



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2021**

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson 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-Ciardello	Present in person @ 7:10 pm
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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Comment.**

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

- The backwards nature of budget presentation without interaction with public;
- Disappointment with State House using incorrect enrollment numbers to underfund the district;
- City portion of the School Department Budget over the years (1/3 of the funding for our schools);
- The State had horribly mismanaged the pandemic along with allowing DESE to overrule the decisions of the school committee;
- The loss of control by the local authorities;
- The ESP and Secretarial Agreements should be resolved;
- Frustration with the handling of the ESP agreement at the last meeting;
- Consideration of living wage for employees of the City of Haverhill (moral imperative).

Mayor Fiorentini rebutted Mr. Parolisi's comments indicating the state/federal contributions to education had increased and the city portion was above the minimum spending. He strongly admonished the union for putting coffins and shoes on City Hall steps that discouraged parents from sending their children to school and resulted in a \$2m budget decrease.

**Presentation of FY22 Budget ~ Superintendent Marotta & Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling.**

Superintendent Marotta and Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling both provided an overview of the FY22 Budget (insert PowerPoint Presentation here):

- HPS School Year budget wins for FY21 including Teaching and Learning Improvements, Advances in Equity and other wins;

- Enrollment Decrease (262 students ~ 10.01.20 = \$2,044,551);
- Level Service; Level Funded and Increased Services (over 12 years);
- Focus for budget development included items for learning loss:
  - exposing students to grade level learning
  - acceleration plans supporting more time and dedicated attention
  - mental health support
  - teacher coaching
  - formative assessments and early warning systems to ID students at risk
  - tiered support structures
  - equity across schools and for all students
  - continue smaller class size
  - add Math & ELA interventionists for K-8 for all
  - support accelerated learning via coaching and curriculum purchases
  - add social emotional supports
  - special education inclusion supports
- Addressing Moody Preschool corrections
  - Add a preschool site
  - Add 3 preschool teachers
  - Add BCBA
  - Add Speech Pathologist
  - Add OT/COTA
  - Add ESP Support
- Elementary and Middle School Improvements
  - Add 7 classroom teachers ~ class size
  - Assure an ESP in every K room
  - Assure an ELA Coach in every building
  - Add ½ Math Coach in every building
  - Add ELA & Math interventionists
  - Add Adjustment Counselors
  - Convert MS Technology ESP positions to Technology Teacher positions
- Overview of Haverhill High School Additions
  - Add an Associate Principal to support curriculum initiatives
  - Add an ELL teacher to support students with interrupted education
  - Add Bilingual College & Career Counselor
  - Add special education teachers to support student need
  - Increase funding for Early College due to growth
  - Remove fees for AP testing
  - Add a Spanish Teacher to support MASSCORE requirements
- Overview of Central Functioning Improvements
  - Add ½ Diversity Officer (City funding other ½)
  - Add an Assistant Facilities Supervisor
  - Add a Network Engineer
  - Included funds to offset the City's benefit costs for added ESSER positions
  - Converted Health Assistant and Custodians from CARES Act to budget

Dr. Marotta offered that approximately 70 staff positions (direct service staff) were included in the proposed FY22 Budget for an 8,500-student district which equated to less than one (1) position per 100 students.

Responding to the Mayor's comments about the staff increase and the setting up of a possible disaster, the Superintendent noted that the receipt of significant federal monies to support student learning loss and will not be a long-term addition.

Mr. Pfifferling reviewed the Summary of FY22 Budget Revenues that included; Chapter 70, City Contribution, and ESSER. He related that the FY22 Budget request = \$106,331,701 of which the LEA portion was \$98,683,213. The Assistant Superintendent highlighted slides which included salaries and DESE function code and noted that additional documentation had been distributed in three-ring binders: <file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/FY22 BUDGET SUMMARY 5-20-2021 MTG.pdf> and <file:///Volumes/GoogleDrive/My Drive/FY22 BUDGET DETAIL 5-20-2021 MTG.pdf>

Mr. Pfifferling also reviewed the budget timeline and noted that two budget workshops had been scheduled for Monday, May 24, 2021 and if needed Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Haverhill High School. He thanked the community, staff, and leadership team for their assistance and hard work in developing and advocating for budget. Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling specifically noted the extensive work of Dr. Marotta and Mrs. Smith.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the community outreach regarding students who will be returning to the Haverhill Public Schools.

Dr. Marotta related outreach efforts had occurred to return students to the district. She asked kindergarten and/or first grade parents to register their children early for next school year.

Ms. Sullivan questioned the number of staff who retire or leave the district during a given year. Dr. Marotta replied that approximately 80 staff members attend new teacher orientation during a given year.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for clarification on the focus (recovery of learning loss) of the new positions. He strongly endorsed the importance of math coaches in each building. Additionally, Attorney Magliocchetti emphasized the necessity for adequate school adjustment counseling staffing.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais concurred with Attorney Magliocchetti on the need for coaches and interventionists' positions. She asked about the reasoning for a senior network engineer and would support a STEM Coordinator.

Both Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling related that due to the recent cyberattack, network security enforcement was needed within the district.

Attorney Rosa questioned the expenditure requirements for the ESSER monies. Mr. Pfifferling indicated that the monies had to be fully expended by end of grant.

Mr. Wood asked for difference between interventionists and coaches.

Dr. Marotta explained the difference in roles of these positions: interventionist (student-centered work) and coaches (works predominantly with teachers).

Vice Chair Wood also wished to get clarification on the Assistant Director of Facilities (100% school department funding). He noted that a discussion needed to be held on the Joint Facilities Department and asked for guidance.

In response to Attorney Rosa's inquiry, Mr. Pfifferling noted that assessments and reimbursements are included on the Cherry Sheet.

Mayor Fiorentini expressed deep concern on the addition of 70 positions (requested a listing prior to workshop on Monday). He suggested temporary interventions.

Superintendent Marotta noted that the district was receiving \$7m to use for student loss recovery and that there would be measurable goals to assess the success of these measures.

Ms. Sullivan emphasized the crisis in our country as a result of COVID. She noted that there were massive needs to address students' needs (emotional and learning deficits during the past 16 months). Ms. Sullivan related it was our moral obligation to deal with these significant issues.

Attorney Magliocchetti agreed with the deficits in students' learning, along with social and emotional consequences. He acknowledged the programs would "bring students back to life".

Mr. Wood asked about newer positions and their salaries in the line items. Mr. Pfifferling responded that teachers were budgeted at \$60,000 and interventionists/coaches at \$70,000.

Mr. Wood asked for the salary line item for Assistant Director of Facilities; it was noted (by Mrs. Smith) that the salary was in the Maintenance Mechanic line item. Mr. Wood requested that the salary be a separate line item. He also suggested the listing of the new positions along with justification.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated standardized testing should not be a priority; since benchmarks are not valid and students should not be held accountable to these tests.

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

In response to Attorney Rosa's question, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling clarified that the SOI could be submitted to MSBA.

Regarding Mr. Wood's question on cost, Mr. Pfifferling responded that there was no commitment regarding funding when submitting the Statement of Interest.

Mr. Pfifferling indicated that Moody School had five boilers that could be converted into one boiler.

Attorney Rosa stated that it was prudent to replace the roof. He also noted that if one of the Moody boilers failed there would be sections of the school without heat. Attorney Rosa commented that Silver Hill School's roof had needed repairs. He emphasized it was a wise use of taxpayer money.

Dr. Marotta stated that ESSER II was for student support efforts and possibly ESSER III could be used for this project.

Mr. Pfifferling emphasized that this was a longer-term project following the MSBA process.





