

Haverhill School Committee



Meeting Packet
March 26, 2020



Haverhill School Committee

March 24, 2020

Mrs. Linda Koutoulas, City Clerk
Four Summer Street, Room 118
Haverhill, MA 01830

Dear Mrs. Koutoulas:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public

The Haverhill School Committee will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. remotely using Google**. An audio recording will be available on the Haverhill Public School website www.haverhill-ps.org. The agenda and emergency order are attached.

Sincerely,

James Fiorentini

Mayor & Chairperson

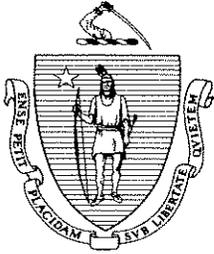


Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee Regular Meeting Agenda Virtual Meeting of March 26, 2020

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Baker issued an Emergency Order temporarily suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec. 20. Public bodies otherwise governed by the OML are temporarily relieved from the requirement that meetings be held in public places, open and physically accessible to the public, so long as measures are taken to ensure public access to the bodies' deliberations "through adequate, alternative means."

This meeting will be available on our website www.haverhill-ps.org within an hour of the meeting.

- 1) Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) Vote to Temporarily Suspend Policy BDEB (Public Comment).
- 3) Communications and Reports.
 - A. Superintendent Comments/Reports.
 - Coronavirus Update.
 - Student Opportunity Act.
 - Statement of Interest – John Greenleaf Whittier Middle School.
- 4) School Committee Communications.
 - Attorney Rosa: Review and Discussion of HPS Food Distribution.
 - Subcommittee Reports.
- 5) Old Business.
 - A. School Choice for 2020-2021 (tabled 03.12.20).
- 6) New Business.
 - A. The Superintendent recommends approval of Warrants.
 - 1) Warrant Number EV202000327 totaling \$552,889.89.
 - 2) Warrant Number EV20200327A totaling \$244.83
 - 3) Warrant Number EV20200327B totaling \$260,766.59.
- 7) Approval of Items by Consensus recommended by the Superintendent as indicated in the agenda material:
 - A. Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 12, 2020.
- 8) Adjournment.



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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by “public bodies,” as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

WHEREAS, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”) have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

WHEREAS, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

WHEREAS section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

NOW THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

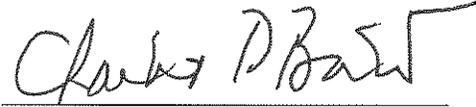
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2020**

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers – 7:00 pm

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and requested a roll call of the members:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Absent	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		

Public Comment.

Ms. Stacey Kirkham, 9 Parsonage Hill Road, Haverhill MA, a bus monitor commented on safety concerns on buses traveling without monitors. She indicated that there are 34 buses and 5 monitors. Ms. Kirkum met with Assistant Superintendent asking for bus monitors on all buses for the students’ safety and noted that it was in the budget for next fiscal year and asked that monitors be put on the most at-risk busses. Mr. Pfifferling reported that it was a budget request and asked her to join the working group.

Postponed: Introduction of Nettle Student who will be making donation of a Buddy Bench and School Committee Donation Acceptance.

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Leah Pearse.

Ms. Pearse stated that the Class of 2020 Agenda had been distributed and that the Student Council would be a meeting tomorrow with Dr. Marotta regarding new proposals. She commented that Spring Sports had been postponed.

Communications/Reports - Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Consentino MSBA Project.

Dr. Marotta reported on a recent conference call with MSBA concerning enrollment projections and that an error was made in calculations by miscounting for the Silver Hill population when it was a Horace Mann Charter School. The Superintendent indicated that the enrollment peaked this year and therefore, the feasibility enrollment numbers were changed by approximately 60.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that enrollments were not increasing and the Ornsteen Project would not increase student enrollments. The Mayor commented that initially the Silver Hill Horace Mann Charter School numbers were thought to be increases in population. He reported that based on this confusion and the birth rate decline, the numbers for the Consentino School Project had been revised down to 905. The Mayor stressed MSBA had been informed of the new Master Plan and that in tomorrow’s call, he would ask for an increased enrollment in the projected Consentino.

Attorney Rosa inquired if the school enrollments were altered. Mayor Fiorentini answered that the MSBA had given the district two options for school building enrollment: 775 and 905.

Attorney Rosa asked about Tilton Upper’s enrollment (St. James Building) and the Superintendent answered approximately 200. The Mayor was going to ask for an increase to enrollment to 950-990, so that in a few years, St. James School would be a back-up. He was hoping to reduce enrollment at Tilton Lower so that students would be able to attend a new Consentino.

