



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Remote Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14, 2021**

Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair 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." This meeting will be available via live streaming over HCTV and WHAV. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV website.

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and 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.

Attorney Rosa announced that two members of the Hillie Nation family had passed away recently, Moody School student Gianna Martinez Guerrero age 4 and long-time Consentino School teacher (33 years) David Saba. He requested a Moment of Silence be observed in their memory.

Election of Vice Chair for 2021.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to nominate Scott Wood as Vice Chair. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

There were no further nominations.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to close nominations. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested on closing nominations.

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

Mayor Fiorentini asked for a roll call vote on electing Scott Wood, Vice Chair; he noted that a yes vote would indicate support for Mr. Wood.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardillo	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

Mr. Wood is elected Vice Chair

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased that the Vice Chair vote was unanimous and stated that the School Committee is united during these difficult times. The Mayor commented that he looked forward to working with Mr. Wood.

The Mayor commended Attorney Rosa on an outstanding job as Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Wood assumed chairing the meeting and thanked the Committee for its support and acknowledged the hard work of Attorney Rosa.

Communications/Reports ~ Public Comment.

- Deborah Comiskey, Haverhill Public Schools' ESP acknowledged the work of the Joint Corona Virus Response Team.
- Amanda Crosby, 8 Kensington Avenue, Haverhill MA stated her strong support for students being in the classroom and requested the return of hybrid learning.
- Katherine Kaczor, 46 Crowell Street, Haverhill MA offered comments on her student's success with remote learning and the district's commitment to mental health services.
- Jeri Laubner ~ not present.
- Jessica Emia ~ not present.
- Erica Morris ~ not present.
- Patty Wilson ~ not present.
- Krystle Northrup ~ not present.
- Kayla ~ not present.
- Michelle Pare ~ not present.
- Kasey Aries ~ not present.
- Brittany Augustonovich ~ not present.
- Sarah Jalbert ~ not present.
- Laura Wrisley ~ not present.
- Christina ~ not present.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais indicated several people had notified her that they were having difficulty joining the meeting. Mr. Russell responded that several people had left the meeting. Vice Chair Wood acknowledged there were technical difficulties this evening and if people returned to the meeting, they would be acknowledged at a later time. He asked HCTV to try to resolve the issues.

Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas.

Ms. Vargas opened with Happy New Year wishes and then provided the following report:

- During Student Support Blocks there will be sessions on mental health including physical health, art wellness, yoga, and meditation; these sessions will begin 1/19/21 at 12:45 pm in Google Classroom. She stressed informing your teachers of your participation.
- PSAT for sophomores and juniors will be held on 1/26/21.
- Virtual College Tours for juniors and seniors.
- FASFA Day on 2/7/21 (Spanish) 2:00 pm-3:30 pm and 2/11/21 (English) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm – please contact her or your teachers with any questions or concerns.
- Survey was sent out to access feelings of being overwhelmed during the pandemic.
- Yearbook Committee is conducting opinion surveys.
- Second term is ending, keep up the good work.
- Congratulations to all students who made the Honor Roll (GPA matters)
- Cohort C returns on 1/19/21.

Ms. Vargas concluded by saying “stay safe, stay healthy and do something that makes you happy”.

School Committee Reports/Communications ~ Attorney Rosa: Minimum Wage Recommendation.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to increase the minimum wage to \$13.75 for all school employees to reflect the state minimum wage that went into effect 01/01/21. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardillo	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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

Attorney Rosa noted that the minimum wage was actually \$13.50 not \$13.75; this figure was confirmed by both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Mayor Fiorentini noted that there needed to be a vote on reconsideration.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti for reconsideration. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardillo	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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 Rosa to increase the minimum wage to \$13.50 for all school employees to reflect the state minimum wage that went into effect 01/01/21. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

Mr. Wood announced there were no technical issues per HCTV and that public comment would resume shortly. He asked for those that signed up to restart computer and log into the meeting.

Mayor Fiorentini: Reappointment of Richard Early, Jr. to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District School Committee.

A motion was made by Mayor Fiorentini to reappoint Richard Early, Jr. to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical School District School Committee. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini commended Mr. Early's for his exemplary service. Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted Mr. Early's attendance and participation was outstanding on this board.

A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative Mr. Early is reappointed

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Public Comment (continued).

- Jeri Laubner ~ not present.
- Jessica Emia ~ not present.
- Erica Morris ~ not present.
- Patty Wilson ~ not present.
- Krystle Northrup ~ not present.
- Kayla ~ not present.
- Renee Morin ~ technical issues.
- Neil Wilkins, Staff Member at Greenleaf Academy, 58 Chadwick Street, Haverhill MA and resident of Clinton MA thanked Dr. Marotta for initiating surveillance testing this week. He suggested predetermined metrics (points of action) when transitioning between models.
- Jude Oosting, J.G. Whittier student (hybrid model) informed the Committee of the difficulties with remote learning including isolation and lack of connection with other students and the school. He felt safe during in-person learning and learned better in this model. Jude noted that the schools' safety protocols made him feel secure and thanked the staff and teachers at JG Whittier for working so hard during this time. He looked forward to the end of this crisis.

Mayor Fiorentini, Vice Chair Wood along with the members commended him for the outstanding job and applauded Jude.

- Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill MA, Consentino Civics Teacher and HEA President thanked Jude for his comments and stated these types of exchanges helped to solve problems; additionally, his teachers would be proud of how he brought his voice to the meeting. Mr. Parolisi congratulated Mr. Wood and thanked Attorney Rosa for his service. He extended appreciation to Ms. Sullivan and Mrs. Sapienza Donais for attending the Mutual Concerns meeting this past week; HEA President Parolisi noted the next meeting would be scheduled for March 6, 2021 and looked forward to working with Mr. Wood on the development of this meeting. He expressed optimism with pool testing and the antigen testing in the development of metrics to address educators, parents and students' concerns. Mr. Parolisi encouraged people to take advantage of these testing opportunities. He asked for a living wage for ESPs and an increase for Secretaries. Mr. Parolisi requested that the Committee empower the Superintendent to develop a value/needs-based budget.
- Laura Wrisely, 30 Westland Terrace, Haverhill MA, a parent of three children extended her appreciation to all teachers. She was concerned with students not being in school, but noted the lack of engagement (half of the students not participating) between students and teachers (no fault of teachers) because of the technology.

Mr. Wood asked for any further public comment. He acknowledged Renee Morin had left the meeting. There was none.

Superintendent Comments/Report ~ COVID Update.

Dr. Marotta began her presentation entitled "HPS Covid-19 Incidence and Intervention.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:b38e09d4-b72c-4a96-ab2c-7ecaefelbaad>

The Superintendent related that the pool testing video had been shared with the HPS school community. Dr. Marotta noted that pool testing provided important data for the district by test results within specific school buildings and classrooms which would extremely helpful to the Joint Corona Virus Response Team in the development of metrics for learning models. She related the test was a great tool since it was easy to administer, allowed 10 tests per test tube and cost effective (during pilot the testing is free). Superintendent Marotta also reported that the High School cooling/heating had been corrected and were working for the return to school on 2/1/21, along with adherence to the previously approved Return to School Plans. Additionally, she commented that the Remote Learning Academy would continue to be an option for the foreseeable future.

Public Comment.

Sara Jalbert, a parent was concerned with that pool testing was not effective and not a long-term solution. She stated it was a struggle with moving between learning models i.e., hybrid to remote learning and in-person learning was her preference.

Renee Morin, 6 Winston Circle, Haverhill MA, a parent of Cohort B students commented on the continuous delays in returning to in-person learning and asked why there was a staggered opening. She noted that in-person learning was not responsible for the spread of virus and was a safe environment. Ms. Morin was disappointed in the some of the School Committee's decision to allow sports and allowing teachers' children to attend school with Cohort C. She also stated concern over asynchronous learning on Wednesdays which was very difficult for her child and asked for more synchronous learning in the district.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on pool testing not being FDA approved and test results reflected in Haverhill's positivity rate, Dr. Marotta responded no pool testing had this approval at this time. Ms. Vozeolas also stated that it was a validated test, and was not FDA authorized test. She continued that if there was a positive antigen test in the pool, individual tests would be conducted and if then there was a positive result, this information would be reported to Department of Public Health and then to City Public Health Nurse Mary Connelly.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about COVID testing site(s) for staff and parents and if the appointments were scheduled exclusively online. Superintendent Marotta responded that all staff were participating in pool testing (this was staff members' access to testing).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais expressed her opinion that in-person learning during a pandemic was playing "Russian Roulette" with students/staff health, the risk being too high and there has been an extremely slow vaccine rollout.

Regarding Attorney Rosa's comment that this test was approved under emergency circumstances, Ms. Vozeolas responded that no COVID tests were FDA approved.

Dr. John Maddox, School Physician related that COVID tests/vaccines are under Emergency Authorized Use. He reported that in a conference with Gingko, the lab tests had two paths commercial (market/profit) and lab developed (scientific validity, not pursue the profit or liability protection). Dr. Maddox presented Gingko's summary information on the value and importance (validity) of the test, with exceeded the EUA authorization threshold (96% & 100%).

In relation to vaccine rollout, Mayor Fiorentini responded that teachers (essential workers), were in Phase 2 and that would be approximately late February or early March. He cautioned against changing the decision for returning to school since nothing has changed since that decision except for it being safer.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais clarified her vote for the January 19, 2021, date for returning to school was to establish a start date for the return.

Superintendent Marotta acknowledged that Haverhill had met the recent revised Time and Learning Standards released by DESE effective 01.19.21. She related it was a tribute to the Teachers' MOA and the district was very fortunate to be in the top 10% for live teaching.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello thanked the Superintendent for answering her questions in the update.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Students that are allowed to attend school in person 4 days per week during hybrid; and students that are allowed to attend school in person while the district is fully remote.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if there was capacity to have other students (front line personnel who have to work) going to school for four days per week and provided assistance to working parents.

Dr. Marotta responded there was not the capacity to add students, possibly one or two in a few classrooms in the district. She noted that learning pods were established with community partners and funded through grants. The Superintendent acknowledged students are struggling, but short of reducing social distance requirements (3 ft.), she did not have a clear answer.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked the Superintendent explore possibilities to assist students and parents in next year's budget. He recognized that there would be significant learning gaps among students.

Dr. Marotta noted there were Student Support Teams in the buildings; she was planning on having team members attend the next School Committee meeting to report on the mental health, counseling and variety of supports for students. The Superintendent commented that there was a framework for mental health.

Mayor Fiorentini made a motion for the development of a plan to accommodate front line health care workers, that allows their children to attend school in person four days per week (if requested) for the next meeting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Dr. Marotta stated there may only be 30-40 seats available in Grades K-8.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that the numbers needed to be determined before proceeding with the plan.

Ms. Sullivan stated that it was a complicated task that could not be accomplished within a few weeks. She requested parents contact the Superintendent with student information such as grade level.

Superintendent Marotta responded that a poll would be sent out early next week poll to determine the number parents interested in this option. She commented that registrations were increasing and that due to space limitations, new registrations were being put in the Remote Learning Academy.

Attorney Rosa recommended maintaining 6 feet social distancing.

Mrs. Erin MacKay, Interim Principal Tilton Lower & Upper, offered that principals were working together to accommodate parents where there were available spaces. She maintained a listing of parent requests for four (4) day weeks.

Mr. Richard Poor, Interim Principal Consentino School commented on the logistical difficulties and on-going new registrations that increased school rosters.

Mayor Fiorentini withdrew his motion, pending the survey results.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked if there were many requests for accommodations.

Mrs. MacKay responded that there were more families requesting hybrid learning from remote learning.

Mr. Poor noted the lists of requests (coming out of Remote Learning Academy) were a balancing act along with the new registrations.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with School Nurses ~ Massachusetts Nurses Association. hav111 School Nurses MOA.pdf

Mrs. Sapienza Donais briefly outlined the agreement and recommended approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with School Nurses ~ Massachusetts Nurses Association. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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

Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the Finance and Policy Subcommittees had met twice recently on the position adjustments and FY22 Budget Planning. He related that recommendations would be forthcoming at either the next meeting or in February.

Mr. Wood asked the members to email him regarding any change requests for subcommittee assignments.

New Business ~ Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20210115 totaling \$1,123,159.43. Warrant Binder 01.14.21.pdf

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20210115. Attorney Magliocchetti 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, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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

Items by Consensus ~ Approval of the following Meeting Minutes: Hybrid Regular Meeting of August 20, 2020 School Committee Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes 08.20.20.pdf; Remote Regular Meeting of December 15, 2020 School Committee Remote Special Meeting Minutes 12.15.20.pdf; and the Remote Special Meeting of December 29, 2020 School Committee Remote Special Meeting Minutes 12.29.20.pdf .

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the meeting minutes. Attorney Magliocchetti 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, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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 Ms. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting (9:02 pm). Attorney Rosa 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, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	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