



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 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 members:

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

Dr. Margaret Marotta Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations were also present., Student Advisory Council Member Gabriela Vargas was in attendance representing Ms. Leah Pearse.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Golden Hill Kindergarten student Dyland Toribio who recently passed away from cancer. He encouraged support of the family

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

Public Comment.

Ms. Jill Story, 22 Colonial Farm Road, Haverhill MA (Haverhill Education Coalition) announced the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2020. She indicated the organization had a Facebook Page and the general meetings were livestreamed on the page. Ms. Story thanked Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wood for participating in Candidate Forum and looked forward to working with the School Committee.

Mrs. Joanna Dix, 51 Ashworth Terrace, Haverhill MA (Haverhill Education Coalition) thanked the participating members for participating in forum and addressed the newly elected member and recently re-elected members of the School Committee as a follow-up to the Election Candidate Forum. She offered reflections to the members who participated in the forum and offered encouragement and support of their goals as outlined during the campaign. Ms. Dix concluded that the City was embarking on another chapter towards providing the best quality public education for Haverhill children.

Dr. Thomas Grannemann, 51 Leroy Avenue, Haverhill MA (Haverhill Education Coalition) commented on the recently passed Student Opportunity Act and recommended using the funding to meet state requirements and strengthen the City's educational commitment. He extended an invitation to the next Haverhill Education Coalition Meeting which would include a discussion on School Opportunity Act and a Presentation by Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School which would be held next week.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill MA, (HEA President) wished the Committee a happy new year and extended congratulations to the newly elected and reelected members. He offered to work together to continue the process of establishing quality and opportunities in our schools in Haverhill.

Tilton Upper and Lower Schools' Update (requested by Ms. Sullivan).

Ms. Sullivan noted that this invitation was extended to highlight the great opportunities available at both schools.

Principal Bonnie Antkowiak related that collaboration and support among staff members made the opening of Tilton Upper (St. James Building - Primrose Street) and Tilton Lower (Grove Street).

Assistant Principal Meg Fitzgerald offered a “public shout-out” for incredible work of Maintenance Staff member Brice Russell and School Custodian Joel Arias for their contribution to getting Tilton Upper School ready for the new school year. She spoke on the Building and Culture (sports, dances, tutoring etc.).

Ms. Nicole Duquette, Ms. Kerri Anne Spadaro detailed their individual teaching experiences.

Ms. Kelley Shea, Ms. Jennifer Peterson and Ms. Lee Ann Catanzaro addressed the Writing and Math Lab that is being used by the district and school.

Ms. Megan Arivella, Ms. Katie Sarfde & Ms. Sara Hastings outlined Green Ribbon Week (Be a Buddy Not a Bully) and Parent Engagement efforts.

Mrs. Bonnie Antkowiak spoke about What's is to Come! She noted that grant opportunities are allowing extended Discovery Club and Extended Day Tutoring. Mrs. Antkowiak announced that technology initiatives were partially supported by Fantini Bakery, a great community partner. The principal noted that expansion would be occurring next year but was still in the discussion phase and extended an invitation to the members to visit the school.

Ms. Sullivan, also a member of the Tilton Stakeholder Group, thanked the staff for attending.

Attorney Magliocchetti was reassured about the transition based on the enthusiasm and confidence of the staff members attending tonight's meeting.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais congratulated the staff and believed the schools were off to an excellent start.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about Envisions Math and why it was not used at all schools; both Silver Hill and Hunking Schools were not utilizing this program.

Dr. Marotta replied that Hunking School was using this program, however, Silver Hill was utilizing the math program it used as a charter school.

Mrs. Antkowiak extended a public thank you to Assistant Principals Erin MacKay and Shaun Bateman for their leadership at Tilton Lower School.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that a few years ago, the Committee changed the title from President to Vice Chair as required by law.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to nominate Richard Rosa for Vice Chair. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to nominate Scott Wood for Vice Chair. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to close the nominations. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call on closing the nominations.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Mrs. Sapienza Donais offered her reasons for nominating Mr. Wood. She commented his actions and dedication to the students made him the best candidate for the position.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello related that Mr. Wood's experience on the committee made him the most qualified candidate. She stated that when the change in title occurred it hurt Mr. Wood's chances and it was time to stop playing games and let Mr. Wood be Vice Chair.

