



Haverhill School Committee  
Remote Regular Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2020

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

|                         |         |                           |         |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Mrs. Sapienza Donais    | Present | Ms. Sullivan              | Present |
| Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello     | Present | 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 was being livestreamed by HCTV and also broadcast over WHAV. The full meeting recording will be available on our website [www.haverhill-ps.org](http://www.haverhill-ps.org) the next day.

Public Comment – There was no one who joined the remote meeting for Public Comment.

Student Advisory Council Update – Ms. Leah Pearse was not in attendance.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Superintendent Marotta reported on the Remote Haverhill High School Graduation ceremonies and activities that occurred to make it a very special event for the Class of 2020.

Dr. Marotta along with the School Committee commended Principal Burns and the High School Faculty for their tremendous work celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

The Superintendent commented on several principal vacancies in the district that will be filled within the next few weeks. She announced that the principal and assistant principal Maureen Gray and James Brennan would be switching positions at Pentucket Lake School.

Superintendent Marotta introduced Mr. Timothy Carven, Pentucket Lake/Walnut Square Physical Education teacher to provide a video presentation on distance learning conducted by encore teachers (Pentucket Lake and Walnut Square) during distance learning.

iReady Presentation.

Dr. Marotta provided a brief overview of the iReady Program that the district is planning to purchase for the district to support remote learning.

Ms. Diana DePaolis, Curriculum and Instruction Redesign Specialist offered a brief summary of her experiences with iReady.

Mr. Tyrone Holmes, iReady representative gave a PowerPoint presentation for the Committee on his company’s program.

There was discussion regarding the presentation between Mr. Holmes, Committee members and Dr. Marotta.

Dr. Marotta asked for approval of two Memorandum of Agreements with the Administrators’ Group regarding evaluations and interim principal:

[Administrator Memorandum\\_Higginbottom, Kevin.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Administrators’ Evaluations. 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  
 0 members absent

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Memorandum of Agreement regarding Interim Principals. 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  
 0 members absent

Dr. Marotta thanked the Committee for their support on the Memorandums.

School Committee Communications.

Maintenance Concerns – Mrs. Sapienza Donais.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that the maintenance issues were placed on the agenda because it had become increasingly more difficult to get an accurate assessment of the Facilities Department. She was not seeking answers tonight to her concerns, but felt as a School Committee member and taxpayer it was her moral obligation to find out how monies were being spent in the district. Mrs. Sapienza Donais then provided a list of questions, and indicated as a School Committee member and taxpayer it was her

moral obligation to find out how monies were being spent in the district. She noted it was important to have a properly functioning maintenance department with transparency and accountability.

Mr. Wood indicated his previously stated concerns with the maintenance department and the leadership. He asked if the Finance Subcommittee had been provided with a list of outsourced jobs along with the costs and was concerned with accountability on outsourcing projects.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted work orders had been provided to the Committee prior to tonight's meeting.

Dr. Marotta apologized for providing the jobs listing instead of the outsourcing projects. She noted that the department had been shut down for several weeks with only essential work (roofing, masonry). The Superintendent commented our employees had returned to work a few weeks ago.

Mr. Wood stated that this department was the Achilles heel of the district. He emphasized the need for this department to operate correctly and was also concerned with outsourcing jobs.

In response to Ms. Sullivan's question on the number of facilities' staff, Dr. Marotta responded that there were six members and that the electrician had been out on medical leave for one year and had returned on limited duty the past three months. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that there was one licensed electrician.

Ms. Sullivan stated that during budget discussions last year, there was discussion of not having a sufficient amount of maintenance staffing. She commented that the district did not have a stellar record on maintenance and highlighted the state of the Hunking School prior to the new school construction. Ms. Sullivan related that it was a communication issue with the current director and it was within the Superintendent's purview to address these concerns. She emphasized the limited number of facilities staff members.

Attorney Magliocchetti related on the recent Finance Subcommittee meeting where there was a discussion on the issue with the software used by the Maintenance Department to generate work order reports. He also stated that the staffing levels were insufficient.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that the School Committee had been recently opposed to the hiring of a Maintenance Director to oversee both city and school departments.

Attorney Magliocchetti replied the School Committee was not opposed to the hiring of the person but to the lack of school department control in the proposal. He concluded by reporting the maintenance issue would be ongoing and would be addressed at future Finance Subcommittee meetings.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling referenced recent emails on work order tickets, along with a listing of outsourced jobs (specialty trades) and all work orders completed by staff. He emphasized the need to outsource electrical jobs due to the long-term absence of the electrician. Mr. Pfifferling knew there was a need for improvement.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted that maintenance staff felt underutilized and not "burnt out". She stated for the record that there was another electrician in the department.

Attorney Rosa reported that earlier this year, the Committee was given a lengthy list of maintenance jobs that had been completed. He related that due to the volume of projects and small number of employees, outsourcing was inevitable unless additional staff were hired.

