



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

Mayor Fiorentini read the following statement: 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.

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present	Ms. Sullivan	Present
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present @ 7:20 pm	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.

Mayor Fiorentini initially wanted to omit the Pledge of Allegiance since there was no flag.

Attorney Magliocchetti requested the Pledge be held and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to temporarily suspend Policy BDEB. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini announced that the public could email any questions or comments to mayor@cityofhaverhill.com

A roll call vote was held with the following results:

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

- 6 members voted in the affirmative
- 0 members voted in the negative
- 0 members abstained
- 1 member absent

Communications and Reports.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Coronavirus Update.

Dr. Marotta announced that school closures were extended until May 4, 2020 and the Commissioner provided guidance on remote learning during this time.

The Superintendent provided the following details:

- Starting on the April 7, 2020 date – it will be considered “school” and the completed work will be graded;
- Changes are being put into place;
- Great work has been ongoing for two weeks with outreach to parents and students along with work packets;
- Technology such as video conferencing is being utilized effectively within the district for example, 3.4.20 = 24 video conferences and 3.26.20 = 1820 video conferences;
- “Going Back to School” will look different and there will be expectations of both students and teachers and demonstrating learning every day;
- In preparation for this new school day, chrome books are needed by students;
- Technology Survey was sent out along with follow-up with parents to ascertain the need; 2400 surveys have been returned and by next Friday, April 3, 2020 distribution will occur in time for the school year to resume for students.

Five-minute video overview of activities during the closure (after sound difficulties) was shown to the Committee.

Attorney Rosa asked about outreach to students and parents. Dr. Marotta responded that teachers had been reaching out to those who have not been participating on a regular basis.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about disinfecting of chrome books and was reassured that the devices would be cleaned and disinfected prior to distribution. She asked about distribution protocol. Technology Director Doug Russell commented that devices would be picked up during a specific timeframe and guidance according to CDC, Governor Baker and Director of School Health and Nursing Services and additionally, would receive a personal phone call.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about internet service for laid off parents. Dr. Marotta and Mr. Russell both commented that Xfinity was providing free internet during the crisis along with free WIFI.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about cybersecurity protocols. Superintendent Marotta responded chrome books were for accessing internet and storing material on google classroom and also preventing unauthorized sites.

Mr. Russell commented that information was deleted once the student logged off the chrome book.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about how many time chrome books would be replaced. Superintendent Marotta noted that decisions needed to be made shortly since equipment could be lost or broken and she recommended subcommittees meetings.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about data on student usage. The Superintendent related that accountability measures (such as Pass/Fail) but this procedure had implications for juniors and seniors which needed to be in place once school resumed on April 7, 2020.

Relative to HEA President Anthony Parolisi's question on guiding principles, the Mayor indicated it had already been answered by Dr. Marotta, by outlining the information received by the State that had been signed off by all interested parties.

Dr. Marotta explained that there were many issues still being considered and discussed such as, graduation, prom and course selection to name a few of the topics.

Superintendent Marotta indicated that the pay question for employees needed to be held tonight. Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented that employees needed to be kept safe.

Dr. Marotta answered that she was seeking guidance and up until this point there had been a skeleton crew working on an as needed basis, with the majority of employees working from home; however, more structure would be needed. She related that all employees had been paid and wished to pay people but did not know if it was solely her decision.

Mayor Fiorentini noted all employees should be paid until the next meeting.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling answered that food service employees, along with custodial and maintenance staff were working during the school closure and the systems were running. He was cautious about everybody not working.

Mayor Fiorentini commented it was the decision of every community to determine an essential employee.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais cautioned against having employees come to work who were not essential to operations at this time and indicated the health and safety of our employees and their families was a topic priority.

Dr. Marotta related that was the current procedure, but there could be a possibility of students not returning and the phasing in of employees.

Attorney Magliocchetti suggested maintenance projects being undertaken during this closure and ensuring the safety of employees.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that safety precautions had been implemented with the use of outside contractors during school closure work.

Mr. Wood stated it was important to have an essential work force such as food service and maintenance staff. He would trust the Superintendent's judgement in this regard. Mr. Wood was encouraged by the work of food service employees providing food to our families as well as maintaining their safety.

Vice Chair Rosa inquired about payment to out-of-district placements. Dr. Marotta responded payments continued to be made to these settings.

Mr. Pfifferling clarified the social distancing guidelines were implemented soon after the first case was confirmed.

Dr. Marotta confirmed that employees would be paid until the next School Committee meeting. She asked for direction on stipend positions that have not begun.

Mr. Pfifferling offered examples such as, spring coaches or club advisors.

Mayor Fiorentini wanted to know how other communities are handling the situation.

The Assistant Superintendent noted that coaches usually start planning prior to season, but was not sure the full salary should be paid.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if lunch monitors were on the list to be paid.

Dr. Marotta responded that anyone who is a routinely scheduled employee (traditional wage) in the Haverhill Public Schools has been getting paid. Additionally, she was asking for clarification on grant positions (teachers) compensation.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood that all of our regularly scheduled employees continue to be paid until at least the next school committee meeting and that the employees' daily assignment and work hours be determined by the Superintendent and the administration including hours. The Superintendent has the authority to determine who is an essential employee and who needs to be in the buildings daily. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti supported the motion and was concerned with revenues for next year. He wanted to protect the wages of our employees.

Mayor Fiorentini also was concerned about next year's budget including a decrease in revenues. He indicated that the rainy-day fund might have to be accessed next year.

Mr. Wood noted a MASC article for next year's budget and noted the potential budget ramifications.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais strongly encouraged employees to stay home unless essential and maintain their safety.

Dr. Marotta agreed with Mrs. Sapienza Donais' comments. She wanted our employees to continue to work from home and be safe. The Superintendent noted that our jobs were secure and there was an obligation to continue to work even if it is in a different way.

Mr. Wood clarified it was the Superintendent and her administration's authority to determine work assignment.

Ms. Sullivan asked if the manner in which employees (i.e. educational support personnel) could support the district's efforts during the closure. Dr. Marotta indicated that the plan was being developed.

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

Dr. Marotta asked about negotiations sessions and executive sessions in this new world. She offered that the meetings would be held remotely.

Ms. Sullivan commented Administrators' negotiations were postponed until April 13, 2020. Both Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wood were cautious about a multi-year contract and suggested a Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Vice Chair Rosa (along with Attorney Magliocchetti) served on the educational support personnel and secretaries unit negotiations and negotiations had been deferred until May with full proposals from both groups needed to be submitted to the subcommittee prior to the first meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the real issue was the financial picture for the district. He recommended continual discussion with groups along with scheduling executive sessions.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that there was uncertainty and there was a possibility of a 1/12 budget. The Mayor recommended delaying negotiations until May 2020.

Mr. Pfifferling related that Mr. McCarthy had advised him that bus driver layoffs would occur this Friday. He recommended paying transportation vendors through the end of March.

Mayor Fiorentini supported the payment to other vendors through March.

Mr. Wood commented on Mr. McCarthy's threatening style and was concerned about payment for services that were not delivered.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to pay bus drivers through the end of March 2020. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Before the vote, discussion was held on which vendors that would be paid. Attorney Magliocchetti noted there was a problem securing bus drivers and he could not vote on the other vendors because of a conflict. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	No	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	No	Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		

4 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
3 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Subcommittee Reports – None.

Old Business.

School Choice for 2020-2021 (to remain on the tabled 04.09.20).

New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of Warrants [Warrant Binder 032620.pdf](#).

Warrant Number EV202000327 totaling \$862,306.67

Warrant Number EV20200327A totaling \$244.83

Warrant Number EV20200327B totaling \$610,232.82

Warrant Number JE20200327 totaling \$2,912.85

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan 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	Abstain
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

1 member abstained

Items by Consensus recommended by the Superintendent: Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 12, 2020 [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 03.12.20 Final & Approved.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2020. 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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (8:30 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