Ms. Sullivan commented that all members deserved an opportunity to serve in this position. She reported that Mr. Rosa was hard working, professional and attended over 15 bargaining sessions to settle a teachers' contract. Ms. Sullivan indicated Mr. Wood had served several times in leadership roles and Mr. Rosa had not had that opportunity.

Mr. Wood thanked the members for the kind words. He believed this decision highlighted the split in the committee and was unfortunate there was a sharp divide.

Mayor Fiorentini indicated there were two outstanding candidates; he had previously supported Mr. Wood for the reasons stated by Mrs. Sapienza Donais and now was going to support Mr. Rosa to allow all members to serve in a leadership role. He indicated that Mr. Wood would have his support next year.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Scott Wood	Attorney Rosa	Richard Rosa
Ms. Sullivan	Richard Rosa	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Scott Wood
Attorney Magliocchetti	Richard Rosa	Mr. Wood	Scott Wood
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Richard Rosa		

4 members voted for Richard Rosa

3 members voted for Scott Wood

Richard Rosa is elected Vice Chair of the Haverhill School Committee for 2020.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that his long-standing tradition was to allow the newly elected Vice Chair to assume chairing the meeting; he offered the opportunity to Attorney Rosa.

Attorney Rosa assumed chairing the meeting.

Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Leah Pearse. Ms. Gabriella Vargas was representing Leah who was unable to attend. She offered the following updates on activities:

- Winter Semiformal Dance
- Basketball Games
- Scholarship Portal is open now

- PSAT available December 9, 2019 – January 14, 2020
- Seniors Night – January 25, 2010
- Classical Academy Trivia Nights at Amvets
- Semester 1 ending and with mid-terms beginning next week

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Fall Athletic Report – Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Director of Athletics and Wellness.

Mr. O'Brien celebrated the following Fall Sports Accomplishments:

- MVC strongest conference in State Boys' Soccer playoff most wins since 2010
- Playoffs Girl Swim
- Football won last four games
- Girls' Volleyball 18-3 top 10 in state – best season ever
- Cheer MVC Championships
- Unified Basketball Team – play with partners – program continues growing and possibly will be offering Unified Bowling
- Crew growing and improving 40 students – boys got silver in NH championship

Individual accomplishments:

- Finely Simmons (Girls' Cross Country) finished 1st place 120 runners in Eastern MA 2 place/150
- great career
- Carly Mark, Diver Swim Team achieved the State Championship Diving Title
- Golf Team shared MVC Championship and won 2019 MIAA sportsmanship award
- Eagle Tribune Coaches of the Year - Vin Pettis (Girls' Volleyball) and Mike Maguire (Cross Country)

Mr. O'Brien thanked all the coaches. He gave a brief synopsis of the Winter Sports Season. He noted that user fees being eliminated was of great benefit to both families and student athletes. Mr. O'Brien noted that Triple EEE had a huge impact on revenues because of the rescheduling of 25 games which resulted in an approximately \$10,000 loss in gate receipts and another \$2,000 in rental fees.

In relation to additional pool rental monies, the increase in contract allowed for the offset of user fee income and a new turf field at HHS. Mr. O'Brien indicated that a decade ago Haverhill had one of the worst facilities and now it has one of the best facilities. He reported that School Committee resources had provided a tremendous return on investment and thanked the members for their financial commitment.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the improved academics and athletics opportunities at Haverhill High School. He related that through former State Representative Brian Dempsey funding had been secured for the Stadium.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Ernie DiBurro who donates \$100,000 each year to the Touchdown Club and who had secured a new field house for athletics at the stadium.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais thanked Mr. O'Brien for a very detailed report which emphasized "Hillie Pride". She was assured that the bleachers for the Sapienza Memorial Track were still part of the improvement plan.

Dr. Marotta commented that Haverhill was fortunate to have a fantastic leader overseeing our athletic program.

The Superintendent noted that on January 22, 2020, the Governor's Budget would be released and it should give a clearer vision of the amount of funding would be coming to Haverhill. She related that DESE would release guidance on how to plan for these funds. Dr. Marotta commented that it fits nicely with budget planning.

Approval of budget transfer to fully fund the High School Pool Roof Replacement.

Mr. Pfifferling stated that Pieter Hartford, consultant on roofing was present.

Mr. Hartford provided details on the bid for the HHS Pool Roof Replacement:

- Initial Bid for Option 1 full replacement lower roof and partial replacement upper
- Second Bid Option 2 full replacement on upper and lower;
- \$400,000 appropriation from City Council plus \$100,000 already "in hand"
- Full Replacement \$664,000 (lower and upper) was recommended
- \$500,000 engineering and contingency
- Greenwood Roofing provided an estimate \$500,000 from City Council
- Bid results were very competitive
- Cost estimate was deficient in not providing an accurate estimate

Mr. Pfifferling noted that the shortfall was \$219,000. He recommended requesting a \$45,000 transfer from Consentino Roofing Project over to HHS Pool Roofing Project. The Assistant Superintendent noted that in the Capital Appropriation Account there was \$103,000 and additionally, the \$100,000 expenditure for the STAR Testing Program had become available because the program had been Title I funded.

Mr. Wood and noted that capital expenditures had never been funded out of the school budget.

Mr. Pfifferling was not aware of this statute; \$100,000 was allowed for extraordinary maintenance. He would consult with Attorney Cox.

Ms. Sullivan stated the Chair had indicated that capital repairs were the responsibility of the city.

Mayor Fiorentini suggested a meeting on the issues and would look into the issue.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that prior school business managers had advised the Committee that the City funded capital repairs.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello supported repairs and was concerned that all our schools were dilapidated even the Hunking School was having issues.

Mr. Wood commented that the answer was texted to him. He noted that it was a DESE decision, that if you use a certain amount money it cannot be counted towards net school spending. Mr. Wood also stated that roof replacements are not considered extraordinary capital expense.

Attorney Rosa asked for about life expectancy and timeline on roof replacement.

Mr. Hartford answered 20-30 years and approximately one month.

Mayor Fiorentini would consult with several people.

School Committee Communications.

Mayor Fiorentini: Input from members on Subcommittee Assignments.

He would speak with individual members regarding assignments.

Attorney Rosa: Discussion of MSBA Statement of Interest for Accelerated Repair and Core Programs.

Attorney Rosa reported that SOI needed to be submitted by February 14, 2020. He recommended replacement of Haverhill High School Roof.

Mayor Fiorentini concurred with this recommendation.

Attorney Rosa continued that Moody School and Greenleaf School's slate roof (132 years old) would possibly be candidates for replacement.

Dr. Marotta noted that the replacement of the pool roof would not be covered by MSBA.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood for the Superintendent to develop a Statement of Interest for the High School Roof as part of the Accelerated Repair Program. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Subcommittee Reports.

Mayor Fiorentini asked that Ms. Sullivan and Mrs. Sapienza Donais call his office to schedule a meeting to discuss the School Committee Goals.

Mr. Wood commented that the Safety Subcommittee had met and a recommendation/presentation would be forthcoming regarding an app for anonymous tips/anti-bullying. He stated that Principal Burns had consulted with students about the app and it received positive feedback. Mr. Wood was hoping to have a presentation by company representatives at an upcoming meeting, so that this initiative could be funded.

New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following [Warrants 01.09.20 6A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material:

- 1) Warrant Number EV20191227 totaling \$813,809.03.
- 2) Warrant Number EV20191227A totaling \$151.44.
- 3) Warrant Number EV20191227B totaling \$890,198.20.
- 4) Warrant Number JE20191227 totaling \$1,520.27.

0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked about the Washington DC and Ferry Beach field trips and if they were being eliminated.

Dr. Marotta responded that this information was not correct regarding the Washington DC field trip, the district was consolidating planning between schools to better utilize resources, i.e. nursing and to achieve better costs.

In relation to Ferry Beach, the Curriculum Frameworks revision moved the curriculum topics to a different grade level. The Superintendent noted the matter was being reviewed.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked for Mrs. Rubera's input.

Mrs. Jennifer Rubera, 25 Gale Avenue, Haverhill MA a parent and teacher offered perspective on the field trip. She stated that standards did shift to different grades and that the Ferry Beach field trip did provide benefits in grade content. Ms. Rubera noted that anyone who was interested could participate but some students opted out due to being away from home and no technology (no cell phones or television).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the field trip request as indicated. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was held:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (9:02 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was held:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes