacation, when their attorney contacted our MTA Representative. She returned the call and left a message, but he did not return her call in time for the 26th. The 26th is the meeting where Administration told the Committee that per DESE regulations, there was no need to reschedule graduation. By the way, we informed you of that regulation at our general meeting on Monday the 21st. You must consider that with 185 days scheduled on the calendar all this fuss was made by Administration and the School Committee over going TWO DAYS beyond what they considered appropriate when they made the calendar. It was also still four days from the agreed upon June 30.

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The Haverhill Education Association is now on Facebook. Find us on your computer or mobile device at



www.facebook.com/HaverhillTeachers

As our push for a new contract continues to grow, it is important that you be able to stay on top of the latest information and be able to share that information with the community. Please “like” our page on Facebook and help us share our message with those who, like us, truly care about Haverhill students, schools, and teachers.

Be sure to visit our website as well at haverhill.massteacher.org

SEI Endorsement MTEL

NOW AVAILABLE (NO RETELL!!!)

Preparation materials may be found on the web @

www.mtel.nesinc.com/MA_PM.asp?t=56

SNOW JOB! (cont. from p. 1)

But was it really about the school year? In their January 14, 2015 bargaining proposal the School Committee demands that the school year begin the last full week of August. That would mean a start date as early as August 21st. (One might ask why these politicians declare the schools too hot to go to June 30 but OK in August.) Think as you wish, but I see this whole thing as an opportunity to create a crisis where there was none, to push their bargaining agenda. Teachers and Parents remember that when they attempt that transparent charade.

On February 10th the Administration began a campaign using the department email system to convince all that would listen that there was a crisis. This was only 6 calendar days and 1 snow day later than his prudent comments in the Eagle Tribune to “hold steady to see what rulings the state may make”, and “we are in good shape as we are three days ahead of others (communities).” Why the flip-flop?

While Administration stated that hundreds of teachers and parents all agreed with its plan, our polling of teachers by teachers was not in agreement with Administration's report by a long shot. A vast majority of teachers rejected changes to February vacation and a majority had no desire to break the city contract language of June 30. I only ran into 6 parents during those two days. Four said “don't let them change vacation, we have plans”; and the other two told me that either way they would not be sending their children to school during February vacation. Now I guess I could have put out a nonsensical communiqué stating that all the parents support not touching vacation but it would have been a lie.

The Administration has under its control the district email system that it uses to suit its purposes. Unlike the public airwaves, where if a political party communicates their agenda equal time must be given to the opposing political party to express their views, the district owns the system. We cannot, by contract, use that system for union communication.

Administration used the Haverhill School Department email in “an intensive effort at persuasion or deception”, defined by Merriam-Webster as a **SNOW JOB!**

We have our IContact email system but there are some flaws in the program regarding undeliverable emails that the program is not telling us whom that's happening to. Please, if you did not receive emails from us from mid February on, once again give your name and home email address to your rep or action team member or directly to HavEd@verizon.net. Also, please start visiting our Facebook page [facebook.com/HaverhillTeachers](https://www.facebook.com/HaverhillTeachers). We have to improve our ability to communicate with all members quickly and need your help with that.

Joe

CODE BLUE! – Thursday April 2nd Wear Blue to Symbolize Unity, Commitment to Students

Once again, the Haverhill Education Association plans to award a college-bound graduate of Haverhill High School its annual scholarship. To receive the award, a student needs to have been educated by Haverhill teachers from grades 5-12. These applicants, many who started in Haverhill schools even before then, are the truest representation of what Haverhill's teachers do our students. Often they credit a favorite teacher or a particular experience as a shaping influence in their chosen college or degree. Whether or not they are the student ultimately chosen for the prize, all qualified applicants are proof of the commitment Haverhill's teachers have made to our students in classroom after classroom year after year. 100% teacher-funded, the HEA Scholarship is not just a monetary investment in the academic future of a promising young graduate, it is a symbol of our commitment to all students and a chance for the teachers of Haverhill to stand proudly and united behind the fruits of our labor.