Mr. Wood was concerned with the enrollment figure because it would not yield cost savings for the district and did not want to open a school that would be at capacity. He further noted that our influx in enrollment happened

when students moved into Haverhill at the ages of 5-7 and hoped consideration would be given to other factors besides birth rate.

Dr. Marotta reported that the calculations were based on 10-year enrollment and a 10-year projection.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that Consentino School along with the John Greenleaf Whittier Project would be a solution to our enrollment issues.

Mayor Fiorentini referenced economic concerns such as, the collapsing of the economy and this scenario needed to be including in the planning.

Haverhill High School Early College and AP Updates.

Principal Glenn Burns gave a brief presentation on Advanced Placement Classes and options for college bound scholars. He also addressed the Early College demographics, specifically the lower male enrollment. In response to the Mayor’s question relative to the rigor of AP vs Early College Courses, Mr. Burns responded that there is rigor in the Early College courses.

Advanced Placement Classes

	2017	2018	2019
Asian	5	7	8
Black/African American	10	7	14
Hispanic	28	35	41
White	213	220	226
Two or more	3	11	9
Total	259	280	298

Early College

	2018	2019	2020
Asian	1	4	
Black/African American	5	4	
Hispanic	5	21	
White	34	48	
Two or more	45	77	
Total			Goal is 120 scholars for 2020 school year

	2018	2019
ELL	0	5
IEP	1	2
504	2	3
Male	10	26
Female	35	51

Ms. Pearse related that students got together and discussed the courses and related that some not all of the early college courses received AP credits.

Attorney Magliocchetti believed there needed to be a middle school pipeline for this program.

Principal Burns noted that students continue to be recruited at middle school level and a grade 10 course had been added with a college professor. Additionally, Mr. Burns noted that at the end of last year, Haverhill High was designated as an Early College School.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti’s comments, the high school principal noted that the engineering track continued to be explored for students. Mr. Burns offered the success story of Victoria Kelley’s daughter who entered Worcester Polytech with 21 credits from the Early College Program. He indicated students needed to be informed about the best route for them.

Mayor Fiorentini encouraged a syllabus review of courses because not all courses were equally created. Principal Burns responded not all syllabi were evaluated, but he trusted our college partners.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Nettle School.

Dr. Marotta related that in the past months there were concerns around school climate at Nettle School. Assistant Principal Eileen Doherty provided an overview of the Bullying and Intervention Efforts at the school.

Ms. Eileen Doherty, Assistant Principal provided an overview of Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, Bullying Investigations, and Bullying Prevention Strategies.

Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan 2019-2020	(HPS plans for more detail).
District Leadership – Chief Academic Officers are responsible for:	School Leadership The principal and assistant principal(s) of each school are responsible for:
Planning ongoing professional development in bullying prevention and intervention	Receiving reports of alleged bullying and investigation
Review appropriate curricula	Collecting and Analyzing Reports
Review annual district data on bullying incidents	Developing a process for tracking aggressor and targets
	Providing support for the needs of targets and aggressors
	Ensuring the implementation of bullying prevention curriculum
	Including student-specific language regarding the bullying plan in student and staff handbooks

Bullying Investigations (HPS plans for more detail).

1. Report of Bullying made by student or staff
2. If report meets definition of bullying, administration conducts investigation
3. Parents/guardians of alleged target(s) and alleged aggressor(s) notified
4. If determination is that the incident is not bullying; discussion of possible interventions
5. If determination of bullying is made; discussion of consequences, future prevention strategies, and promotion of safety

Bullying Prevention Strategies

- Education of students and staff
- Weekly meetings with support staff
- Mentoring – Nettle Sidekicks
- Boys and Girls Club
- G.R.E.A.T. Program

- POSE
- Counseling
- Mediation
- Kindness Club
- Getting-Along Agreements
- Reset Room

Assistant Principal related many of the initiatives (5) had been implemented by Ms. Escovitz, specifically the reset room. She introduced Mr. Juan Llubes, Student Support Coordinator, who referenced the establishment of the Reset Room System, a place where students can be emotionally vulnerable and self-advocate for themselves, with the goal of keeping students in classroom. He noted it allowed for working on emotions in a restorative way with follow-up next day and it allowed staff to see the student in a different light. Mr. Llubes indicated it allowed for students to find acceptance for having a bad day and he worked alongside Mr. Geary.

Reset Room

The goal of the reset room staff is to help students remain in the classroom by processing difficulties they are having in the moment. When a teacher senses a student is feeling overwhelmed or about to act out, a pass can be issued to the Reset Room. Likewise, if a student recognizes they need a break to cool down, they can request a pass to the Reset Room.

