



**APPROVED**

**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Remote Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021**

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mr. Wood, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and requested a roll call of the members.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present	Attorney Rosa	Present
Ms. Sullivan	Present	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present	Mr. Wood, 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.

Mr. Wood, 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.

**Public Comment.**

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill MA, HEA President offered the following remarks:

- In reference to COVID, the data is trending lower;
- Remote learning following the holidays along with pool testing was very beneficial and the key to keeping schools open for learning;
- Pool testing is a key factor in identifying non-symptomatic individuals;
- Disappointed in the delay in vaccinations for "all educators" = all employee;
- Teachers' Unions of MA working with MA Professional Firefighters' Association and AFL-CIO to propose own vaccination plan which can be found on the HEA's Facebook page ~ he encouraged people to send a letter to Governor Baker; facilitator along with these groups are available to provide vaccinations;
- Dr. Marotta and her team had a vaccination plan that was stymied by Governor's reclassification;
- Reiterated support for a living wage for ESP's along with a modest wage increase for secretaries Unit ~ living wage is one job at \$34,000.

Ms. Hillary Collins-Oosting, 110 Brockton Avenue, Haverhill MA constituent, parent of a JG Whittier student, spouse of a North Reading HS teacher, HR Consultant in Healthcare made the following comments in addition to an email sent to the Committee and Superintendent [Hillary Collins-Oosting Email 02.11.21.pdf](#)

- Misalignment of School Committee's decision-making and the HEA position at odds with data;
- Address in a more strategic manner the mental health crisis for youth and seriousness of crisis with youth depression and suicide
- In-person learning can happen without vaccinations;
- Difference between children who have resources and those children who do not;
- CDC indicates schools can reopen when protocols are enforced;
- Referenced her email with five key points:

- 1) Commitment to not delay in-person school after February break.
- 2) Commitment to not delay in-person school for the remainder of the year.
- 3) Commitment to expand in-person to four days/week as soon as possible.
- 4) Commitment to enforce a return date for full in-person learning as other districts and states have done, in accordance with vaccine eligibility for teachers.
- 5) Commitment to enforcing expectations that, if teachers and staff decline the vaccine by choice, they will still be required to report to in-person teaching.

Mayor Fiorentini assumed chairing the meeting.

#### **Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas.**

Ms. Vargas provided an update on Haverhill High School activities including:

- Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors recommendations are being made for next year's classes also try something different and join clubs;
- For Juniors there will be a 2.28.21 College Fair will be held;
- Sports teams are doing amazing;
- Senior Pictures submit pictures including school career and baby photos;
- With the new term starting it is a fresh start to stay on top of your grades and your mental health;
- Happy Valentine's Day – spread some love, compassion, laughter, cheer and everyone have a great vacation since it has been a hard school year.

#### **Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

Superintendent Marotta introduced Ms. Jami Dion, Supervisor of Guidance and Counseling Services and Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Support to share information on partnerships within the community on social emotional learning. They collaboratively presented the following PowerPoint presentation: [SEL Supports.pdf](#) Mrs. Connolly acknowledged the work of Suzette DiTonno in collaboration with Lesley University.

Attorney Rosa expressed gratitude for the excellent presentation and the staff involved in this important work. He related that the increase in student adjustment counselors had been a priority of both Attorney Magliocchetti and Mr. Wood.

Dr. Marotta offered that not every student needed a fully accredited SAC and some individuals had been hired at a lower rate of pay to fill out mental health supports.

In response to the implementation of e-referral system, Ms. Dion related that since October 2020 there had been 89 referrals.

Attorney Rosa was pleased with teachers taking advantage of LIFTS Program and tuition reimbursement. Mrs. Connolly indicated that Lesley University had kept the cost down for these courses.

Attorney Magliocchetti cared very deeply about this issue and complemented the teachers on endorsing and collaborating on these programs. He asked if there were any studies regarding social activation for students during and post COVID. Attorney Magliocchetti looked forward to further updates on this matter.

Mrs. Connolly responded that the district was taking the lead from teachers and was grateful for their contributions.

Regarding Attorney Magliocchetti's question on grant application and funding, Mrs. Dion stated that the district had received a \$93,500 grant and continued to submit grant applications.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged Ms. Vargas.

Ms. Vargas questioned how staff and students could access services.

Mrs. Connolly noted that communication was key and regular meetings with school adjustment counselors along with staff notices were implemented.

Ms. Dion indicated that Ms. Vargas could be of assistance and she would be speaking with her to discuss some options.

#### Pool Testing.

Superintendent Marotta noted that 100 pools continued in the district and were being conducted each week, especially among asymptomatic individuals. She asked for the Committee's opinion/advice on mandated pool testing for Winter II/Spring Sports athletic teams as part of the "Stop the Spread" efforts.

Ms. Sullivan praised the JCVRT and Dr. Marotta's leadership on the experimental pool testing. She commented that pool testing had made a real impact on safety in schools and was an amazing tool.

Mayor Fiorentini was supportive of pool testing and was a great idea in terms of sports.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if Dr. Marotta was asking for a motion. The Superintendent responded that if it was for mandatory testing, a motion would be needed from the School Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to make pool testing mandatory for sports teams. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked if there was any down-side or obstacles to the pool testing.

Dr. Marotta related that with Binex testing it allowed for rapid testing of any positive pools. Ms. Vozeolas indicated that pools that went out today, the results would be received on Saturday and follow-up testing of positive pools held on Tuesday at Consentino School. The Superintendent offered that there was free and abundant Binex testing.

A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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

#### COVID Update.

Dr. Marotta offered there was anticipation for the vaccinations to begin with 85% teachers responding that they would getting the vaccine.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for a plan to be developed by the Superintendent to return students for full-time in-person learning by April 1, 2021.

Attorney Magliocchetti clarified that this was a non-binding vote and would need to be approved by the Committee.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented it was too early.

Mayor Fiorentini stated incredible damage was being done to students.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted that City Hall was closed to the public.

The Mayor responded that City Hall would be reopening soon prior to April 1, 2021.

Ms. Sullivan related there should be a plan. Mr. Wood agreed with the plan development with the goal of returning students to the classroom by giving them the best education.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to have the Superintendent to draw up plan for full-time in person learning by April 1, 2021. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

1 member voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

It was noted that there was a problem with the HCTV broadcast of the meeting.

Superintendent Marotta asked if the plan could include a reduction in the 6 feet social distance. Mayor Fiorentini responded that the plan could include the reducing in social distancing but the plan needed to be approved by the School Committee.

#### Attorney Magliocchetti: Vaccine Update.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if there was any new information.

Mayor Fiorentini recommended more local authority in vaccine distribution since the State was directing them to Massachusetts Distribution Sites.

Mayor Fiorentini clarified that WHAV was broadcasting and that HCTV.

Dr. Marotta offered the MTA and others were part of an advocacy movement.

### **School Committee Reports/Communications.**

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello and Attorney Rosa: Memorandum of Agreement with the School Nurses – Massachusetts Nurses Association [HPS Nurses MOA 2.22.2021 - 3.26.2021 FINAL.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa reported that a MOA had been developed with school nurses for pool testing; this agreement was being extended to March 26, 2021 with additional nurse participation. He noted that CNAs were being hired to assist in this testing.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello asked for an update on CNA hiring.

The Superintendent indicated a workforce consisting of LPN and CNA was being assembled to release nurses from the pool testing effort with the return of students to in-person learning.

Ms. Vozeolas noted that hiring of other staffing might allow for more flexible scheduling.

In relation to the cost of the proposal, Attorney Rosa answered \$3,400.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the School Nurses – Massachusetts Nurses Association. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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

**Subcommittee Reports** ~ There were no reports.

### **Old Business.**

A discussion of proposed recommendation to City Council as included in the agenda material (tabled 01.28.21).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to remove the proposed recommendation to City Council [Resolved Proposed City Council Document.pdf](#) as included in the agenda material from the table. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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

Mr. Parolisi requested to speak on this issue. He thanked the Committee for its resolution of a recent grievance and its further support for the proposal.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Proposed City Council Document. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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 the Superintendent to provide the documentation needed for the City Council.

#### **New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Numbers EV20210212 & EV20210212B in the amount of \$1,379,583.93 Warrant EV20210212 & EV20210212B.pdf as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Numbers EV20210212 & EV20210212B in the amount of \$1,379,583.93. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20210212A in the amount of \$12,939.48 Warrant EV20210212A.pdf as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20210212A in the amount of \$12,939.48. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes  
 0 members voted in the negative  
 1 member abstained  
 0 members absent

#### **Items by Consensus.**

Approval of the Remote Meeting Minutes: Remote Regular Meeting of January 28, 2021 School Committee Remote Meeting Minutes 01.28.21 Final & Approved.pdf.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Remote Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2021. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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 Mr. Wood to go into executive session (8:21 pm) for the purpose of discussing negotiations strategy and to review a proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the Transportation Unit Employees (SEIU). The Committee will reconvene in open session to approve any actions taken in executive session. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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 Ms. Sullivan to return to open session (8:51 pm). Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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 Ms. Sullivan to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the SEIU 888 Haverhill Transportation Group [file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/HPSTransportationGroupMOA2.4.21.pdf](file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My%20Drive/HPSTransportationGroupMOA2.4.21.pdf). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, 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 Ms. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting (8:52 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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