



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 25, 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	Present In person	Attorney Rosa	Present In person
Ms. Sullivan	Present In person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present Remote
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. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill MA stated that his rights were violated at the last meeting and complained about being removed from the meeting. He also spoke about an incident at Lafayette Square and then left the meeting.
- Ms. Katrina Duggan, a member of the ESP Unit (HHS Sped Department) spoke as part of the ESP Living Wage Campaign and the crucial role of these employees;
- Ms. Debra Garvey, 13 Parsonage Hill Road, Haverhill, MA, and ESP, thanked Dr. Marotta and Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello for reading her email. She stated her support for fellow ESPs and advised the Committee to do the "right thing".
- Ms. Charlene Richard, 24 Crystal Street, Haverhill, MA, an 18-year Technology ESP commented that having an impact on a student's educational life was a rewarding, priceless experience and asked for a living wage.
- Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill, MA celebrated the \$55m in federal stimulus money (\$17m to the schools) and stated that there is no excuse for not giving a living wage to ESPs.
- Ms. Kathleen Greene, 45 Idora Avenue, Haverhill, MA, a 17-year ESP who worked presently at Bradford Elementary in the library. She indicated that working in a school, with a dedicated group of people was an honor and privilege, but was hard work. Ms. Greene noted the many challenges faced by ESP's, including the lack of understanding by the Committee of their jobs and the lack of respect for the employees.
- Ms. Ellen Gobbi, 56 Wild Pasture Lane, Atkinson, NH, Sped ESP, read a letter from a fellow ESP who related the importance of the ESP as a key educational agent for students. She implored the Committee to consider the ESP's request.

- Mr. Philip Zuber, 84 Agawam Avenue, Haverhill, MA spoke in support of the ESP Living Wage Campaign.
- Ms. Melanie Femino, an ESP and Parent, Nettle ESP asked for a living wage for the ESP.
- Ms. Maria Sanchez, asked for a living wage.
- Mr. Bill Taylor, 51 Sheridan Street, Haverhill, MA, advocated for the ESP Living Wage. He related that his daughter always spoke about her interactions with the ESP and how meaningful nature of these discussions.
- Mr. Paul Corriveau, 21 Parsonage Hill Road, Haverhill, MA, a fourth-grade teacher stated support for the ESP Living Wage.
- Ms. Eglatina Toska, 31 Garrison Avenue, Haverhill, MA, an ESP, related that Mr. Pfifferling's comment about taking her lunch was important to her and acknowledged his appreciation for her work.
- Mr. Ben Flagg, 151 Woodburn Drive, Methuen, MA, a TEACH ESP, apologized for his behavior at the last meeting and related it was an emotional time. He noted the Mayor's previous comment on 11.12.20 about "let's do it now while we have the money" regarding the ESPs' wages. Mr. Flagg believed the Committee was taking advantage of the ESP's love for their jobs.
- Ms. Nancy Koorapaty, North Andover, MA, read a letter on behalf of Kris Callas, a Pentucket Lake ESP who was home with COVID and the daughter of a long-time educator. Ms. Koorapaty related the role of the ESP and the difficulty in replacing these positions.
- Mr. Barry Davis, 191 Mammouth Road, Lowell, MA, a Music Teacher, spoke regarding the crucial role of the ESP and advocated for the living wage. He also believed there was an attempt to prevent free speech by the union at these meetings by the Mayor and requested the other members to speak up against this effort.
- Mr. Steven Blaney, 42 South Lincoln Street, Haverhill, MA, a parent who advocated for the living wage.
- Ms. Andrea Watson, a parent suggested advocating at the federal level.
- Ms. Bronwyn Crocker, a parent supported a living wage for the ESPs.

Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas.

Ms. Vargas related the following HHS activities:

- Sports teams are doing very well;
- Hillie gear is available;
- Seniors go to Senior21 to fill out a form; posted on social media;
- Grade 9-11 please select your classes;
- Juniors are receiving their packets; SATs are optional at some colleges;
- Scholarship Portal is open;
- Boston University Summer Journalist Academy is open on the HHS website;
- Stay healthy and safe;
- Cultural and Diversity Forum was recently held and will be broadcast on March 27th.

Superintendent Comments/Reports ~ HHS Reopening Plan.

Superintendent Marotta provided a copy of the presentation to each member and then began a review of the document [3.25 SC PP finalfinal.pdf](#). She noted that DESE had approved most of our request except that April 7, 2021, will be a full in-person day for Grades K-1 and the rest of the grades will be having a remote learning day.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked for clarification on Pre-School and the Remote Learning Academy.

Dr. Marotta related 1,000 students had transferred into in-person learning and some others had moved into the remote learning academy, which would be continuing this school year. She noted there would be changes in teacher assignments and classrooms as a result of student movement.

Attorney Rosa clarified the HHS start date was Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

Mr. Wood would ask for a change in the start date at the high school.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on Wednesday's deep cleaning, Dr. Marotta indicated that the germ blasters would be used in the buildings along with additional custodial staff cleaning before and after school. Additionally, the Superintendent noted that Remote Wednesdays will be a thing of the past throughout the state.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the High School Reopening Plan/Schedule as presented. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to change the return date for grades 9-12 to April 12, 2021. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Dr. Marotta indicated that the rationale for the April 26th was because most teachers would be at two weeks post second vaccination since older students transmitted the virus similar to adults.

Attorney Rosa asked for clarification on return dates.

Dr. Marotta replied that Seniors along with Grades 7-8 would return on Monday, April 26th and Grades 9-12 proposed date is Wednesday, April 28th.

Mr. Wood reiterated his motion is for Grades 7-12 to return on April 12th.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented that everyone was working together to return students to in-person learning. He acknowledged due to spacing (3 ft. distance), the phased-in approach should be implemented for the return.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais supported the Superintendent's plan.

Mr. Wood indicated the motion was for Grades 7-12 to return on April 12.

Mayor Fiorentini related support for Mr. Wood's motion. He noted concern for students not being in the classroom.

Attorney Magliocchetti would not support the friendly amendment since it included grades 7-8.

Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll vote on the amendment.

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

3 members voted in the affirmative

Motion fails

4 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained
0 members absent

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to return Grades 9-12 on Monday, April 12, 2021 and Grades 7-8 on Monday, April 26, 2021. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked for Dr. Marotta's input.

Dr. Marotta was concerned with 1800 students returning on one day, which would make some classes at an oversized level and remote learning spaces would be needed within the building. She stated that bussing continued to be an issue. Superintendent Marotta stated that the plan required a very significant amount of planning time.

Attorney Rosa indicated support for the students' return but did not want to alter the plan.

Attorney Magliocchetti suggested grades 9-10 on April 12 and grades 11-12 on April 26.

Dr. Marotta replied that the plan was developed with consultation of the high school team. She stated that the vast majority of seniors would return to in-person learning, with lesser students in the other grades.

Mr. Wood wanted the seniors to return to in-person learning on April 12.

Ms. Vargas supported Mr. Wood's statement that seniors wanted to return to school. She commented that logistics were involved in the plan and noted that safety needed to be a priority.

Dr. Marotta commented that Mr. Burns agreed that the best alternative plan was to return the seniors first before other classes.

Mr. Wood withdrew his motion. He made another motion to return Grade 12 to in-person classes on Monday, April 12, 2021 and Grades 9-11 on Monday, April 26, 2021. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais supported the plan as presented since the professionals had made this recommendation.

Mayor Fiorentini stated his support for Mr. Wood's motion.

Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll vote on Mr. Wood's motion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No	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
1 member voted in the negative
0 members abstained
0 members absent

Motion passes

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the amended plan. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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 and the members congratulated Dr. Marotta on her contract extension.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Vaccine Update.

Dr. Marotta reported 200 have received both doses and 700 took vaccinations at the clinic. She related that the saturation point had been achieved with staff before vaccines were returned to Greater Lawrence.

Mayor Fiorentini offered that citizens could sign up at Haverhill Board of Health or at havrec.com along with Greater Lawrence Family Health. He was confident that vaccines could be obtained by the community.

School Choice (to remain on the table 03.11.21).

New Business ~ Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Numbers EV20210326 & EV20210326B in the amount of \$2,098,113.25 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrants Combined Vendor Warrant EV20210326 EV20210326B.pdf and EV20210326 and EV20210326B.pdf 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

Attorney Rosa indicated that the Superintendent’s Contract needed to be removed from the table prior to voting on the matter.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to remove the Superintendent’s Contract from the table. 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