The reset room at Nettle opened on January 6, 2020. It is staffed with a student support coordinator Juan Llubes, and behavior interventionist Matt Geary. The following data was collected in the months of January and February.

Data Represents 7 Total School Weeks:

- There have been 245 Student Interventions involving reset room staff
- Reset Room was used in 209 of those encounters (85.7%)
- Average Reset Room stay time is 16.6 minutes
- Shortest Time: 5 minutes (De-Brief)
- Longest Time: 2 Hour Crisis Intervention

Out-of-School Suspension Prevention Strategies

- PBIS
- Restorative Discipline
- Reset Room
- Behavior Contracts
- Teen Court
- Mediation
- Check-in Check-out Sheets
- Counseling

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello recently received many positive parent comments and congratulated the staff.

Ms. Escovitz responded that progress was being made at the school and fortunately, no classroom needed to be “cleared” to any incident. She thanked Mr. Llubes and Mr. Geary, Behavior Interventionist for working collaboratively in the Reset Room.

Principal Escovitz offered Out-of-School Suspension Prevention Strategies at Nettle School. She highlighted that there was a 30% reduction from Trimester 1 and 2.

Coronavirus Precautions and Travel – Dr. Marotta.

The Superintendent commented the Coronavirus was an evolving, ongoing situation and the district was closely monitoring the cleanliness and safety of our schools. She noted there was continuous guidance from the DESE and CDC and upon their advice international trips (Italy and Europe) had been canceled and discussions were ongoing with parents and vendors. Additionally, Dr. Marotta indicated Washington DC trips were being reviewed along with other large-scale events (cancelations/postponements to date include Athletic Comedy Night, and MIAA postponement of Spring sports). Superintendent Marotta recommended good prevention guides such as, good personal hygiene, maintaining personal space and anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or anyone who has been contact with someone with Coronavirus to remain at home. Dr. Marotta related there are no cases in Haverhill at this moment but plans are being developed for a potential shutdown including on-line learning, development of lessons plans (go bags), food distribution sites (waiver by Food Service Department in case of shutdown), preparation by Technology and Curriculum Departments of Google Classroom materials and partnering with Haverhill Community Television for educational programming.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello noted that parents were concerned with a potential shutdown.

Superintendent Marotta commented that both School Physician Dr. Maddox and Ms. Katie Vozeolas, Supervisor of Health and Nursing Services were present.

Ms. Vozeolas reported several scenarios were being discussed, even though no one in Haverhill had tested positive for the virus.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked Dr. Marotta for her leadership. He asked about pregnant or medically compromised staff and sick leave. She responded the employee would use sick leave. He was concerned that the district was not 1:1 device for every student.

Attorney Rosa noted the district was close to being 1:1. Dr. Marotta offered that a technology survey would be sent home accessing availability of devices.

Attorney Rosa asked about the precautions that had occurred in our schools, such as, germ blasters.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling offered that germ blasters were being used (a device was displayed) and additional devices were purchased. He noted that sanitizer wipes were limited.

Dr. Marotta reported there was a higher volume of soap and paper towels and it was an alternative to sanitizer wipes.

Ms. Sullivan asked about long-term solution (conveners of a solution) to schools being closed and parents having to work and not being able to stay home.

The Mayor commented there was a bill in the House to have the federal government pay salaries.

Ms. Sullivan community's responsibility to help all citizens and commended Dr. Marotta's leadership in this matter. She asked the Mayor to convene a working group to develop solutions to this community issue.

School Physician John Maddox related that during this uncertain time it was important to remain calm and make good decisions; there are no simple answers. He was impressed with Superintendent Marotta's response and the government's efforts to slow the spread and he was confident it would pay dividends, such as the six-foot radius.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked about student absences and how they would be handled. Dr. Marotta responded it would be until the end of state of emergency.

Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrants #3. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. The roll call results were as follows:

Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstained	Mr. Wood	Yes
Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes

5 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
1 member abstained

The Mayor introduced the Items by Consensus recommended by the Superintendent as indicated in the agenda material: [SC 03.12.20 FT JR.pdf](#), [UOF 03.12.20.pdf](#) and [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 02.27.20 Final Draft.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2020 Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 27, 2020. [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 02.27.20 Final Draft.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The vote results were as follows:

Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Dr. Marotta clarified that it was outside recreational activities/groups.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to deny Use of Facilities #2 and #3. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The vote results were as follows:

Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to table Use of Facilities #1. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion The vote results were as follows:

Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