With these sentiments in mind and as candidates begin to gather their application materials, the Haverhill Education Association is making one final fundraising push for this year's scholarship award. We are calling this drive “**Code Blue**” and have made it as easy as possible to participate. **On Thursday, April 2nd, we are asking all HEA members to wear something blue to school (blue shirt, pants, etc. . . .).** This date was chosen to coincide with K-8 parent-teacher conferences. The more of us who participate, the more we will demonstrate our united commitment to the education and success of all of Haverhill's students. With 100% participation, there will be little room for parents to doubt just how invested Haverhill's teachers are in the success of our students. **Building representatives will also be collecting contributions of any amount to the HEA Scholarship to be awarded to this year's recipient, though contributions are NOT required to participate.** If your building does not have a representative or you have any other questions (including if you'd like to volunteer for the selection committee) please contact Anthony Parolisi (anthonyparolisi@gmail.com).

Condolences

Wishes of comfort and peace are extended to:

- *Ellen Gobbi for the loss of her sister.*
- *Phil Cosgrove for the loss of his mother.*
- *Laureen Laffey for the loss of her father.*
- *Nicole Larose-Sanchez for the loss of her father.*
- *The family of Pauline Pare, who recently passed (Jackie Pare, Allyson Dawkins, Judy Tracy, Erin Lavallee, and Seanna Mejia).*
- *Risa Kapp for the loss of her grandmother.*
- *The family of Mary Jo Howell, who recently passed (Krysten Howell and Lauren Camire).*
- *Caitlin Jenkinson for the loss of her grandfather.*

HEA Honors Banquet

Wednesday, May 20th

DiBurro's

The Haverhill Education Association is proud to honor this year's retirees and 20-year veterans of the Haverhill Public Schools. Please join us as we celebrate the end of another year with door prizes, live music, great stories, and friends both old and new.

STAY INFORMED!

Don't be left out! Confirm your contact information with your building representative today or send an email from your private account to HavEd@verizon.net (subject: ADD ME TO THE MAILING LIST).

Retiring?

Margaret Pffierling can help research past Haverhill employment for retirement buy back. Contact Margaret by calling 978-372-9958 for information.

The HEA may also host MTA Retirement information sessions at our office with enough interest. Contact your building rep or email HavEd@verizon.net for more information.

Work in More Than One Building?

This year's travel reimbursement rate is \$0.56/mile

Need to Take a Personal Day?

Because the current contract was negotiated before the K-8 switch to trimesters, the restriction on personal days (1 per term) remains unchanged. Teachers may use no more than one personal day *per quarter* without a waiver from the Superintendent, even in buildings using trimesters.

Fingerprinting Required in 2015

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), in partnership with the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) and Massachusetts State Police (MSP), has established the Statewide Applicant Fingerprint Identification Services (SAFIS) program to support fingerprint based state and national criminal history record information (CHRI) checks. This means that all Haverhill Public Schools employees must be fingerprinted by the end of 2015 at their own expense (\$55 for teachers/administrators, \$35 for all others) For more information, see your building principal or visit the SAFIS website at tinyurl.com/safis

2015 HEA Elections – Thursday, April 9th

On Thursday, April 9th, 2015, elections will be held in all buildings. The following HEA Executive Board offices are up for election to a two-year term of office to commence on July 1st, 2015 and conclude on June 30, 2017: President, 2nd Vice President (Newsletter/Honors Banquet/Hospitality), Secretary, and ESP Unit Representative. Full descriptions of the roles of these offices are available at the HEA office upon request. For your information and consideration, current HEA President Joe Cunha and current Secretary John Craven are not seeking reelection. These offices will be open. Nominations are accepted from Friday, March 13th to March 27th. All members were sent an email with more details about the election and the nomination process. If you did not receive that email, or for more information, contact the HEA by emailing HavEd@verizon.net.

Building Representatives

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartlett – Volunteer Needed • Bradford – Dan Cerat, Lindsey Flores • Consentino – Christina Adams • Crowell – Noula Thibault • Golden Hill – Deborah Russell • Greenleaf – Kerri Brown, Cheryl Kozlowski (A) • HHS – Zachary Eldridge, Sarah Emilio, Tom Jordan • Hunking – Kelly Fairbrother • Moody – Bernadette Roy (A) – Alternate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nettle – Geraldine Desjardins, Michelle Moulton, Jill Perkins-Bouchard • Pentucket Lake – Lauren Camire, Jennifer Roberts • St. James – Jay Comeau, Neil Wilkens (A) • Silver Hill Horace Mann – Lori Caron, Melissa Moreau, Meghan O’Neil • Tilton – Janet Starble, Erin Barnard (A) • Walnut Square – Volunteer Needed • Whittier – Jeff Blaustein (A) – Alternate
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Building Representatives are a crucial element to making the Haverhill Education Association work for our members. Any active member of the Clerical, ESP, or Teacher units may represent his or her building at our monthly meetings. *If you teach at Bartlett or Walnut Square School and are interested in helping keep your colleagues up-to-date with the most recent news regarding contract negotiations, grievances, potential actions, and anything else affecting Haverhill’s teachers, please contact HEA Secretary John Craven by calling (978) 866-2929 or via email to jcraven1949@gmail.com (subject: Building Representative)*

2014-2015 Building Representative Meetings

September 11 th	February 5 th
October 9 th	March 12 th
November 13 th	April 9 th
December 11 th	May 14 th
January 8 th	June 11 th

*Building Rep. meetings are held at 3:30 in the HEA office.

Upcoming Events

- **HEA Retiree Spring Luncheon** – Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at Butch’s Uptown Restaurant (63 Locke St., Haverhill). Salad and choice of Sirloin Tips, Baked Haddock, or Pan Seared Chicken. Includes dessert for \$21! Lunch served at noon. Checks made out to the HEA should be sent to Fran Rosenau, 159 Little Mill Rd., Sandown, NH, 03873. Contact Fran at (603) 887-5131 or fsosenau@gmail.com for more information.

HEA SWAP SHOP

<u>2014-2015 Association Dues</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Total</u>
Teacher (FT)	\$150	\$489	\$183	\$822
Teacher (PT)	\$75	\$244	\$103	\$422
Secretary (FT)	\$83.66	\$294	\$110.50	\$488.16
Secretary (PT)	\$41.83	\$147	\$67	\$255.83
ESP (FT)	\$41	\$147	\$110.50	\$298.50
ESP (PT)	\$20.50	\$73.50	\$67	\$161

For membership information, including questions about payroll deductions, contact HEA Treasurer Lisa Begley (lisa.begley7@gmail.com).

- *For Rent: Family Vacation Condo, White Mountains, NH*
 - Close to skiing, shopping and amazing mountain scenery.
 - Sleeps six comfortably. Quiet, convenient to North Conway.
 - Only \$100 per night!
 - Contact Rosemary Young at 978-729-1760 or rsmmyoung@comcast.net
- *For Sale: BodyCraft Family Xpress Strength Training System*
 - Full body workout with cables & weights
 - 4 stations – can be used by more than one person at a time
 - Instruction manual/exercise charts included
 - Asking \$1450, disassembly required for transport.
 - Call or email Sandy Basiliere at 508-641-4695 or sjbasiliere@comcast.net) for photos/more info.

Have something to rent, sell, or trade? Contact Anthony Parolisi (anthonyparolisi@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next edition of the HEA Newsletter

Clip and save this section in your wallet for easy reference!

Executive Board Contact Information

President Joe Cunha: 603-512-5162 / josevcu@gmail.com
1st V.P. Ted Kempinski (grievances/contract violations/negotiations): 978-837-2080 / tedkhea@gmail.com
2nd V.P. Anthony Parolisi (newsletter, scholarship, web site): 978-914-3146 / anthonyparolisi@gmail.com
Secretary John Craven: 978-866-2925 / jcraven1949@comcast.net
Treasurer Lisa Begley: 603-303-3155 / lisa.begley7@gmail.com
ESP Unit Representative Lois Silva: 978-373-0083
Secretarial Unit Representative Patti MacRae: 978-478-7065 / p.macrae@comcast.net

Got a general question? Not sure who to ask? Email: HavEd@verizon.net