



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes of August 20, 2020**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Attorney Richard Rosa, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 Remote)		

Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent were also present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Vice Chair Rosa 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."

Limit Gatherings: Under the updated gatherings order (August 7), indoor gatherings are limited to eight people per 1,000 square feet, but should not exceed 25 people in a single enclosed, indoor space. Outdoor gatherings in enclosed spaces are limited to 25 percent of the facility's maximum permitted occupancy, with a maximum of 50 people in a single enclosed outdoor space.

This meeting will be broadcast over HCTV and WHAV. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV website the following day.

Attorney Rosa stated that both Mayor Fiorentini and Ms. Sullivan could text him if they wished to speak during the meeting.

Communications and Reports.

Public Comment (In-person and Remote).

- Ms. Chelsea Gayle Daigle, Haverhill High School Senior, urged the Committee to focus and prioritize remote learning. She was concerned with the implementation of social distancing protocols and was not convinced that in-person learning was substantially more beneficial for students.
- Ms. Madison Walsh, Haverhill High School Senior concurred with Ms. Daigle and recommended remote learning for students.

There were no additional in-person or remote public comment.

Reopening 2020 Updates – Dr. Marotta & Mr. Pfifferling.

Dr. Marotta related that the survey had been closed this morning and provided the following parent survey results {final deadline 09.01.20} with schools following up with parents who had not responded to the survey:

- About 7,000 responses (some were duplicates accounting for parents changing their minds); Breakdown as follows: Elementary School = 37% remote - 63% hybrid; Middle Schools = 36% remote - 64% hybrid and HHS = 30% remote – 70% hybrid;
- Transportation Services - Elementary = 58% parent driven; 10% students would walk or ride a bike; and 32% bus service; Middle School = 48% parent driven - 36% bus service; High School = 32.5% parent driven - 42.5% bus service - 21.1% student driving and walk or bicycle 4.0%; student parking accommodations have been implemented at HHS;
- Clarification on guidelines for bus transportation – do students meet the distance requirements;
- High School Parking Spaces are sufficient;
- Schools will be calling parents to confirm student information;
- Remote Learning Staffing/Options will be next week’s work.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais comments about confusion with the survey questions, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reviewed the survey questions with the committee members.

Regarding Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello’s question on switching between models, Dr. Marotta explained that parents would have the opportunity to change at the trimester/semester breaks.

Dr. Marotta provided a slideshow of COVID-related adjustments in our schools.

Mr. Pfifferling noted that annual inspections were occurring in our schools along with HVAC systems. He emphasized the district’s dedication to making repairs. Both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent highlighted some key facilities work that had been conducted HVAC improvements, bottle filling station installation, window/screen/door repair for cross ventilation, routine cleaning of univents, classroom filters and coils, concrete/masonry, fencing and gate repair, painting, traffic pattern improvements, proper PPE, HHS pool roof repair, gym floors, fire alarm suppression system, and ongoing structural work at Burnham School. Dr. Marotta commented on the extensive work that was being conducted throughout the school district and additionally stated that there would be distribution of Chrome Books to the students and teachers across the district utilizing a \$336K grant for technology.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted extensive work was being conducted to ensure at least one window in each classroom could be opened to ensure proper air flow. He related that the goal was to exceed the requirements.

Superintendent Marotta noted that there were high standards that needed to be met for certification by outside consultants and the district was working hard to meet those specifications.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged the importance of cross ventilation in classrooms and publicizing the certification in the buildings.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was pleased with the progress and asked about air purifiers in classrooms.

Dr. Marotta answered that air purifiers were not needed when windows are open, however, the consultant would provide guidance on the type of purifiers that would be needed when there are colder temperatures.

Attorney Rosa requested that the facilities document be revised to provide additional documentation on the updates.

Superintendent Marotta commented on sports and stated that there would be a tiered implementation process. She noted that there was no specific direction on sports participation for students in full remote learning; the Superintendent acknowledged that it was a local decision, since there had been no guidance from State.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello to allow students in full remote learning to participate in sports and after school activities. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti would support the motion, but requested that Athletic Director Tom O'Brien attend a future meeting to discuss the Athletic Department in a COVID world along with the implementation of safety protocols.

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

Reopening 2020 – Members.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello: Moody School Reopening.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello acknowledged her questions had been answered regarding this agenda item prior to tonight's meeting.

Dr. Marotta introduced Mrs. Kristi-Lynn Craig, Early Childhood Director provided information on the Moody School and the preparations for school reopening. She related that the school looked great with painting completed, air conditioners cleaned, and fire department inspections concluded. Mrs. Craig acknowledged her pride in the school and invited the members to visit anytime in the future. She indicated that a hybrid model for 3–4-year-olds was a challenge but times were being adjusted to include longer days to allow for completion of student services. Director Craig noted that plans were still being finalized for the Remote Academy and the Wednesday play groups.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Grades K-2 Reopening.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented that she had received many questions on Remote Learning for early grade students.

Director of Remote Learning ~ Grades K-8, Jennifer Rubera, related that the curriculum was identical to the hybrid model, the difference was in how instruction was delivered to the students in the remote setting and the modifications that needed to be implemented such as more interactive learning for the younger students.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reviewed the questions with Mrs. Rubera and was provided with thorough answers. Mrs. Rubera noted that we would do our best.

Superintendent Marotta commented that the last spring's lessons would be posted on the website for parents to view and determine if this model would be an option for their child. She did not want to over promise parents and

emphasized that school is fundamentally changing, with many hurdles. Dr. Marotta related that these challenges would be met with grace and grit.

In response to Mr. Wood's question (from a student) on switching from hybrid to remote learning, Dr. Marotta replied that changes would be made at natural breaks i.e., terms or trimesters.

Regarding Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello inquiry on sanitizing learning materials, Superintendent Marotta answered that there would be sanitizing along with a move to individual items for students.

Dr. Marotta offered in relation to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on procedures for COVID, that there were detailed protocols and procedures to follow from the State.

Attorney Magliocchetti: A discussion about testing protocols and testing availability for staff and students.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended a clean-up of the district's website to provide clearer information on COVID. He asked for an update on testing availability.

Dr. Marotta stated a RFR for testing had been sent out to several medical facilities to assist the district in this effort.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that there were State Standards regarding COVID diagnosis and the City would be adopted these standards and guidelines. He urged teachers to get voluntary testing (at no cost) at these locations: Lawrence General Hospital, AMC Urgent Care in Methuen and Lafayette Square CVS. The Mayor related that the City was lobbying for having testing in Haverhill.

Attorney Rosa asked when the optimum time would be for staff to be tested. Mayor Fiorentini responded that closer to the opening of school, however, the test results were just a "moment in time".

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked for clarification on who would be tested, i.e., children. Superintendent Marotta answered that this information would be obtained and posted on our website.

Attorney Magliocchetti: A discussion about the availability of PPE (how much do we have and how much is back ordered), and how it will be made available to the staff in each school.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that this topic had been discussed on a regular basis at the Finance Subcommittee meetings and he had requested Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling prepare a PPE listing for the Committee.

Assistant Pfifferling clarified information contained in the listing document. He indicated the district was in a good position to start the school year.

Attorney Magliocchetti: A discussion about classroom models for the reopening. Can an enclave model like the one used in Denmark work in Haverhill?

Attorney Magliocchetti asked the Superintendent to describe the how the classroom will look with the opening of school. Dr. Marotta offered there would be student pods with the teachers moving between student pods. Additionally, she noted that students would have designated desks and materials. The Superintendent related tents had been ordered to provide outdoor space for students.

Attorney Magliocchetti had asked High School Principal Glen Burns about the changes to the high school educational setting for the school opening and was convinced that there were proper adjustments at the school. He asked Dr. Marotta to provide additional details.

Superintendent Marotta related that school capacity would be between 600-700 students in the building on any given day as opposed to the 1800 student enrollment for last year. She further explained that there would be staggered class ending times, mask breaks into each class and cohorts in designated areas.

Dr. Marotta noted that Mr. Burns would be at the next meeting.

Comments from other Members.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on teachers' work environment, Dr. Marotta answered that for the most part, the vision is to have teachers in the classroom (team teaching) to utilize the technology and teaching resources. She acknowledged individual circumstances of employees and Human Resources would be handling those cases. Dr. Marotta continued by noting the safety protocols (i.e., wearing of masks and limiting cohort movement/exposure) and the offering of professional development on hybrid learning for staff.

Ms. Sullivan asked for options to facilitate staff and students being outside which is one of the hallmarks of the Danish Study. Superintendent Marotta replied more consideration would be to options for outside learning activities.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was grateful for Mrs. Rubera's presentation on remote learning and with professional development teachers would excel with this model. She recommended remote learning instead of the hybrid model.

Mayor Fiorentini did not believe that students thrived in a remote learning model according to various studies. He emphasized increased depression and suicide rates. He strongly encouraged the return slowly to students to the classroom.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: 1966 scholarships (established and to be established).

Mrs. Sapienza announced that the Class of 1966 wanted to start a new scholarship and needed to have a point person from the district assist them; she noted that there was no policy on this matter.

Dr. Marotta suggested contacting Mrs. Sandra McArthur from the High School to help in establishing the scholarship and indicated that the policy could be developed by the Policy Subcommittee (if they chose to undertake this endeavor).

In relation to high school plaques, Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted the names had not been added for several years (since early 2000's) to honor recipients of scholarships. Dr. Marotta answered that this would be taken care at the beginning of the school year.

Attorney Magliocchetti related his law firm had worked on establishing scholarships through a 501 c 3 and offered to donate his time to help this group. Mrs. Sapienza Donais thanked him and would contact the Class of 1966.

New Business.

