



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2020**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and requested a roll call of the members.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present (In-person)	Ms. Sullivan	Present (Remote)
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present (In-person)	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present (In-person)
Mr. Wood	Present (In-person)	Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Present (In-person)
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present (In-person)		

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 Opening 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."

Communications and Reports.

Public Comment (In-person and Remote).

In-person: Mr. David Roche, 280 East Broadway, Haverhill, MA, offered comments relative to anxiety surrounding the pandemic and suggested the City provide more information to the public regarding COVID planning.

Remote: Dr. Thomas Grannemann, 51 Leroy Avenue, Haverhill MA, commented on the risks of reopening during these uncertain times. Dr. Grannemann recommended visiting his website (due to technical difficulties) <https://benchmarkhaverhillschools.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Assessing-COVID-Risks-for-Haverhill-Schools-2020-08-27.pdf>

Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas. No report.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Reopening 2020.

Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling provided the following update relative to a review of the HVAC systems by Leftfield. She stated that the cookie cutter schools (Golden Hill, Silver Hill, Pentucket Lake and Bradford Elementary) along with Haverhill High School had some issues with airflow, however, Hunking was in good shape and Nettle had some minor issues. The Superintendent noted the evaluations of Consentino and J.G. Whittier were in the process of evaluation. The Superintendent contacted Cox and Maroney and other city vendors, as a result of these preliminary findings and Cox Maroney would be submitting a detailed quote tomorrow. Mr. Pfifferling offered that another company, HTS would be available to work at Hunking and Whittier Schools. Dr. Marotta commented that multiple teams would be available to work on the schools' systems and asked for a vote this evening.

Mayor Fiorentini would review the process with the City Purchasing Agent to ensure compliance with the law.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allocate \$450,000 to repair buildings by Cox Maroney to implement new HVAC Systems to reopen the schools. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling requested that the company not be stipulated to allow for the district to have other companies provide these services.

Mr. Wood withdrew his second and Attorney Magliocchetti agreed to amend his motion.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allocate \$450,000 to repair buildings by a vendor approved by the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to implement new HVAC Systems to get the schools ready to open. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

Superintendent Marotta related that Leftfield will provide a complete report in a few days. She noted based on the recommendations, in-person learning would be delayed until October 5, 2020, with the full hybrid model implemented on October 16, 2020.

Mayor Fiorentini asked if the neediest students could begin in-person learning on September 15, 2020.

Dr. Marotta commented that the full facilities report needed to be completed and reviewed prior to definitive recommendations.

Attorney Magliocchetti indicated that minimizing all risks was essential in this process.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked about parent notifications for cohort designations. Dr. Marotta responded that the survey would close on September 1 and notifications would begin on September 2.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais agreed with Attorney Magliocchetti that the buildings' reopening should be delayed until air quality assurances are provided to staff, parents and students. She asked the Superintendent what professional development opportunities were being offered for teachers in implementing the hybrid model. Dr. Marotta noted there was a detailed and extensive listing of professional development offerings for our teachers and would provide this information to the School Committee.

School Committee member Sapienza Donais asked about the implementation of individual student art supplies and its impact on the budget. Dr. Marotta responded that priorities had to be developed and noted it was a new way of looking at learning.

Mr. Wood commented about the anxiety levels in the district. He stated that the parent survey indicated the majority (70%) wanted students to return to school in a hybrid model. Mr. Wood questioned the revising of reopening date and its impact on working parents and the neediest students.

Attorney Rosa clarified that the phase-in would begin October 5, with full hybrid model implementation by October 16. He related the delay was a result of concerns over air-flow in the school buildings. Attorney Rosa stated that the company would not provide certification regarding the buildings' safety. Mr. Pfifferling responded that the company would indicate that the classroom has met the ASHRA guidelines for COVID.

In response to questions from Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello on reporting positive tests for COVID and its impact on hybrid learning, Dr. Marotta replied close contact was the determining fact and deferred to Ms. Katie Vozeolas, Director of Health and Nursing Services, who joined the meeting remotely. Ms. Vozeolas provided procedures that would be used to report contact tracing to the Haverhill Board of Health, including a remote working nurse who would be providing this information.

Relative to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' inquiry, Dr. Marotta reiterated that there was a no visitors' policy that had been approved by the School Committee.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that the Moody School students return to in-person learning should be a top priority along with a return date of September 16.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling commented that six schools with complex systems had been a priority.

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Director of Athletics requested approval for Solo Aquatics to resume its swimming programming at the HHS pool as outlined in the enclosed information. [SOLO RTO-COVID-HHS.pdf](#) He noted that this proposal had been reviewed by Ms. Vozeolas.

Mayor Fiorentini recommended the pool go back to being a community pool.

Dr. Marotta asked for a vote on this matter.

Mayor Fiorentini did not support the proposal.

Attorney Magliocchetti had concerns on this proposal and asked for both Dr. Maddox and Ms. Vozeolas' input.

Mr. Wood commented that the Athletic Subcommittee should have reviewed the proposal prior to presentation to the full Committee. Attorney Rosa concurred with this recommendation.

Attorney Magliocchetti believed a joint model could work and suggested hiring an Assistant Facility Director. He noted that 80% of the projects are school-related and there were only six department members.

Attorney Rosa asked for a report that was mentioned in the Matrix letter. Mayor Fiorentini replied that it was not a public document.

A discussion was held among the members concerning the joint department proposal, specifically, the reporting authority.

Mayor Fiorentini clarified that he was the hiring authority. He related that Mr. Robin Haley from Matrix would present at a future meeting.

Mr. Wood requested that interviews be held for the position since the Superintendent had indicated there were qualified candidates.

Mr. Wood made a motion to amend the agreement by revising paragraph #1 and that the person be hired and report to the Superintendent. There was no second.

Dr. Marotta noted that interviews would be scheduled next week.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that the Matrix Report had not been finalized.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais recommended moving forward with interviews.

The Mayor wanted to participate in the hiring process.

Mr. Wood wanted to move ahead as previously voted by the School Committee.

There was no action taken on this matter.

HHS Award Plaques (updating and financing) – Mrs. Sapienza Donais.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais indicated she had spoken briefly with Mr. Burns about getting several missing names engraved on the plaques that adorned the main hallway at HHS. She noted that there was history and prestige related to these plaques and it reflected on district's history.

Hybrid Learning Questions – Mrs. Sapienza Donais.

Ms. Sapienza Donais asked if there was a director for the hybrid model. Superintendent Marotta asked if the Committee supported the addition of this position. She noted there were many competing priorities in the district. The Superintendent

Mayor Fiorentini read the Matrix letter, which recommended a consolidation of the facilities departments.

Subcommittee Reports. There were no reports.

