



**Haverhill School Committee  
Remote Special Meeting Minutes of July 30, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Mayor James Fiorentini, Chairperson and he requested a roll call of the members:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present	Ms. Sullivan	Absent
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.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill MA, HEA President spoke against returning to the classroom too quickly without investment in infrastructure improvements and considerations based on public safety benchmarks and latest peer review/data. He noted the process for bargaining over working and learning conditions with the School Committee for returning to the classroom. Mr. Parolisi questioned why the School Committee continued to meet remotely. He concluded by stating schools should begin remotely with a gradual return to in-person learning.

Mayor Fiorentini recommended returning to in-person School Committee meetings in the Council Chambers.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to return to in-person School Committee meetings in the Council Chambers (if possible) by the next meeting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini confirmed that plexiglass had been installed in the Chambers.

A roll call vote was held with the following results:

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Gabriela Vargas.

Ms. Vargas indicated the Common App opened August 1<sup>st</sup> and recommended signing up for SAT's. She ended with please stay healthy and safe.

Presentation of DESE Mandated Preliminary 3 Model Reopening Draft Plan 2020 (submitted to DESE for review with projected finalized comprehensive plan by August 10, 2020)– Dr. Marotta.  
[DRAFT-DESE-Mandated-Preliminary3-Model-Reopening-Plan-2020.pdf](#)

Dr. Marotta stated that school calendar will be updated to reflect 10 day of professional development as mandated by DESE and the revised calendar will be voted on later in the meeting.

She outlined the following schedule:

- 7/30 (tonight) Draft Plan Overview
- 7/31 Draft Submission to DESE
- 8/3 - 8/6 Await DESE Review and Edit as Required
- 8/6 (next Thursday) ADD SC Meeting for Public Comment on Plans
- 8/10 ADD SC Meeting for Plan Approval
- 8/10 Submit to DESE following approval

Superintendent Marotta presented the planning process for each of the plans: in-person, full remote (two (2) models ~ commitment of one semester and then the second model would be if there were future classroom or school closures), a hybrid (Monday-Tuesday, & Thursday-Friday, Remote Wednesdays) learning models along with the benefits and implications. The Superintendent explained that Moody Preschool would have a Hybrid Model with five cohorts assigned depending on IEP and level of need) with extend half-day or full day, along with offering playgroup opportunities. Dr. Marotta noted that in-person learning would be prioritized for high needs students, however, the goal was to make sure all students were learning and growing. She commented that there was a pilot of the Remote Learning Academy this summer for all HPS students online which was staffed with 20 of our best and brightest remote learning superstars. Superintendent Marotta announced the selection of Jennifer Rubera as the Remote Academy Director and noted that this initiative would benefit from Jennifer's expertise. She indicated that conversations had begun with our local non-profit partner agencies to move beyond child care into educational supports and tutoring. Superintendent Marotta thanked everyone (community) for their patience and support and stating that by working together we can assure all students are safe and educated.

Discussion of DESE Mandated Preliminary 3 Model Reopening Draft Plan 2020 - Members.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked how learning would be remote learning vs. in-person learning would be assessed this school year.

Dr. Marotta responded there was a team headed by Bonnie Antkowiak currently working on this particular topic. She related that the remote learning would be more structured and consistent this upcoming school year along with conversations with HEA and input from DESE.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked questions on lunch procedures and school choice students. Dr. Marotta replied that details are being worked out on the implementation of the plans. She related that there are approximately 40 school choice students in Grades K-8 and per the law they are allowed to finish their education in Haverhill (graduation).

Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged the extensive work of Dr. Marotta and her team along with the complexity of the plans and appreciated the team's efforts. He did not recommend in-person learning at the beginning of the school year. Attorney Magliocchetti noted that infrastructure work would need to be completed as referenced by Mr. Parolisi. He was concerned with the mental health of particularly teenage students since school was a huge part of their social world.

Attorney Rosa appreciated the several plans. He asked about the component of the plan to "learn at your own discretion" which seemed to contradict structured learning. Dr. Marotta commented that there needed to be flexibility to accommodate working parents and high school students who logged in to the system in the evenings. Attorney Rosa appreciated the recording of lessons to assist parents.

In regards to transportation, Attorney Rosa asked the Superintendent if the district had reached out to Safe Routes to provide assistance since many more students may be walking to school. Dr. Marotta responded in the affirmative and related that both Safe Routes (walking school bus option) and the Haverhill Police Department had been consulted on ensuring safety.

Mr. Wood expressed his disappointment in the late guidance and response of Massachusetts State Officials. He highlighted that remote learning did not work for economically disadvantaged children and was concerned that a generation of children would be "left behind". Mr. Wood asked that supports be incorporated into the plans to assist economically disadvantaged children.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais thanked the Superintendent for the well thought out report and acknowledged that it was a time-consuming endeavor. She did not recommend returning to in-person learning, it was a life and death situation. Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced an Amesbury 9-minute video that was on Facebook showing teaching in a COVID world with 6-feet social distancing and masks.

