



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2021**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:02 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Present in person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present in person @ 7:05 pm		

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Fiorentini read an act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency was signed by Governor Baker and allows for remote meetings and hearings by public bodies through April 1, 2022. This meeting will be available via live streaming over HCTV and WHAV. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV website.

Communications/Reports ~ Public Comment.

Mr. Timothy Briggs, 30 Hoyt Road, Haverhill, MA introduced himself as the new Haverhill Education Association President and expressed a collaborative working relationship with the Committee to resolve issues and problems.. He acknowledged Mr. Parolisi’s contributions to the advancement of the HEA and especially with the MOA settlement along with the Joint Coronavirus Taskforce. Mr. Briggs looked forward to working with the Committee.

As a result of the Mayor’s comments on collaboration, Mr. Briggs agreed and acknowledged the mutual commitment to working together for education.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Max Popoloski.

Mr. Popoloski provided the following remarks:

- welcomed the new high school principal, Mr. Meland to Haverhill;
- recognized the summer programs available such as theater (he was participating in this summer) along with other offerings;
- announced that the Ambassador Program is an enriching experience;
- noted that the Student Council is working on bonfire, freshmen ice cream social and other plans for the upcoming school year;
- reported that a meeting was held with Principal Meland on Monday, which included some topics new LGBTQ Club and creating more structure for club and programs;
- discussion on diversifying the curriculum throughout middle schools and high school;
- Continuing to meet on these issues throughout the school year.

Introduction of HHS Principal Jason Meland.

Dr. Marotta introduced Mr. Meland.

Mr. Meland provided an overview of his entry plan at HHS and expressed appreciation for being part of Hillie Nation. He referenced that there was passion and pride within the school community. Mr. Meland acknowledged the contribution and assistance of Mr. Burns during the transition. He looked forward to working with the School Committee and thanked Dr. Marotta and the Committee for entrusting him with this great responsibility. He concluded his remarks in Spanish.

Attorney Magliocchetti, Mrs. Sapienza Donais, and Mayor Fiorentini offered welcoming remarks.

Building Leadership Hiring Updates.

Superintendent Marotta commented on the long-term illness of Golden Hill Principal Bruce Michitson which will result in his absence for most of the school year. She related that Ms. Paula Rodriguez would be the Interim Principal and Mr. Brendon Parker, who assumed the duties of Assistant Principal (he was previously a teacher at the school).

Superintendent Marotta announced a Blood Drive for Golden Hill Team on August 26th at Bradford Elementary in collaboration with the Golden Hill PTO and the Red Cross. She stated that Mr. Michitson had needed 100 pints of blood during his surgeries.

Dr. Marotta also announced the appointment of Dr. Theresa Kirk as the new principal at Hunking School. Additionally, she related that Mr. Scott Gray would remain as Principal of Silver Hill School. Mayor Fiorentini asked the Superintendent to consider hiring within the district and commented that it was not unique to Haverhill. He indicated that local hires were more likely to remain in the district.

Superintendent Marotta reported that the district was working with Lynch Leadership Academy to give teachers (particularly from diverse backgrounds) a year long internship in administration.

Mayor Fiorentini requested reminders on the blood drive.

HPS Summer Programs ~_Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Support provided a brief summary of the Summer Programs by noting the numbers (2331 students) in each program:

- 414 Title I
- 221 Title III
- 179 Morning Enrichment Discovery
- 289 Discovery Extended Day
- 450 Special Education Extended Year
- 150 Bridge Rising 8th and 9th Graders
- 356 HHS Credit Recovery & Credit Advancement
- 97 Moody Preschool
- 2157 Total + 129 YMCA Summer Literacy Academy + 45 HHS Recreation Program = 2331 children

Mrs. Connolly commended the leadership of Dr. Marotta and the contributions of many individuals in the district to the success of summer programming.

Dr. Marotta announced that Jennifer Rubera would be the Walnut Square Principal along with assuming other curriculum duties, remote learning and student support within the district.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked about the leadership organization at the school, i.e, lead teacher. The Superintendent would confirm the organization.

Mrs. Connolly provided a video presentation on the Summer School Programs. She was proud to be part of these programs under Dr. Marotta's leadership.

Both Attorneys Rosa and Magliocchetti expressed appreciation to the Superintendent and her team (recognizing Mrs. Connolly) for the incredible summer school enrollment numbers (2331 kids!).

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello complimented Mrs. Connolly on her contribution to the summer programming.

Mrs. Connolly noted that the students were enrolled and attending the programs (for example, 71-90%). She referenced the work of the coordinators in the programs.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged the teachers, lead teachers and the Transportation Department's contribution to the success of the summer programs. She reported that the district had received a \$476,000 extended learning program (shared with YMCA and Boys/Girls Club) grant and a Discovery Club \$200,000 grant for a Nettle School Program.

Facilities Updates.

Superintendent Marotta thanked the Belmont School District for the \$750,000 worth donation of new school furniture. She acknowledged the facilities department's work in retrieving and delivering the donation during the extremely hot summer days.

Superintendent Marotta provided a brief update:

- Bids had gone out on an expedited basis for the HHS Gym roof would be completed by late October;
- Air conditioning solutions were being addressed for four "cookie cutter" schools and Tilton School;
- New Moody on Main was beginning to take shape;
- New furniture for HHS library.

Mayor Fiorentini requested that the agenda order be altered with Mr. Wood and Mrs. Sapienza Donais' agenda item addressed at this time.

Mr. Wood & Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Maintenance Vehicles.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais indicated the need for better tracking of vehicles in use by the district.

Mr. Wood detailed that there was a School Committee 2008 vote which stated one (1) vehicle goes home on a rotating basis (2008). He also stated the vehicles should have GPS.