Mr. Wood commented that the Mayor's proposal had included a Director to oversee the School Department Director and thought the suggestion was pointless. He suggested that if someone could not get the job done, you moved on and hired someone who get it done.

Ms. Sullivan was mystified why the correct number of electricians could not be provided to the Committee. Mrs. Sapienza Donais replied that Joe Gauron was a licensed electrician. Mr. Pfifferling would research Mr. Gauron's licensure as an electrician.

Mayor Fiorentini was concerned with the Director's lack of knowledge concerning a preventive maintenance plan. He recommended more outsourcing in preventative maintenance.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged the Committee's concerns including leadership and direction of the department (providing guidance and support). She reported that a tremendous amount of maintenance work that had been completed this year. The Superintendent would follow-up on the questions and comments made at tonight's meeting. Since health and safety of employees is a top priority, Dr. Marotta noted that uniformed employees have 5 reusable masks provided to them and other employees are expected to bring their own masks to work. She also referenced instructional videos presented by Director of Health and Nursing Services that provided resources for staff to maintain their health and safety. The Superintendent concluded that short-term remedies would be offered to the Committee in the near future.

#### Subcommittee Reports.

##### Finance Subcommittee – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that the Finance Subcommittee had been meeting regularly to discuss school department finances. He recommended scrutiny of all areas of the budget since there was limited guidance from federal and state officials. He asked if Mayor Fiorentini could provide any additional information.

Mayor Fiorentini answered the information had not been helpful in regards to determining budget and funding levels. He noted that adjustments can be made for a decrease in unrestricted local aid but a reduction in Chapter 70 would be very difficult. The Mayor was leaning towards a 1/12 budget with the assumption that Chapter 70 would be level funded, since he believed that no Gateway Community could withstand such a devastating cut.

Ms. Sullivan remarked on the uncertainty on how school would be conducted next year and the funding levels needed to operate these various scenarios (in-person, hybrid, remote).

Mr. Wood referenced the recent CDC Guidelines and noted that school operations would be more expensive to districts. He would share the article with the Committee.

Dr. Marotta indicated in the affirmative and noted that the district was using them as guidelines all along in the next year's school planning process. She stated the guidelines were expensive and concerning.

Mr. Wood commented that nothing can take the place of in-person learning.

Attorney Rosa asked about the necessity of a June 4, 2020, School Committee meeting. Superintendent Marotta indicated that the meeting should be posted.

It was recommended that a vote be taken on the meeting since it was not on the Committee's calendar.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to post a special meeting for June 4, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Attorney Rosa 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

0 members absent

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello offered that in-person instruction needed to resume and commended the teachers, educational support personnel and specialists.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated in closing lack of guidance from state on reopening format and state funding levels.

Mayor Fiorentini agreed that different scenarios could be provided, but extremely difficult for the schools, and he was leaning towards submitting a 1/12 budget.

#### New Business.

The following Warrants [Warrant Binder 05.28.20.pdf](#) were recommended for approval:

- 1) Warrant Number EV20200529 totaling \$351,504.85
- 2) Warrant Number EV20200529A totaling \$19,430.00
- 3) Warrant Number EV20200529B totaling \$505,573.15
- 4) Warrant Number JE20200529 totaling \$2,424.93

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Warrants. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais questioned the payment to the Interim Principal of \$750.00 per day (Seaside Consulting) on the Warrant Number EV20200529B.

Dr. Marotta indicated that the individual does not get paid for days that are not worked. She related that in March an interim principal was needed for Bradford Elementary. The Superintendent noted

that the consultant had been assisting at the school and was asked to remain and assume the role of principal.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais related her own work experience after retirement and believed the figure was outrageous, therefore, she would not support payment. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

|                         |                        |                           |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Mrs. Sapienza Donais    | Yes, except Warrant #3 | Ms. Sullivan              | Yes, Warrants #1-4 |
| Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello     | Yes, except Warrant #3 | Attorney Magliocchetti    | Yes Warrants #1-4  |
| Mr. Wood                | Yes, Warrants #1-4     | Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair | Yes Warrants #1-4  |
| Mayor Fiorentini, Chair | Yes, Warrants #1-4     |                           |                    |

7 members voted in the affirmative on Warrants #1, 2, 4 Motion passes  
 1 member voted in the negative on Warrant #3  
 1 member abstained on Warrant #3  
 0 members absent

Items by Consensus.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the remote meeting minutes of April 30, 2020, [Haverhill School Committee Remote Meeting Minutes 04.30.20 Updated Version .pdf](#) and May 14, 2020 [Haverhill School Committee Remote Meeting Minutes 05.14.20 for Approval.pdf](#). Mr. Wood 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  
 0 members absent

A motion was made Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (8:57 pm). Mr. Wood 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  
 0 members absent