

**Haverhill School Committee
Remote Meeting Minutes of April 30, 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 is being livestreamed by HCTV and also broadcast over WHAV. The full meeting recording will be available on our website www.haverhill-ps.org the next day.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson.

The Mayor requested a Moment of Silence be observed in memory of Mr. Thomas Behan, a long-time educator who had recently passed away from COVID-19.

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson requested a roll call of the members:

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

Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Communications and Report: Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Superintendent Marotta reported on her extensive research on remote learning and hybrid models, and the needed budgeting and planning on remote learning scenarios. Dr. Marotta has developed three teams: Physical Re-entry Team and Rethinking Academics.

Mayor asked about issues without technology and accessing remote learning. Dr. Marotta replied it was being addressed on a case by case issue. Mr. Russell, Director of Technology concurred with this statement.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commended staff on phenomenal lessons and if professional development opportunities would be provided to staff. Dr. Marotta replied targeted professional development was being implemented.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about support for families and staff members who had been impacted by COVID-19. Ms. Vozeolas responded that many families were probably impacted but, were keeping their situations private.

Mayor Fiorentini thanked Ms. Vozeolas and the school nurses for their commitment and work during the pandemic.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that internet access was a priority for our students. He asked Mayor to assist on these issues.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted his three primary focus areas are Internet Access, Student Wellness and Professional Development.

Attorney Rosa inquired about teachers receiving priority access to day care providers. Mayor Fiorentini commented that day care guidance would shortly be issued by the State.

Ms. Sullivan asked about introduction of new material and one-to-one instruction. Superintendent Marotta replied many avenues are being explored.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about location of remote learning. Dr. Marotta replied all teaching was being done from the home and that the buildings were open on a limited basis.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello commented on a personal note, the unbelievable outreach from her children's teachers.

Mayor Fiorentini asked Vice Chair Rosa to chair the meeting during the discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Haverhill Education Association regarding teacher evaluation <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:1c29dab6-cc7c-48a6-85c6-8c63e6f8488a>

Dr. Marotta replied teacher evaluation was not developed for remote learning. She related discussions had been held between the School Committee/Administration and representatives from the Haverhill Education Association to develop a mutually acceptable agreement.

Attorney Rosa asked about the professional status designation and non-renewal. Dr. Marotta replied that they were two separate issues and should not be interwoven and are different.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

0 members absent

Coronavirus Remote Learning Updates.

- IT Remote Learning Update provided by Technology Director Doug Russell;
- Curriculum Department Remote Learning Updates along with HC Media Partnership by Curriculum Supervisor Kevin Higginbottom;
- Special Education Remote Learning Updates provided by Special Education Director Pamela MacDonald;

- Bradford SEL and Remote Learning Supporting All Students by Bradford Elementary Assistant Nicole McGrain and Silver Hill Principal Mary Ellen Lucas;
- Silver Hill and Haverhill Promise Reading Challenge provided by Mrs. Jennifer Arndt, Campaign Director with a school-based report from Mrs. Mary Ellen Lucas, Principal.

Dr. Marotta announced that Consentino Principal John Mele had requested to return to the position of Assistant Principal and conversations would be held this upcoming week to discuss this possibility. She also related that Whittier Principal Brian Gill was still on medical leave until May 20, 2020.

Mr. Burns reported on the high school graduation and end-of-year activities and a proposal will be forthcoming.

Superintendent Marotta reported that FY21 Budget would be discussed under Subcommittee Reports.

Transportation Update.

Attorney Rosa announced that the Transportation Subcommittee had met, but there was no additional information.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling offered that some consortium districts had accepted the 78% proposal from NRT and others were holding off on a decision. He noted that the district was adhering to the School Committee vote regarding non-payment to NRT and other companies.

Mayor Fiorentini wished to reach an agreement with NRT. He advised reconsideration of the last vote and table the remaining items to the next meeting.

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement amending current bus contracts with NRT Transportation - Attorney Magliocchetti.

Mr. Wood interjected that there needed to be a motion to reconsider in order to discuss this item.

Mayor Fiorentini ruled that the matter could be discussed without a reconsideration vote.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended a reconsideration of the vote.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to reconsider. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question, the vote would allow for the matter to be reopened for purposes of the contract, then tabled and the previous vote would stand.

A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to table the Memorandum of Agreement amending the current bus contracts with NRT Transportation. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the Finance Subcommittee had met and would continue to meet bi-weekly during these challenging times on FY21 budget and reopening scenarios.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported that the district would be submitting information to the State Senate Ways and Means Committee as part of a MASBO group initiative relative to COVID-19.

Attorney Magliocchetti requested the administration prepare a level-service budget.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that the State's "rainy day" fund would not cover the estimated State deficit. He indicated that a federal bailout for States was needed to prevent major budget cuts.

Ms. Sullivan recommended clear direction and the development of several budget scenarios.

Mr. Wood report that Senate Majority Leader McConnell was against a federal bailout plan for cities and states.

Old Business.

School Choice for 2020-2021 (remained on table 04.09.20).

Dr. Marotta related that this matter could remain on the table. She commented that given the circumstances the only openings would be at the high school and too many variables at this time. The Superintendent noted that the school choice was not financially beneficial for the district.

Ms. Sullivan's concern was space and implementing social distancing in our classrooms. She emphasized the priority of educating elementary age children (K-6), especially regarding reading, in the classroom and remote learning for other students.

School Choice remained on the table.

Vote on Statement of Interest – John Greenleaf Whittier Middle School.

Mr. Pfifferling provided an overview of the Statement of Interest, the vote requirements and urgency of a vote this evening (deadline is May 6, 2020).

The following language was read into the record as part of the vote:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on April 30, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Haverhill, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 29, 2020 for the John Greenleaf Whittier School located at 256 Concord Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future regarding replacement or renovation, eliminate existing severe overcrowding and allow district to provide for a full range of programs consistent with the state / local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to submit the Statement of Interest for John Greenleaf Whittier Middle School (full language above). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti indicated this vote was part of the solution to overcrowding in our schools, especially during COVID-19 and the override issue will be in the future.

Ms. Sullivan and Attorney Rosa both supported the motion.

Mr. Pfifferling reported the state reimbursement figure had been received for the Consentino School Building Project at 76%.

A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

0 members absent

New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of Warrants [SC 04.30.20 Warrant 5 A](#), [SC 04.30.20 Warrant 5 A](#) and [SC 04.30.20 Warrant 5 A](#):

- 1) Warrant Number JE20200501 totaling \$1,586.19
- 2) Warrant Number EV20200501 totaling \$485,758.17
- 3) Warrant Number EV20200501B totaling \$251,080.18

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrants. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Approval of Items by Consensus recommended by the Superintendent as indicated in the agenda material: Minutes of Remote Regular Meeting of April 9, 2020.

Attorney Rosa recommended tabling the minutes due to a need to clarify the monetary figures in the document.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to table the minutes. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (9:15 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent