



APPROVED

**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2019  
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m.**

Mr. Sven Amirian, Vice Chair 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 (7:06 p.m.)	Attorney Paul Magliocchetti
Mr. Scott Wood	Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson (7:09 p.m.)
Dr. Margaret Marotta Superintendent	

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members.

Public Comment.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, HEA member spoke in advocacy for a proper school budget.

Mr. Theodore Kempinski, 150 Orchard Hill Road, HEA member commented that at the last meeting a subcommittee should be formed on staff safety and no action had been taken as of this date. He noted this was a major issue in our schools with staff safety.

Communication and Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report – Gabriela Vargas.

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

- 4/25/19 Senior vs. Junior Powder Puff Game at Haverhill Stadium; which Ms. Hubbard is participating in tonight;
- 5/1/19 Staff Professional Day – Early Release and also Final Coffee House showcasing Student Talent in the HHS Courtyard; Ms. Vargas will be performing at this last coffee house;
- College Search Process – 10 workshops for students to determine individual preference;
- Italian Night – Thursday, May 2, 2019 in HHS Auditorium – great food, song, stories all spoken in Italian;
- Annual Key Club Blood Drive on Friday, May 3, 2019;
- Monday, May 13, 2019, Annual City-Wide Art Show
- HHS Spring Concert on May 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

School Committee: Interview of Finalist for Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations.

Superintendent Marotta introduced Ms. Maria Silva, Finalist for the position of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. She noted that Ms. Silva was multi-cultural and multi-lingual and was the Business Manager at Greater Lawrence Technical High School.

Ms. Silva gave a brief overview of her background and education [MS Redacted Letter and Resume.pdf](#).

Each member of the committee asked Ms. Silva questions regarding the following topics:

- Differences in the size of district (Ms. Sullivan);
- the learning curve for adapting to a larger district (Ms. Sullivan);
- Great experience and background (Attorney Magliocchetti);
- Special Education – knowledge of special education (Attorney Rosa);
- Reason for pursuing a Master's in Education (goal of becoming Superintendent) – Ms. Silva
- Research on Haverhill (Mr. Wood)
- Experience with out-of-district placements (Mr. Wood)
- Use of END Account – vocational schools only (Mr. Wood)
- Consortium that assists with vaping issues – Ms. Silva
- Unexpected expenditures (Mr. Wood)
- Freeze spending – Ms. Silva
- Experience with school building projects (Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello)
- GLTHS was undergoing a major renovation and has been involved in an HVAC renovation project (\$6 m) along with experience with submitting a letter of intent to MSBA – Ms. Silva
- How would you handle business manager and other areas of the job in a larger district
- In the beginning, she would start by analyzing the business office and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses
- How you do budgeting? (Mayor Fiorentini)
- Ms. Silva would start with level funded budget through software program and any additional requests would be flagged.
- Line item request reasonable – how is this determined? (Mayor Fiorentini)
- She related an intermediate step would be departmental personnel before reaching the business manager-principal-superintendent.
- How are you funded? (Mayor Fiorentini)
- Ms. Silva replied that her district is heavily supported by the state.
- Do you have a salary reserve? (Mayor Fiorentini)
- Ms. Silva responded the district called it a contingency fund.
- Have you ever had a deficit?
- Ms. Silva replied in the negative.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for feedback from subcommittee (Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wood).

Ms. Sullivan had the best combination of skills, i.e. Master's in Education. She was intelligent, great recommendations and had skill set. Ms. Sullivan related that a few candidates could be brought forward as finalists.

Mr. Wood commented the skill set to do both only allowed bringing forth one candidate. He noted that as a business manager candidate Ms. Silva would be in the top 2-3. Mr. Wood reiterated that knowledge of net school spending was deficient. He did not feel 100% this was the best choice for the district.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the trend in Haverhill's history and its difficulty in finding a perfect fit. He offered Ms. Silva's path to the position was exceptional and would support her candidacy.

Mr. Amirian inclined to support this candidate. He echoed that her career path was interesting and spoke well of the coming years with her dedication; and would be well-served. Mr. Amirian stated that there are no perfect candidates and trusts the superintendent; likes her work ethic and exuberance. He commented that we are benefitting for someone growing into the role and we are not settling.

Ms. Ryan-Ciardiello asked the subcommittee members if she was brought forward because of certification.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about qualifications for school business manager.

Ms. Sullivan had no reservations. She is an excellent candidate.

Superintendent Marotta stated that her longevity in her district was a positive. She replied if we re-posted this candidate would be lost. Dr. Marotta commented on the candidate's intelligent, personality, knowledge would work well with the team and get the best out of the people. Dr. Marotta was excited because Ms. Silva being multi-cultural and multilingual.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated Ms. Silva would be a role model.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to appoint Maria Silva as Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, {a contract will not be offered until positive and good reference checks are completed}. Ms. Sullivan 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

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

FY20 Budget Update.

Ms. Kathleen Smith, Accountant stated the district was going in a positive trajectory (i.e. \$1million).

Ms. Sullivan asked how forecasting was accomplished in this budget.

Ms. Smith commented as time progressed, confidence increased with budget figures.

Attorney Rosa asked about deficit in Pentucket Lake's account.

Ms. Smith would research the issue.

Superintendent Marotta highlighted a few items from last evening's FY20 Budget Working Session:

- Meeting the CEP;
- Lower class size;
- Bilingual School Adjustment Counselor at HHS;
- Bilingual Community Outreach Workers in district;
- Positions from Tilton Turnaround Grant included in the budget;
- Free All-Day Kindergarten for all students;
- Additional facilities staff;
- Grant Manager position;

- A number of summer school programs – eighth grade program for students who have not been successful – free of cost to students that qualify – not promoted if they do not attend.

Mr. Wood asked if the budget included union contract amounts.

Dr. Marotta replied in the affirmative.

Mayor Fiorentini was supportive of the budget but indicated his cautious optimism of accomplishing all that was included in the budget.

Attorney Magliocchetti related many issues to help teachers were included in the budget.

Attorney Rosa stated that the Superintendent was using the budget monies efficiently.

Ms. Sullivan was appreciative of the right-sizing proposal and its positive impact on lowering class sizes in the district for minimal cost.

Superintendent Marotta recommended the installation of Clothing Donation Bins in our district and support to enter a six-month trial program.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked about location.

Dr. Marotta commented that the Bay State Textile Company made all the arrangements and with the principal's consultation. She related that this proposal allowed for the schools to achieve some "free cash".

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to authorize the installation of clothing bins (Bay State Textiles) in our schools. 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

School Committee Communications.

Attorney Magliocchetti: J.G. Whittier Middle School Update.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if the RFP had closed.

Dr. Marotta responded that only one bid had been received and the amount was \$27,000 from Russo Barr.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about the next steps.

Mayor Fiorentini commented it was a school committee decision and could be approved this evening. A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the contract with Russo Barr in the amount of \$27,000 for the engineering study at Whittier School. Ms. Sullivan 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

Attorney Rosa related that a meeting had been held on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at Moody School with MSBA Representatives along with the Superintendent, Business Manager, Director of Early Childhood. He commented at the meeting they learned only Moody School would be invited into the Accelerated Repair Program and that Golden Hill and High School would not be moving forward in the process. Attorney Rosa further elaborated that 83 proposals were submitted this year as opposed to 60 proposals last year and that the age had been raised to 28 years; therefore, Moody School was the only building with an old enough roof.

#### Subcommittee Reports.

Ms. Sullivan reminded her colleagues that May 1, 2019 was MASC's "Day on the Hill"; a day to advocate for better education funding. She was planning on attending and encouraged other members to join her in Boston.

#### New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the following Warrants - [Warrants 04.25.19.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material:

- 1) Warrant Number EV201900426 totaling \$209,041.97
- 2) Warrant Number EV201900426A totaling \$8,308.91
- 3) Warrant Number EV20190426B totaling \$621,401.18

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrants #1 and #3. Ms. Sullivan 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 Warrant #2. Ms. Sullivan 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  
0 members voted in the negative  
1 member abstained

Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the Item by Consensus as indicated in the agenda material: field trip request(s) [FT AS HHS 04.25.19 5 A.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Item by Consensus field trip request as indicated. 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  
0 members voted in the negative  
0 members abstained

Motion passes

Mayor Fiorentini asked the Superintendent if an executive session was needed. Dr. Marotta replied no.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (8:48 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  
0 members voted in the negative  
0 members abstained

Motion passes