



## Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2019

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

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call of members.

The following members were present:

Attorney Richard Rosa

Ms. Gail Sullivan

Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello (7:05 p.m.)

Mr. Scott Wood

Mr. Sven Amirian, Vice Chair

Dr. Margaret Marotta Superintendent of Schools was also present. Attorney Paul Magliocchetti was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

### Public Comment.

- Mr. Thomas Grannemann, 51 Leroy Avenue, Bradford MA spoke about the Consentino School Building Project
- Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill MA spoke against a poster that was displayed at Nettle School and stated the school system was indoctrinating the children.

Due to the tenor of Mr. Yannakoreaus' comments (divisive and insulting to other races and religions), Mayor Fiorentini indicated that the police would be called and a restraining order secured to prevent him from attending future meetings.

- Mr. Ismael Matias (for the Latino Coalition), 253 Farrwood Drive, Haverhill MA 01835 Drive, Latino Coalition thanked Mr. Wood for the establishment of a Diversity Committee. He was encouraged by the committee and asked that members of the Latino Coalition be included. Mr. Matias also translated his remarks in Spanish to the audience.
- Ms. Joanna Dix, 51 Ashworth Terrace, Haverhill MA 01832 lived in the Consentino Area and questioned if the Consentino Building Project addressed all the needs comparable to the Hunking School would be incorporated. She hoped that there would be similar enthusiasm for this project.
- Mr. Anthony Parolisi, HEA President supported the minimum wage enforcement for all school employees. He also advocated for the ESP unit which contract would be expiring next year. Mr. Parolisi discussed a Forbes Magazine article entitled, 'Tired of Being Treated Like Dirt' Teacher Morale in the 2019 PDK Poll. He also stated his concern about safety at Nettle School (especially since his daughter attends that school) due to Mr. Yannakoreaus' comments.

Attorney Rosa related that the Finance Subcommittee had met and supported the minimum wage proposal/plan. He related to address the increase in January.

- Mr. Doug Edison, 28 Towne Hill Road, Haverhill, a second-generation immigrant (Canada and France) whose parents did not speak English and believed immigrants added to the fabric of the United States' life. He also commented that there is one God worshipped in different ways.

Ms. Sullivan commented that Mr. Matias should have spoken before Mr. Yannakoreaus and that it was rude that he was not allowed to speak earlier.

### Honoring the Service of the late Dr. Raleigh Buchanan (Superintendent 2006-2010).

Mayor Fiorentini spoke of Dr. Buchanan's love for children, his oversight of the high school renovation project after an unsuccessful debt exclusion, his implementation of the Classical Academy, along with his devotion to the profession. Mayor Fiorentini stated Dr. Buchanan was a good teacher, a good Superintendent and a good man. He passed away last weekend and asked that a moment of silence be observed in Dr. B's memory.

### Communication and Reports.

#### Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Dr. Marotta outlined the sequence of events at Haverhill High School gun incident:

- 10:30 am – text message from teacher to program director;
- 10:31 am – Program Director and Security approached student;
- 10:34 am – Student exited the building with security and administration following – called for assistance – HHS Administration called SRO – School Resource Officer (SRO) called Dispatch – Assistant Principal called Dispatch;
- 10:40 am – HPD dispatched to HHS – officer on site – student disposed of “weapon” – arrested by HPD (no weapon in possession);
- A lockdown was not implemented because suspect was in custody and so a controlled release of high school programs occurred. Another program (Recreation) was moved to Consentino School.

Superintendent Marotta indicated that the student had allegedly exposed the weapon to other students earlier in the day and students never mentioned the incident to any adult. She related that it is still unclear if the student actually had a weapon. Dr. Marotta reported that Alice Training would be implemented, increased efforts to work with our community partners and continual drills must be instituted.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello was also dismayed that 9-1-1 was not called.

Mr. Burns offered that on-going drills and training were being conducted during the year and will continue to be held.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello was pleased to hear that continuous drills would be held.

### School Safety.

Mr. Wood and Ms. Sullivan had met with Chief DeNaro and Superintendent Marotta last Wednesday and the topics included the incident at HHS and safety audits of all schools.

Ms. Sullivan stated that one of the recommendations would be to have the SRO in schools during summer programs. She further recommended that staff be given a directive to employees advising them when to call 9-1-1 and have it signed.

Attorney Rosa reiterated it was a policy that 9-1-1 should be called in serious situations. Dr. Marotta concurred.

Mr. Wood found the situation very concerning, particularly since protocols were not followed especially not calling 9-1-1.

Mr. Glenn Burns, High School Principal reported that Alice Training information would be continue, safety protocols would be re-enforced and 9-1-1 protocols would be followed.

Dr. Marotta gave a few facilities project updates namely a new roof at Consentino, asbestos abatement at Whittier School, HVAC Preventive Maintenance at Hunking. The Superintendent noted that substantial amount of work to our systems to be completed in preparation for the new school year.

She highlighted the following Professional Development activities over summer:

Summer Professional Development:

- Family Engagement through Project 1647 with Mt. Washington Alliance
- Undoing Racism in conjunction with Mt. Washington Alliance
- Leadership Team worked with Lynch Leadership Academy (Boston College) – improving instruction for all students
- New Teacher Project (DESE) looking at biases – hire the best teachers and look like our students
- Professional Development Committee worked to revise professional development which was outlined in this presentation [HPS PD 8-15.pptx](#):
  - Introduction by Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of MTSS regarding the work of the committee
  - Mrs. Jennifer Rubera, JG Whittier Teacher noted that the committee was born of a collaboration of the Superintendent Marotta and HEA

School Committee Communications.

Mr. Wood commented that the Haverhill's population had changed and that children were entering schools where there were not teachers/staff that resembled the students. He related that a question was asked of who was your favorite teacher of African-American or Latino descent and he could not answer the question because he had no minority teachers. Mr. Wood proposed the establishment of a Diversity Committee which would include members of the School Committee, the Human Resources, the Administration, minority community representatives not limited to Latino Coalition, along with representation from the HEA with the goal of increasing minority professionals in the Haverhill Public Schools. He related it would have a 60-day reporting out deadline with a plan. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Ms. Sullivan recommended opening it up to more people and expand the timeline and reach out to others; some of her suggestions included partnering with NECC. She noted equity and diversity are aligned.

Mr. Amirian commented that diversity was a broader issue. He proposed involving the City Council and noted the lack of diversity in government (people of color and different ethnicities were not represented in government. Vice Chair Amirian stated it was a great idea to try to find role models for our students.

Attorney Rosa asked about the process for development of this committee.

Mr. Wood stated the School Committee would appoint members along with the HEA recommending a few people. He cautioned against getting too large a committee.

Mayor Fiorentini (the appointing authority for the School Committee) appointed Ms. Sullivan, Mrs. Ryan-Giardello, Attorney Rosa and Mr. Wood.





The Superintendent recommended approval of the Warrants [Warrant Packet 08.15.19 6 A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material:

Warrant Number EV20190816 totaling \$262,293.27

Warrant Number EV20190816B totaling \$703,514.86

Warrant Number EV20190816C totaling \$347,823.13

Warrant Number JE20190816 (P-Card June 2019) totaling \$10,419.98

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Warrants. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was held on the amended motion.

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Amirian	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Items by Consensus.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the items: Regular Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2019 [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 072519 Final Approved as Amended 08.15.19.pdf](#) and the Use of Facilities [UOF 081519\\_Redacted.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa commented on a minor mistake in the minutes that in the roll call vote for adjournment both he and Ms. Sullivan voted no.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2019 as amended and the Use of Facilities.

A roll call vote was held on the amended motion.

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mr. Amirian	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

There was a request for Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood that the Haverhill School Committee will go into executive session (9:12 pm) to hear three individual grievances filed by the Teachers' Unit of the Haverhill Education Association, discussion of negotiations with the custodial, school nurses, teachers' bargaining units along with non-unit compensation. The committee may reconvene in open session to confirm any actions taken in the executive session. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was held on the amended motion.

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes

