



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2021**

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.

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mr. Wood, Vice Chair 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-Ciardillo	Absent
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present remotely	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Present In person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Absent		

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment.**

- Mrs. Maureen Zuber, 84 Agawam Avenue, Haverhill, MA thanked the Committee for navigating the district through a pandemic and the ransom malware attack. She asked the members to invest in the employees by acknowledging the work of the ESP Unit, especially in terms of in-district support for special education. Ms. Zuber spoke in support of the investment in employees and the ESP Living Wage Campaign.
- Mrs. Nicole Larose Sanchez, 40 Rutherford Avenue, Haverhill, MA used the following adjectives to describe educational support personnel which includes dedicated, dependable flexible, hardworking, professional, kind and underpaid employees. She requested a living wage for these employees.

**Student Advisory Council – Ms. Rebecca Hamel, Student Council Vice President (filing in for Ms. Gabriela Vargas).**

Ms. Hamel related the following HHS activities:

- Senior Class returning to full in-person next week ~ please take the survey for in-person or remote learning; other classes will be returning on April 26<sup>th</sup>;
- Spring Sports starting April 26, 2021, please register on Athletic website and complete your physical;
- Class Pop-up Stores will close tomorrow and merchandise will be available for pick-up at HHS;
- Students, please check in with guidance counselors for next year’s class selections and be aware of graduation requirements;

- Juniors are eligible for SAT registration on the College Board (with student materials) along with in-person or virtual college tours (check individual college websites);
- Additional Individual FASFA Support Sessions are available, please contact Mr. Gwinn or Ms. Horne in the Guidance Office;
- Job Core is hosting a Spring Virtual Information Session on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 pm, to participate sign into your Naviance account;
- April 24<sup>th</sup> Hillies' Washington Street Earth Day Clean-up from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm ~ participants meet at the corner of Freeman Street and Washington Street ~ all help appreciated;
- Students, please look for COVID Vaccination Information;
- HHS Drama Club is rehearsing for upcoming musical “Honk”; in-school show on May 13<sup>th</sup> along with additional shows on May 14 and 15, which will be held outdoors;
- Please stay happy, safe and healthy.

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

COVID Update.

Dr. Marotta announced that Haverhill was in the “yellow”, but there had been an uptick in cases due to the Easter holiday. She related that people should remain vigilant in their practices. The Superintendent commented that in reference to pool testing, six (6) pools out of 149 were positive and noted that the football team is presently in quarantine. Additionally, kindergarten students have returned to in-person classes and are happy and excited to be back in school.

Regarding the malware attack that occurred yesterday, Dr. Marotta related that IT personnel had realized there was an issue and came into work before dawn to shut down the system. She indicated there had been a cyberattack and that ransomware had been installed on 140 computers. The Superintendent noted the slow, meticulous process to ensure that the remnants of the attack are not on any equipment, this will result in Grades K-4 returning to school tomorrow. She added that web-based programs are accessible outside the district and there will be no internet with the school districts (no capacity for synchronous learning). Dr. Marotta announced that Grades K-4 would return to in-person learning and Grades 5-12 would remain in remote instruction. The Superintendent continued by relating that a cyber consulting agency along with Homeland Security, FBI and Haverhill Police Department were assisting with this effort. She thanked the community for their offers of assistance and indicated that there was plenty of expertise but that the restoration was a slow and methodical process.

In response to Mr. Wood’s inquiry, Dr. Marotta replied that Chrome books and lap tops were not affected by cyber attack.

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

Mr. Wood: Meeting Decorum.

Vice Chair Wood advised that public comments should only be directed during that section in the agenda and that shouting out during the meetings (disrupting a public body) was a violation of policy and the open meeting law. He noted as an original sponsor of public comment on the agenda, it should be used as an opportunity to express viewpoints and no comments are allowed at other points in the meeting. Mr. Wood recommended courtesy and respect at meetings, with no disruptions.

### **Subcommittee Reports ~ No reports.**



