



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021**

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and requested a roll call of the members.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Absent	Attorney Rosa	Present In person
Ms. Sullivan	Present Remote	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present In person
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present In person	Mr. Wood, 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.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment.**

- Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill MA, HEA President applauded the vaccine efforts by the Superintendent and her team, opposed the concessions to an unelected individual regarding the implementation of a disastrous plan and finished with stating that he had been silenced by the School Committee (ESP living wage) by the enforcement of a rule that was implemented for a "crackpot";
- Ms. Eglatina Toska 30 Garrison Avenue, Haverhill, spoke in favor of a living wage;
- Mr. Ben Flagg, 151 Woodburn Avenue, Methuen, MA, TEACH ESP advocated strongly for a living wage;
- Ms. Kristen Segan, 175 Crosby Street, Haverhill, MA, ESP, criticized the School Committee for not paying a living wage and acknowledged the many jobs this employee group along with being the backbone of the HPS;
- Ms. Denise Fisher, 39 Adele Avenue, Haverhill, MA, Teacher, spoke about the assets of the ESP and advocated for a wage increase;
- Mrs. Maureen Zuber, 84 Agawam Avenue, Haverhill, MA 01830, ESP Representative hold a sign "fair contract now" and noted the School Committee's support of a living wage in November and the membership qualifying for public assistance;
- Ms. Lynn Sullivan, 248 Lovers Lane, Haverhill, MA, ESP and member of contract negotiating team and commented that each time the ESPs are told the Committee would "find the money" and asked for a living wage;
- Mrs. Patricia Shaw, 114 Chestnut Street, Haverhill MA spoke about the fight for a living wage over many years;
- Ms. Deborah Dyer, 60 Hamilton Avenue, Haverhill, MA, spoke in support of Foreign Exchange students at HHS;

- Ms. Bronwyn Crocker, 80 Brandy Brow Road, Haverhill, MA parent and disability advocate offered comments in support of ESPs who educationally supported the disability community in many ways and recommended funding for a living wage; additionally, asked the Committee to request a MCAS waiver;
- Ms. Bree Deschesne, TEACH ESP, related her love of the job and asked the Committee to provide a living wage;
- Mr. Barry Davis, 198 Mammoth Road, Lowell, MA, elected ESP Membership Chair, asked the School Committee to stand up against Commissioner Riley's decision and acknowledged his sadness and concern for the health and safety of colleagues; he read a letter from a fellow staff member who shared her child's educational experience;
- Ms. Alyson Dawkins, 1078 Broadway, Haverhill, MA, ESP, noting the unfairness of not receiving a living wage.

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

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

- Support for ESPs;
- FASFA on 3/25/21;
- Site Council Openings;
- Seniors submit pictures on Instagram Haverhill21Seniors;
- Merrimack Valley Conference Teams are doing really well in Swimming, Basketball and Gymnastics;
- Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors should register for next year's classes.

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

##### HHS Exchange Students.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Foreign Exchange Students at Haverhill High School with a limit of 12. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

##### School Choice.

Superintendent Marotta reported that a vote needed to be taken before June 1<sup>st</sup> each year regarding School Choice and did not know if this was the correct time to add students to the district.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to table School Choice. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested:

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

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

Mayor Fiorentini: HVAC Update by Mr. Stephen Dorrance, Director of Facilities.

Mr. Dorrance provided report of the HVAC Systems and the work that had been completed within the district. His summary included the following along with Committee questions and comments:

- Millions of dollars of work had been completed and were still needed on the systems;
- All the systemic issues had been resolved;
- Outside vendors had been reduced to two firms;
- Set of existing conditions in regards to heating, ventilation and air conditioning;
- Expertise in root cause analysis;
- Building Management Systems were out of date, particularly at the high school and were controlled by computer systems;
- Specific testing was done to determine whether there was a mechanical or technology issue;
- Whittier, St. James and Moody had the most challenges in terms of nomadic controls (air from compressors);
- Pentucket Lake flood due to damper not closing;
- A challenge with the 40 drives needing to be replaced in the district, testing is being conducted;
- the heating and ventilation systems were operational in our schools (In response to Mayor Fiorentini's question on HVAC systems);
- The biggest challenges will be at the high school and the four "cookie cutter" schools (Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello);
- No obstacle in terms of HVAC to students returning to classes (Mayor Fiorentini);
- HVAC Expert has been conducting testing and the facilities staff has restricted access to the systems (Attorney Magliocchetti's question);
- In reference to the AC systems, Mr. Dorrance was concerned with major components not working and referenced the BMS issues at our schools (Attorney Magliocchetti);
- AC systems should be working correctly (Attorney Magliocchetti).

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling announced the receipt of testing report.

Attorney Rosa commented the Accelerated Repair Program would be a future agenda item.

Mayor Fiorentini and the Committee thanked Mr. Dorrance for his report.

High School Heath Care Program.

Superintendent Marotta reported that students had received their vaccinations and wanted to return to being CNAs at the Hannah Duston Nursing Facility.

Ms. Victoria Kelly, CTE Curriculum Supervisor explained that the students and teachers had been vaccinated as part of health care workers' vaccination program.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve returning the CNAs to Hannah Duston Nursing Facility. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

#### CARES Act.

Mr. Pfifferling noted that a one-page update had been distributed this evening.

<file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/HPS Federal and State COVID Funds 03.11.21.pdf>.

Mayor Fiorentini announced that since Mrs. Sapienza Donais had requested this report and was not present at tonight's meeting, the report would be placed on file.

#### Food Service Update.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling offered an update on the impact of the pandemic on the food service program. He shared that before the pandemic, food service had a \$800,000 balance and by the conclusion of the fiscal year, the balance was \$339,000. Mr. Pfifferling confirmed that as of 3/1/21 the balance was \$180,000. Mr. Pfifferling noted that the account could not have a deficit at end of fiscal year, the balance in the account was severely impacted by the pandemic and there was a possibility of a \$200,000 deficit.

Mayor Fiorentini related that there were no staff layoffs during the pandemic.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's inquiry on any actions that needed to be taken this evening, Mr. Pfifferling replied that no action was needed tonight.

#### Full Reopening Plan.

Mayor Fiorentini announced that Haverhill was no longer in the red relative to COVID cases.

Superintendent Marotta noted that vaccines would be offered to all school department employees within the next two weeks.

Dr. Marotta presented the Latest Guidance: Reopening Schools During Pandemic

<file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Latest Guidance Reopening Schools During Pandemic.pdf> which included the following topics:

- Current HPS COVID-19 Dashboard
- HPS Vaccination
- DESE Return to In-Person Learning Expectations
- HPS Proposed Return to In-Person Learning Schedule
- DESE Guidance on Reopening Schools
- Remote Learning Academy
- What Does Return to Full In-Person Learning Mean for HPS
- DESE Guidance on Transportation
- DESE Guidance on Lunches or Unmasked Times
- COVID-19 Surveillance Testing, Quarantines, & Attendance
- Next Steps for HPS Return to Full In-Person Learning (surveys are out for K-8 parents confirming learning model)

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about the logistics of reopening.

Dr. Marotta responded that our buildings had been open and students were accustomed to one-way corridors and different entrances/exits, however, there will more students in the buildings. She noted there were challenges, specifically the changes required to accommodate the number of students. The

Superintendent emphasized the commitment to a specific learning model. Dr. Marotta noted that to continue with Remote Learning Academy, there would need to be classified as a tutoring environment.

Mayor Fiorentini supported the plan and would compromise on some aspects of the proposal. He emphasized the mental health dangers for students being out of school. The Mayor urged parents to send their children back to school.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello questioned the rationale for returning younger children to school before the middle school students.

Mr. Wood stated support for the plan and was concerned with the high school return.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to have the Superintendent and the administrative team develop a plan to return high school students as soon as possible with a plan presented at the March 25, 2021, School Committee meeting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Dr. Marotta noted that the postponement was due to guidance on social distancing (6 feet or 3 feet) and that older students transmitted the virus similar to adults.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended getting high school students back to classes as soon as possible, especially for Seniors. He supported the continuation of the Remote Learning Academy (RLA) since it served a critical need.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello agreed with the continuance of the RLA.

