

**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 Lluberes, 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. Lluberes 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 Lluberes, 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-Ciardiello 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. Lluberes 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.

Attorney Rosa inquired about the number of students involved in the incidents.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if Reset Rooms would be implemented in other schools.

Ms. Escovitz noted that if students left the classroom and returned it would be with support so that a positive learning environment would be maintained.

Dr. Marotta offered other schools were implementing models that met their needs.

Mr. Wood noted his concern about the school in the beginning of the school year, however, based on the feedback received from both staff and parents, the school is moving in the right direction. He commended Ms. Escovitz and her staff.

Ms. Toni Acevedo, Vice President of Latino Coalition asked how to access the bullying prevention policy. Dr. Marotta responded it was on the website in English and Spanish.

School Choice SY20-21.

Dr. Marotta noted that it was the time to make decisions on School Choice. Ms. Sullivan asked for Principal Burn's input. Mr. Burns responded data could be gathered within the next week.

Mr. Wood made a motion to table this item. Based on Attorney Rosa's wish to speak, the motion was withdrawn.

Attorney Rosa asked if another district paying tuition to us for a special education student was a separate issue. Dr. Marotta responded it was a different process and was an agreement between districts.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to table the School Choice item for two weeks. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The roll call 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

Transportation Working Group. [Working Group Letter.pdf](#)

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling commented that a Transportation Report would be completed (by Massachusetts Association of Pupil Transportation) within the week. He recommended forming a Transportation Working Group as outlined in the memorandum.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Transportation Working Group as outlined by Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. The record of the vote was 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

It was noted that Attorney Rosa and Ms. Sullivan, members of Transportation Subcommittee were School Committee representatives on the Transportation Working Group.

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 (cancellations/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.

Mayor Fiorentini was concerned with first responders and the elderly being seriously impacted.

Dr. Marotta asked about the use of facilities by outside agencies and asked for guidance.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to stop use of facilities by outside agencies for recreational use. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The roll call results were as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Ms. Sullivan | Yes | Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello | 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

School Committee Communications - Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the Finance Subcommittee had been meeting on a regular basis with the Superintendent. He related that the subcommittee reviewed Leadership Team Requests and was planning on meeting Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Haverhill High School. Attorney Magliocchetti commented it would be a discussion of the Draft of Student Opportunity Act. He asked if the pool roof allocation of \$16,150 needed to be voted this evening.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded the \$16,150 needed to be voted but did not have an account designated for this expenditure.

Mr. Wood related that it could be voted tonight from the pool revolving account and then at the next meeting a line item transfer could be brought forward for discussion and approval.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to transfer \$16,150 pool revolving account to pay for the pool roof. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The roll call results were as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Ms. Sullivan | Yes | Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello | 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

Ms. Sullivan clarified that the Finance Subcommittee Meeting would be held on Monday, March 23, 2020 in the high school conference room at 7:00 p.m.

New Business.

The following warrants were introduced for approval:

- 1) Warrant Number EV20200313 totaling \$172,549.19. [School Committee Regular Meeting 03.12.20 Warrant 4 A](#)
- 2) Warrant Number EV20200313B totaling \$627,836.70. [School Committee Regular Meeting 03.12.20 Warrants 4 A](#)
- 3) Warrant Number EV20200313A totaling \$33,397.07. [Warrant 03.12.20 EV20200313A.pdf](#)

Attorney Magliocchetti asked Warrant#3 be a separate vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrants #1 & #2. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The roll call results were as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| Ms. Sullivan | Yes | Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello | 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 approve Warrants #3. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. The roll call results were as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----|
| Ms. Sullivan | Yes | Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello | 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-Ciardiello | 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-Ciardiello | 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-Ciardiello | 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

Mr. Wood questioned the field trip Field Trip Request. [SC 03.12.20 FT JR.pdf](#) and Dr. Marotta commented that the meeting packet was assembled before the guidance was released and recommended not proceeding with the field trip.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to deny the field trip request. 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 adjourn the meeting (8:53 p.m.). 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