



APPROVED

**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2019  
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m.**

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

The following members were present:

Attorney Richard Rosa	Ms. Gail Sullivan
Mrs. Maura Ryan-Ciardello	Attorney Paul Magliocchetti
Mr. Sven Amirian, Vice Chair	Mr. Scott Wood
Ms. Margaret Marotta Superintendent	

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

Public Comment.

- 1) Ms. Stephanie Viola, HALT Staff Member spoke in support of HALT Principal and his positive impact on students past and present
- 2) Mr. Theodore Kempinski, (HEA President, Resident and Parent) asked the School Committee to form a committee comprised of HEA membership in various units to address the increase in assaults on staff members by children with social/emotional behaviors
- 3) Mr. Neil Wilkins, (HALT Staff Member) spoke in opposition to the Right-Sizing Model that would be harmful to students in both components of the St. James building
- 4) Ms. Trisha MacDonald (Parent) spoke in opposition to the Right-Sizing Model and indicated that she had filed a complaint with DESE. Additionally, Ms. MacDonald spoke in support of HALT Principal and how her child was comforted by the HALT staff members especially the principal and the care and consideration offered. Ms. MacDonald offered testimony to the benefits of the St. James building and the assistance this program offers its students.
- 5) Ms. Lyn Grady, (TEACH parent) indicated her son's IEP had been implemented. Ms. Grady was frustrated with the many changes in the TEACH program. She was disappointed that staff members had been suspended and felt the system had failed her son.
- 6) Ms. Bethany Pond (HALT parent) read her son's email to the superintendent which he had not received a response.
- 7) Ms. Karen Thornell (TEACH staff member) thanked the superintendent and TEACH principal Lyn Snow about the best year of teaching at the program.
- 8) Ms. Lena Jesus (former student) spoke in support of HALT principal and called him her "grandfather". She loved the school.
- 9) Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus (citizen) spoke about truth, religion, doctrine and evolution. He indicated the committee had humiliated and asked if the police were present to arrest him.
- 10) Mr. Jake Robinson (current school employee/former HALT student) spoke in support of the HALT principal and the positive impact on his life. He noted how his life had been turned around by the principal and the program.
- 11) Mr. Thomas Grannemann (citizen) extended an invitation on behalf of the Haverhill Education Coalition to "A Haverhill Community Discussion on Equity and Resource Allocation – Challenges for Haverhill Schools" to be held in the Haverhill High School Auditorium, 137 Monument Street, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019.
- 12) Ms. Anna Linnehan (TEACH Behavior Analyst Staff) commented that the "harsh words of a few" impacts the staff and positive viewpoints have not been heard
- 13) Ms. Kiera Walters (HALT parent) commented on the positive aspects of the program for her son and that he would be graduating.

- 14) Ms. Carrie David (TEACH parent) spoke about her son's progress at the school. She noted that DESE was encouraging a decrease in physical holds and the implementation of other methods. Ms. David indicated her son had been put in two physical restraints last year.
- 15) Ms. Mirca Meijas (Mt. Washington Alliance) invited the community to a 1647 Engagement Event on April 25, 2019
- 16) Mr. Kenneth McDowell (former TEACH staff member) supported the separation of the two programs and spoke in support of the HALT principal.

#### Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report – Katherine Hubbard.

Ms. Katherine Hubbard provided an update from Haverhill High School according to the document that was shared with the School Committee:

#### Upcoming Senior Events:

- 4/25/19 Senior vs. Junior Powder Puff Game at Haverhill Stadium;
- 5/1/19 Final Coffee House showcasing Student Talent in the HHS Courtyard;
- 5/16/19 Night of Stars by invitation only;
- 5/20/19 last day of classes for seniors;
- 5/21/19 Senior Breakfast;
- 5/24/19 Senior Chapel;
- 5/28/19 Senior Prom at Seaglass in Salisbury MA;
- 5/31/19 Graduation at 6:00 p.m. in Haverhill Stadium

Ms. Hubbard wished everyone traveling overseas happy travels to Greece, Spain and Italy; she would be traveling to Greece leaving tomorrow morning. She also wished everyone a happy vacation.

#### Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Ms. Marotta related that rules and regulations along with a protocol that has to be enacted during the investigation that involved other agencies such as Department of Children and Families. She related that obligations the district must be followed. The superintendent had placed 5 staff member(s) on administrative leave pending the results of the investigation. Ms. Marotta noted that there were no former staff members and staff continue to work at the school. She commented everyone should be safe in our schools.

Mayor Fiorentini wanted to have instruction in the proper use of restraints (teachers are getting abused and injured).

Attorney Rosa supported the superintendent and referenced the Crowell School incident that the School Committee did not know about until the Disability Law Center filed a complaint. He commended Ms. Marotta on her openness about the incident.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the law was very detailed.

Mr. Wood recommended the committee examine the restraint law.

Ms. Sullivan was disappointed that it became a media story and noted that it was very common to put staff on administrative leave when an investigation is being conducted.

Superintendent Marotta reported on the recent receipt of grant monies since the last school committee meeting.

Ms. Marotta commented that there were excellent candidates for principals at Silver Hill and Hunking Schools. She noted that interviews were being scheduled at the school level.

Status Report on Selection of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Ms. Sullivan related that after the interview process only one candidate was recommended to bring to the full committee.

Mr. Wood reported that only one candidate was being recommended, however, if the position was school business manager there would be 3 candidates for that position. He noted the option could be to bring the one person forward and repost the position for Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations at a higher salary \$155,000-\$160,000.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for the difference between Assistant Superintendent and School Business Manager.

Ms. Marotta stated a district Haverhill's size needed an Assistant Superintendent.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about this one candidate.

Ms. Marotta was confident in this candidate.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to bring forward the one candidate for Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Mr. Amirian seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Update on Proposed Right-Sizing Model – Presentation by Right-Sizing Committee [Right-Size Presentation - Handout.pdf](#).

- Committee Introductions
- Why Right Size?
- And the Survey Says
- What's the Plan?
- What does this Cost?
- Now What: Where do we go from here?

Ms. Bonnie Antkowiak, Tilton School Principal spoke about the movement of kindergarten classes back to the neighborhood schools and its positive impact on early literacy.

Ms. Heidi Perez, District ELL Supervisor noted the positive impact of moving EL's to neighborhood schools instead of separating different levels (beginner etc.) to many schools.

Mr. Richard Poor, Consentino Assistant Principal commented on the high-class size numbers and the positive impact the right-size model would have in lowering class size.

Dr. Erin Hagerty, Data Coordinator reviewed the survey results.

Mrs. Antkowiak commented on the movement of students to St. James that would alleviate extreme overcrowding at Consentino School.

Superintendent Marotta reviewed the repurposing of St. James School and the relocation of the TEACH/HALT Programs to Bartlett and Greenleaf.

Mr. Douglas Russell, Technology/Team Member illustrated the district lines the current and proposed school zones.

Superintendent Marotta related that this right-sizing model was an interim solution until Consentino School was either renovated or replaced. Ms. Marotta spoke to the question "What does this Cost?" including showing photos of each building. The Superintendent related that DESE had been informed of the possibility of the program changes.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked about teacher seniority and movement of children. She asked about transportation costs.

Ms. MacDonald commented that transition services would be implemented for the students.

Ms. Marotta identified the costs associated with the program changes. She related that the other location i.e., Crowell School might be a smaller learning environment for children.

Mr. Amirian offered on the collaborative nature of the presentation and the cohesiveness of the plan. He commented that no solution would be perfect and that this was a solid interim answer.

Attorney Magliocchetti viewed this proposal as being foresighted and the inclusiveness and involvement in the process was commendable. He requested a detailed plan for the transition of St. James School students to the new educational facilities, if approved tonight.

Ms. Sullivan appreciated the staff's effort and a wonderful attempt to solve a serious problem.

Mr. Wood asked about costs i.e., assistant principal and school adjustment counselor.

Ms. Marotta replied that based on the building's numbers an assistant principal and a school adjustment counselor was recommended.

Mr. Wood asked about the status of the lease.

Ms. Marotta offered a walkthrough had been conducted and the Archdiocese was supportive of the RFP's terms and was waiting for the draft contract.

Mr. Wood was concerned about the movement of students with disabilities and the adjustment. He stated his opposition to the plan.

Attorney Rosa had concerns about changes at St. James and he is confident that the superintendent will take care of the needs of the students. He offered that for years class size had been a problem and this was a solution for 3-4 years until Consentino School was re-opened. Attorney Rosa stated his support for the plan and the superintendent.

Mayor Fiorentini noted his support for the plan and was concerned with inequity.

Ms. Perez stated that EL's will be in their neighborhood.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about the St. James's programs features being translated to the other buildings.

Ms. Marotta replied that utilizing community resources such as YMCA etc.

Superintendent asks for authorization to move forward with a finalized Right-Sizing Proposal as outlined in presentation.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Right-Sizing Model as outlined in the presentation. Mr. Amirian seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	No	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	No	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

#### School Committee Communications.

Update on the Early College Program at Haverhill High School – Attorney Magliocchetti

Mr. Glenn Burns, High School Principal and Ms. Samantha Horne, Early Childhood Coordinator began the presentation on Early College [Early College Data-School Committee.pdf](#).

Some of the key points were:

- HHS not designated as an Early College School
- District and students had to pick up costs
- Working towards designation
- The Early College Plan had to drastically change per DESE
- Growth in demographics
- Recap of the past years
- Steps for Success

Mayor Fiorentini asked about credit given for AP courses.

Mr. Burns responded that at this time the students did receive credit, however, a discussion/review was needed among staff, community representatives, school committee on whether college credit should be awarded for all AP courses or only select ones.

#### Update on the Engineering Review of Whittier School – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Ms. Marotta commented scope of work.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the intent was to include heating/HVAC systems. He also indicated that the grounds should be evaluated too and this item had not been included in the original RFP. School Committee member Magliocchetti commented a comprehensive report on the total facility including grounds was important.

Mayor Fiorentini stated the RFP could be amended.

Mr. Wood stated that Whittier School needed extensive repairs and questioned what was the end goal for the school. He indicated that structural integrity was crucial.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to ask that the Whittier School grounds be added to the RFP.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	No	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	No		

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

#### Subcommittee Reports.

The subcommittee for the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported on this position earlier in the meeting's agenda.

#### Old Business.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the corrected minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2019 as indicated in the agenda material (tabled 03.28.19) [SC Minutes 03.14.19 corrected 03.28.19.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to remove the corrected minutes of the regular meeting of March 14, 2019 as indicated in the agenda material from the table. Mr. Amirian seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

#### New Business.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following Warrants [SC Agenda 04.11.19 Warrants 5 A](#) as indicated in the agenda material:

- 1) Warrant Number EV20190412 totaling \$601,267.84
- 2) Warrant Number EV201900412A totaling \$25,718.20
- 3) Warrant Number EV20190412B totaling \$450,982.56

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrants #1 and #3 as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes

Mayor Fiorentini	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 approve Warrants #2 as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstain
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		
6 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
1 member abstained			

#### Items by Consensus.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2019 [School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 03.28.19.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

Mr. Wood requested that the minutes be amended to remove the following sentence from page 2 “He commented that Dr. Maddox had matched the donation.”

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to amend the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2019 as stated by removing the following sentence from page 2 “He commented that Dr. Maddox had matched the donation.” Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		
7 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

#### Executive Session/Adjournment.

There was no need for Executive Session this evening.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (10:25 p.m.). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion.

The chair called for a vote of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mr. Amirian	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		
7 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			