Mayor Fiorentini recognized Ms. Vargas.

Ms. Vargas asked for what supports would be put in place to support students returning to the classroom. She commented that mental health concerns had been spotlighted during the pandemic but were exclusive of the it.

A roll call vote was requested:

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

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Superintendent's Reopening Plan. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained  
0 members absent

FY21 & FY22 Budgets. ~ Dr. Marotta asked to postpone this item to the next meeting.

**School Committee Reports/Communications.**

Ms. Sullivan: February Vacation Academy.

Ms. Sullivan commented that the vacation academy had been very successful in February. She acknowledged Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Support.

Mrs. Connolly reported on the February Vacation Academy as highlighted in the newsletter [https://haverhillps-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/dconnolly\\_haverhill-ps\\_org/EbuP3uctciRLun7y16ScqHsBClygPHESjZRt-6FO7I-pfg?e=gdcnnS](https://haverhillps-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/dconnolly_haverhill-ps_org/EbuP3uctciRLun7y16ScqHsBClygPHESjZRt-6FO7I-pfg?e=gdcnnS). She acknowledged the contributions of HPS partners (YMCA, YWCA & Boys and Girls Club). Mrs. Connolly reported that 170+ students and 11 HPS teachers participated in the February Vacation Academy.

Attorney Rosa: iReady Benchmark Assessment.

He introduced Mrs. Bonnie Antkowiak, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leading.

Mrs. Antkowiak presented the iReady Benchmark Assessment Report <file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Data Presentation 3 8.pdf>.

Ms. Kate Lally, Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor continued the presentation by discussing the Coaches' impact.

Mr. Kevin Higginbottom, STEM Curriculum Supervisor provided an overview of the Professional Development Sessions.

Attorney Rosa: HPS Enrollment and Chapter 70 HPS Enrollment – FY22 Chapter 70 .pdf

Attorney Rosa related that the Governor's Budget would use October, 2020 enrollment numbers and the HPS enrollment had decreased by 264 students (pandemic-related). He was concerned with the financial loss (\$2m) when students returned to the district. Attorney Rosa had drafted a letter and asked if anyone else would like to add their names to the letter.

Mr. Wood reiterated the significant concern with the loss of this amount of funds. He was disappointed in the use of the October 2020 enrollment numbers and its impact on our FY22 budget.

Attorney Rosa highlighted the decline was in kindergarten enrollment (one-third) due to the pandemic.

Mayor Fiorentini, Mr. Wood and Attorney Rosa: Superintendent's Contract.

Attorney Rosa related the financial terms had been agreed to in the contract, but language issues needed to be finalized before a final contract could be presented to the members. He asked to table this matter.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to table the Superintendent's Contract. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

**Subcommittee Reports.** No reports at this time.

### Old Business.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Vaccine Update.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if there were left over appointments.

Mayor Fiorentini responded that there was a high demand and not enough vaccine doses He acknowledged the efforts underway to distribute the vaccines.

Attorney Magliocchetti questioned how people without computer access could get a vaccine appointment.

Mayor Fiorentini responded the vaccine number was 978-374-2390 or 3-1-1 (during work hours) or sign up at [www.haverhillrec.com](http://www.haverhillrec.com)

### New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Numbers EV20210312 & EV20210312B in the amount of \$1,301,157.22 WARRANT Binder 03.11.21.pdf as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrants. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

### Items by Consensus.

The Superintendent recommended approval of the Remote Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2021 Updated 03.09.21 School Committee Remote Regular Meeting Minutes 02.25.21.pdf.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Remote Regular Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2021.

Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

6 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 (9:42 pm) to discuss negotiating strategy with the Secretaries' Unit of the Haverhill Education Association and Impact Bargaining with the HEA as to Full In-Person Instruction. The Committee will reconvene in open session to approve any actions taken in executive session. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

0 members absent