Dr. Marotta related that the vote from 2008 was not included in the policy manual and she had not been aware of the vote by the School Committee.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated this was an ongoing issue and was usually reviewed during the budget development each year in terms of fiscal responsibility. He indicated that it was worth

discussion (detailed listing and usage) and acknowledged the change in the facilities department over the years. Attorney Magliocchetti recommended the matter be referred to the Finance Subcommittee.

Mr. Dorrance reported that since GPS had been installed in vehicles, he was aware of the use/location of all vehicles. He related that the maintenance vehicle (with tools) was parked at an employee's home (sick leave for three months) and was not used during that time, i.e., zero mileage. Mr. Dorrance noted that the vehicle has since been returned to the school district. He noted that there was a conflict during the hiring process.

Mr. Wood commented that GPS should be installed on vehicles. He related that the matter should be referred to the Finance Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood that the Superintendent be directed to install GPS in all city-owned vehicles and that the matter be referred to the Finance Subcommittee for a recommendation. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion.

Mr. Wood noted that there was a resolution to the Watertown-based employee's situation.

Mayor Fiorentini did not have an issue with the provision in the contract.

Mr. Dorrance stated that there was a verbal commitment (car incentive) when hiring this individual, however, the offer letter did not contain the same language.

Mr. Wood related that Mr. Dorrance did not have the legal authority to make this offer to an employee during the hiring process without authorization.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood that the Superintendent be directed to install GPS in all city-owned vehicles and that the matter be referred to the Finance Subcommittee for a recommendation. Mrs. Sapienza Donais 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	Yes		

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: Ms. Jami Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling and Student Support Services to discuss School Committee and other scholarships.

Ms. Dion gave an overview of the scholarship process. She related that each year funding amounts are received from the (City Treasurer), the application process is opened, each application is reviewed individually with emphasis on meeting the scholarship criteria and then selections are made with the goal of awarding scholarship money to each applicant . Ms. Dion stated that the goal of the application process was not to have any obstacles to applying for School Committee

Ibanez. He reported that during her leadership special education grant funding had increased along with the number of staff being trained in LIPS (50 trained staff members).

Ms. Ibanez acknowledged the very unusual school year during the pandemic. She commended all staff, especially the educational support personnel. She stated there was a robust summer program along with specialized programs. Ms. Ibanez related that a ESP team would be convened to plan professional development for the year including safety training (Training the Trainers). She reported that DESE would be conducting a Tier Focused Monitoring next year and would be asking the School Committee to participate in the process. Ms. Ibanez noted the change in Medicaid Vendor in addition to the great partnership with Ms. Dion who was also assuming an expanded role.. She was thankful for the furniture donation and wonderful collaboration with Mrs. Connolly for ESY Programs. In conclusion, she thanked the Transportation Department and Dr. Marotta.

Mr. Wood thanked Ms. Ibanez and would support this recommendation.

Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged Ms. Ibanez’s contributions.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the appointment of Deborah Ibanez as Executive Director of Student Support Services. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained
Motion passes

Mayor Fiorentini: High School Track Gate.

Dr. Marotta responded that the matter had been resolved with the gates being open daily from 8:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Mayor Fiorentini: Woodworking Course at Haverhill High School

Mayor Fiorentini had asked for an update and Superintendent Marotta requested that this item be continued until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to table the Woodworking Course at Haverhill High School. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained
Motion passes

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Personnel Actions.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if it was customary for the School Committee to receive notification of administrative leave with disciplinary action.

Superintendent Marotta responded that if the matter was of concern to the School Committee along with the potential for wrong doing, then the members would receive notification.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted that recently she received information that an administrator was on vacation and actually the person was on administrative leave. She prided herself on transparency and openness in communication with the public. Ms. Sapienza Donais indicated that it gave the wrong perception.

Dr. Marotta referenced personnel matters and believed that was not the case in this situation.

Ms. Sullivan offered (based on her 20+ years of administrative experience) that there needed to be sensitivity in personnel matters and advised being cautious in the investigation process. She referenced the School Committee’s responsibilities in terms of goal setting, policies and oversight of the budget. Ms. Sullivan emphasized only needing to know when wrongdoing has occurred in the district as an outcome of the investigation.

Mr. Wood stated that not every personnel action should be brought to the Committee. He indicated that only when a major issue was going to be made public in the news then an executive session should be scheduled to discuss the matter (high level individual/administrators or a serious issue).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reported that the issue was being told the individual was on vacation and that was not the correct information.

Mayor Fiorentini asked if there was a policy not to comment/discuss personnel matters.

Ms. Sullivan reiterated that the Committee could not discuss personnel issues.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the matter should only be addressed in executive session.

Superintendent Marotta responded that she had been miscategorized in this matter.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the annual renewal of the Whitsons’ Contract [Annual Renewal Whitsons' Contract](#). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative
 0 members voted in the negative
 0 members abstained

Motion passes

Subcommittee Reports. ~ None.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20210709, EV20210709B & EV20210715 in the amount of \$2,609,585.17

■ Combined Warrants EV20210709, EV20210709B, EV20210715.pdf as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20210709, EV20210709B & EV20210715 in the amount of \$2,609,585.17 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciaridello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Superintendent’s Recommendation to declare the enclosed items surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to the items to be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances [Surplus Recommendation 07.22.21](#). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting & FY22 Budget Public Hearing Minutes of June 10, 2021 [Hybrid Regular Meeting & FY22 Budget Public Hearing Minutes 06.10.21](#) and Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2021 [Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 06.24.21](#) and Approval of Use of Facilities [Approval of Use of Facilities 07.22.21](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Items by Consensus as listed in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (8:43 pm). Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained