



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2021**

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.

**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 Remotely 7:05 pm
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present Remotely 7:05 pm	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Present In person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present in person		

Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools was present remotely. Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent was present in person.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Communications/Reports ~ Public Comment.**

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA spoke against teaching of a "state religion" and posting of anti-Christian/Pro-Muslim material along with the teaching of Darwinism. He also criticized the Committee for ousting him from a previous meeting.

Mayor Fiorentini advised Mr. Yannakoreaus to attend a Board of Education Meeting.

HEA President Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill, MA began speaking about the breach of trust regarding being notified of a recent disagreement over the tentative contract agreement with the ESP Unit.

Mayor Fiorentini, (ruling from Ethics Commission) relinquished chairing the meeting, and Vice Chair Wood took over as Chair.

Mr. Parolisi indicated that there is a different interpretation of the salary agreement regarding ESPs without Bachelor's Degree not moving past the \$21.00 per hour wage rate. He noted that this information was received by the HEA at 6:58 pm. Mr. Parolisi was appalled that there would not be a vote on this agreement tonight.

Mayor Fiorentini resumed chairing the meeting.

**Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas & Ms. Hailey Prunier.**

Ms. Vargas announced that this was her last School Committee meeting and thanked the Committee for its acceptance of her viewpoints and opinions on various topics at the meetings.

Ms. Vargas introduced Ms. Hailey Prunier as the new Student Advisory Council President. Ms. Vargas reported that she would be attending Assumption University next year.

Ms. Prunier provided the following remarks:

- Thanked Ms. Vargas for being a great role model and her contributions as Student Council President;
- On behalf of the student body, she congratulated Mr. Burns on his new position in the Salem Public Schools, but noted that he would be missed;
- AP tests are ongoing;
- MCAS is forthcoming;
- Grab and Go food sites are available in the city;
- Honk Performance will be held tomorrow night and Saturday;
- Seniors won the Hillie Bowl;
- May 20, 2021 Outdoor Coffee House;
- Many upcoming Senior Activities;
- Early College Students Graduation was held today.

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

Dr. Marotta reported that Hunking School students had brought to the attention of the administration a concerning matter. She related that the matter had been brought to both the School Resource Officer and the Haverhill Police Department; the Superintendent was appreciative of the students coming forward with information. The Superintendent stated that there was information was found to be based on rumors and they do not feel there should be concern or an issue. Dr. Marotta noted that there would be a police presence at the school to give a sense of security.

#### **Summer Program Presentation.**

Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Support along with Mrs. Bonnie Antkowiak, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leading presented a report on Summer Academies 2021 [file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/Summer Academies Presentation 05.13.21.pdf](file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My%20Drive/Summer%20Academies%20Presentation%2005.13.21.pdf)

Mrs. Antkowiak provided a “huge shout out” to the HPS teachers and ESP for signing up for Summer Academies.

Mrs. Connolly thanked Matthew Geary for the creation of the website and provided the link to the website for complete information [www.haverhill-ps.org/summer](http://www.haverhill-ps.org/summer).

In reference to Attorney Rosa’s question regarding student enrollment, Dr. Marotta responded that approximately 2,000 students are anticipated to be participating during the summer across all the programs.

Attorney Rosa inquired about special education students and the extended school year (ESY); Dr. Marotta replied that it was part of the student’s IEP.

Attorney Rosa commended the Student Ambassador Program.

Regarding Mrs. Sapienza Donais’ question on iReady Professional Development, Mrs. Antkowiak answered that this would be more intensive staff training (specifically on hands-on activities).

Additionally, in response to another question from Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Mrs. Antkowiak noted that there would be coordinators for specific summer school areas.

Ms. Sullivan commended the leadership team for tremendous work on Summer Academies and especially the staff for agreeing to participate in Summer School after a challenging year.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about aligning with the curriculum standards.

Mrs. Antkowiak replied that the students were being accessed on their weaknesses during the program.

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased with the mandatory component of the program but asked about non-participation of students. He also wanted to see a longer summer school program.

Dr. Marotta answered that if the student did not participate, they would be retained in the current grade level (grade 8). She indicated that there were logistical concerns with extending the length including recruitment of staff.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello commended both Mrs. Antkowiak and Mrs. Connelly for their work.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the importance of this summer and the recovery of student learning. He commended the cultivation of community partnerships in this endeavor and looked forward to the program's success.

#### **FY21 & FY22 Budgets.**

In reference to the FY22 Budget, Superintendent Marotta noted that next week there would be both a Finance Subcommittee and a Special Meeting regarding next fiscal year's budget.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling referenced the FY21 Financial Statement (YTD) i.e., "Red/Green Report". He indicated that the budget would be balanced and at this time there was a \$1.9m surplus.

Mayor Fiorentini asked if a Diversity Officer was included in the FY22 Budget. Superintendent Dr. Marotta replied that it could be added as a half-time position in next year's budget (shared position). Mayor Fiorentini agreed and would speak with her tomorrow.

Attorney Rosa inquired about the out-of-state tuition services. Mr. Pfifferling replied the schools have separated according to DESE reporting requirements (end of year report). Dr. Marotta offered that there were specialized special education out of state schools.

Mayor Fiorentini asked to speak with Superintendent Marotta (Diversity Officer) and Assistant Superintendent (American Rescue Plan) tomorrow on these topics.

Mr. Wood asked for any pertinent budget updates be provided to the Finance Subcommittee. Mayor Fiorentini would speak with him tomorrow.

Ms. Sullivan asked if there should be a discussion at the Finance Subcommittee or full Committee if there were monies left at the end of the fiscal year to identify priority expenditures.

Dr. Marotta commented that over the past several meetings, financial transfers have been brought to the Committee for approval. She did not believe there would be a large surplus.

#### **COVID Update.**

Dr. Marotta announced that unofficially the community had moved to a yellow rating, unfortunately, student cases had been on the increase in both positive and close contact cases. She reported that testing would occur tomorrow at Nettle School in several classrooms. The Superintendent announced two upcoming vaccine clinics for students, since the Pfizer vaccine had been approved for children ages 12 and over (with parental approval): May 21 during the day at HHS and on Saturday, May 22 Greater Haverhill Community Health Center for HPS students accompanied by a family member(s).

Mayor Fiorentini related that at graduation a posthumous honorary diploma will be presented to the parents of the youngest Haverhill COVID fatality (19 years old with pre-existing conditions). He strongly urged vaccinations for all eligible people.

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

Attorney Rosa: Review and vote on statement(s) of interest for the MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program.

Attorney Rosa noted that at the last meeting, Mr. Dorrance had spoken to the Committee regarding submitting a Statement of Interest for the Moody School.

Mr. Pfifferling had contacted MSBA regarding submitting a SOI for Moody and indicated to them it was going to be a kindergarten. He related that they agreed to allow for access which did not occur today.

Attorney Rosa suggested submitting SOI for both Moody School and Silver Hill and include on next week's agenda.

Mayor Fiorentini requested an honorary diploma be presented to Logan Todd's family at this year's graduation.

Mr. Wood stated there was past practice of awarding posthumous diplomas.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to award an honorary diploma to Logan Todd's family at this year's graduation. 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

#### **Subcommittee Reports ~ None.**

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello announced that the School Committee had been invited to visit Bartlett School to see the beautification efforts along with the wonderful work of Mr. McDowell and his staff.

#### **Old Business ~ School Choice (to remain on the table 03.11.21).**

Superintendent Marotta inquired if there were any additional information that was needed by the Committee.

Mr. Wood asked for this item to be deferred to the next meeting.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for the Superintendent's Recommendation at the next meeting.

**New Business ~ Superintendent's Request for Approval of Financial Transfer(s) ~ if needed ~ None.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Numbers EV20210514 & EV20210514B in the amount of \$1,646,441.17 as indicated in the agenda material HPS WARRANT EV20210514 AND EV20210514B.pdf

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Warrants. Ms. Sullivan 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

Mrs. Sapienza Donais expressed her appreciation to everyone for their work on the Sapienza Memorial Track Ribbon Cutting in memory of her father (34 years after his passing). She announced two scholarship recipients Boys' Track Team Aidan Corcoran ((\$500 Dick and Mary Rose Early Scholarship ~ Early Construction Inc.) and the Girls' Track Team Ariane LeCours (\$500 Sapienza Family Scholarship).

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged Mr. Sapienza's running expertise.

**Items by Consensus ~ Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2021.**

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2021 School Committee Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 04.29.21.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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (8:17 pm). Ms. Sullivan 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  
0 members voted in the negative  
0 members abstained  
0 members absent

Motion passes