Ms. Sullivan thanked her colleagues for their understanding when she had difficulties with the link to the meeting. She thanked the Superintendent and staff members for their work and acknowledged this was a once in 100 years event. Ms. Sullivan offered a personal account with her almost distraught three-year old granddaughter when asking why she cannot visit her grandmother's house. She noted it was a steep learning curve and our best efforts were needed at this difficult time.

Mayor Fiorentini offered his comments on reopening:

- Provide a first class in-person education as soon as safely possible;
- Careful phased-in approach;
- Set date to resume in-person learning i.e., November 1<sup>st</sup> re-evaluate date on October 15<sup>th</sup> prior to starting in-person);
- Start with Hybrid Model;
- Set medical standards from the State;
- Remote Learning, despite a heroic effort by our teachers did not work for everyone;
- Most severe impact was with the neediest children;
- State failed with guidance and lack of resources making it almost impossible to implement in-person learning;
- Massachusetts has lowest infection rates in country;

- The Mayor summarized by stating start school with a hybrid learning model followed by a careful phased-in approach to in-person learning, with remote options for parents. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello appreciated her colleagues' comments and acknowledged the challenges in ensuring the health and safety of the children.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to submit the three (3) plans as presented by the Superintendent. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results:

7 members voted in the affirmative	Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative	
0 members abstained	
0 members absent	

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted that at the direction of the School Committee a draft Director of Facilities Job Description was submitted for consideration and if approved would be posted within a few days.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Director of Facilities Job Description [../Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Director of Facilities 2020-2021 DRAFT.pdf](#) with the revision as suggested by Mrs. Sapienza Donais. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion.

Superintendent Marotta commented that one of the changes was having the custodians directly report to the Facilities Director since there are significant health and sanitation issues and this modification would provide a safer school environment. In response to Mr. Wood's question on reporting authority, Dr.

Marotta clarified the Director would hire/fire employees and the Principal would be responsible for day-to-day duties.

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	Present		

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

[Updated School Calendar 2020-2021 ../../Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Updated HPS 2020-2021 Student Calendar Approved 07.30.20.pdf](#)– Dr. Marotta.

Mayor Fiorentini asked if there could be any accommodation regarding the 10 professional days being held at different times in the school year. Dr. Marotta answered according to Commissioner Riley there needed to be ten days prior to school opening.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Updated School Calendar 2020-2021. Attorney Magliocchetti 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	Present		

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 Mr. Wood for **suspension of the rules** to hear a report on funding from Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling. 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	Present		

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Mr. Pfifferling reported the district had received its FY21 Chapter 70 funding amount \$63.3m; this amount was an additional \$4.99m from FY20 (\$58.3m). He thanked the Committee on behalf of himself and Dr. Marotta for supporting their recommendations and would be forthcoming with recommendations for the next meeting. The Assistant Superintendent announced the receipt of \$1.89m in ESSER funds; he noted that \$127,393.98 had been designated to Bradford Christian Academy and Sacred Hearts School. He reported that funding to private schools was no longer a requirement.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to allocate \$127,393.98 out of the ESSER funds to the private schools. 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	Present		

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Regarding air quality issues, Mr. Pfifferling reported that in late June, the School Committee had reallocated \$157,000 for HVAC work at six (6) of our neediest schools. He related that work had commenced with 1) review of uninvents; 2) roof top units; and 3) major parts replacement. The Assistant Superintendent additionally indicated that the custodial/maintenance staff along with an outside contract, had done an assessment of windows throughout the district and had identified those that did not open and those that needed screens resulting in the ordering of parts. He stated that Dr. Marotta had very early identified air quality issues as a top priority for reopening schools.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about the use of air conditioning.

In response to Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello's questions on HVAC, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling stated the most important component was ventilation.

Policy Subcommittee Recommendations: Proposed District Residency Policy and Face Covering – Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended the adoption of these two policies that had been discussed and revised at several Policy Subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Wood endorsed the policy. He asked if the hotline could finally be implemented since it had not been followed through on residency enforcement during past administrations.

Dr. Marotta noted the hotline could be set up and related there had been increased enforcement of the policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the District Residency Policy [../../Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Residency Policy with proposed amendments.pdf](#). Attorney Magliocchetti 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	Present		

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 Face Covering Policy [Face Covering Policy ../../Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Face Covering Policy 2020 MM final draft.pdf](#). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti read the policy: All staff and students will be required to wear a clean mask. If a student or staff member is unable to wear a mask due to a disability an IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan must be in place. Face shields may be an option for those with medical, behavioral, or other challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings. Transparent masks may be the best option for both teachers and students in classes for deaf and hard of hearing students. Masks will be supplied by the staff member/parent or guardian. Disposable masks will be available at the schools for those that forget, lose or break a mask. Breaks from wearing masks will be scheduled throughout the day when social distancing allows.

Approval of Warrant Number EV20200807 totaling \$687,957.17 [../../Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/EV20200807 School Committee Reports.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrant. 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 Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (9:26 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held with the following results.

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			