



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2020

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor James 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)	Ms. Sullivan	Present (Remote)
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present (In-person) @ 7:08 pm	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present (In-person)
Mr. Wood	Present (In-person)	Attorney Rosa, Vice Chair	Present (In-person)
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present (In-person)		

Also, in attendance were: Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools, and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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."

Communications and Reports.

Public Comment (In-person and Remote) - There was no one present for public comment.

Student Advisory Council – Ms. Gabriela Vargas.

Ms. Vargas provided a report detailing the following:

- School starts September 16, 2020;
- Seniors should be researching or applying post-high school plans either, work, college or military;
- Juniors and Sophomores are adjusting to high school;
- Seek assistance if needed;
- Stay happy and healthy.

Ms. Vargas extended wishes for health and happiness to everyone.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Dr. Marotta noted that an Incredible amount of work is being done in all the schools, particularly to our HVAC systems. She emphasized that there were new HVAC standards (April 2020) in response to COVID from ASHRA. The Superintendent related that the guidelines had been met by installation of air scrubbers and filters (by outside company).

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling provided detailed information on the filtration system with emphasis on higher quality or level of filtration for this product (300 units). He commented that the specifications would be posted on the website under the COVID section.

Dr. Marotta noted that there were alternative methods to meet the new standards in older buildings.

Mr. Pfifferling related that the older schools needed air scrubbers. He stated that any building that didn't have an univent got an air filtration system. He related that there were COVID issues and other air quality issues that need to be addressed in our buildings.

In response to Mr. Wood's questions on the issues, Mr. Pfifferling responded that the district was aware of what needed to be done and the work was being addressed at the present time.

Attorney Rosa asked about an estimated time for completion of repairs.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded that COVID-related issues were being addressed now and other issues would be addressed subsequent to the urgent matters.

Attorney Magliocchetti inquired about the maintenance plan for the new filters.

Mr. Pfifferling answered that the filters needed to be replaced twice a year. He urged the full training of custodians on building maintenance issues.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was not reassured by the Leftfield letter, and referenced there was no specificity in the guidelines especially regarding the reduced capacity.

Mr. Pfifferling offered that the windows will be opened in the classrooms one hour before school and after school each day with the exception of Hunking School which will be determined by daily humidity. He offered that air scrubbers would be installed in non-working univentilator schools and that was the explanation of supplemental equipment. The Assistant Superintendent explained that medical waiting rooms would get air purifiers and noted that restrooms are cleaned on an hourly basis.

Dr. Marotta noted that all air purifiers were at the required levels.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked how the kids are separated in the medical waiting rooms. Mr. Pfifferling responded that they are about 20' apart in the 4 corners of the room.

Dr. Marotta emphasized the need for quick pick-up of sick children.

Mayor asked if all the windows had been fixed.

Mr. Pfifferling answered, ``no'', and that the parts had been ordered but emphasized that every single classroom will have fresh air.

Mayor Fiorentini commented on the different concerns with students such as depression, suicide and gangs.

Dr. Marotta provided an overview of remote learning such as, chromebooks, curriculum online services, library services to provide reading materials, along with the Iready system. The Superintendent stated that Social Emotional Learning (SEL) had been provided to staff.

Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Multi-tiered Systems of Supports outlined the work of the SEL reentry group (30 educators in groups by level elementary, middle, high school). She reported that there were resources for parents/students working with the community partnerships.

Mr. Wood asked about the high school programs for at-risk students and wanted to ensure that there were proper resources.

Dr. Marotta responded that Mr. Burns was working on maintaining these programs for the upcoming school year.

Reopening 2020.

Dr. Marotta noted that in response to Mrs. Kaczor's technology policy questions at last week's public comment section of the meeting, she had spoken with both Mrs. Kaczor (email and phone) and the Technology Department. The Superintendent related that a revised policy would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting and thanked Mrs. Kaczor.

Superintendent Marotta provided an overview of the reopening, which included:

- Phase in models of the cohorts are being sent to parents via email along with next Wednesday's Opening of School starting in a remote learning environment;
- Kindergarten Screenings outside in small groups (AM & PM) along with student only tours, parents can congregate in field;
- Students will attend (9.21.20) for (1) one full day for 2 weeks then on 10.5.20 the full cohort model will begin (Mon/Tues (Cohort A) or Thur/Fri (Cohort B) starting on 10.16.20;
- Models will be reassessed each week.

Mayor Fiorentini related that the COVID numbers are rising and cautioned regarding maintaining your guard. He announced new testing sites. The Mayor asked people to practice social distancing and urged teachers to get tested for free at Lawrence General Hospital AFC Urgent Care in Methuen to stop the spread.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked when the class lists were going out and Dr. Marotta responded the lists would be going out at the beginning of next week.

Interim Director of Special Education Recommendation Ms. Deborah Ibanez.

Superintendent Marotta announced that [Pamela MacDonald](#) had accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel in the Malden Public Schools and offered congratulations to Pam. She related that Ms. Ibanez had agreed to accept the position of Interim Director (her resume had been distributed to the Committee [Deborah Ibanez Resume](#)).

Ms. Ibanez opened with greetings and provided the following comments:

- Strong advocate for special education students;
- Believed same opportunities;
- Inclusion for all students;
- Unified Sports Team support;
- Champion for students with learning disabilities;
- Advocate for job opportunities;
- Doors are always open;
- Extended thanks to Dr. Marotta for the opportunity and congratulated Pam MacDonald.

Attorney Rosa stated his confidence in Ms. Ibanez and extended appreciation to Mrs. MacDonald for her work.

Attorney Magliocchetti was supportive of Ms. Ibanez's selection along with emphasizing her extensive special education experience. He commended Mrs. MacDonald for her work in Haverhill.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about outreach to students in the hybrid learning environment.

Ms. Ibanez responded there was common planning time and professional development along with the implementation of the new IEP system.

Mr. Wood thanked Mrs. MacDonald for her service and remarked on the tremendous gains in the special education department during her tenure.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to appoint Deborah Ibanez as the Interim Director of Special Education. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini remarked that Ms. Ibanez had been a Chemistry major/teacher and her unique resume.

Ms. Ibanez referenced her time working as a sailing instructor which led to a job at Seaport Academy. She noted her love of working with special needs students and then made her move towards the special education field.

A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

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

School Committee Reports/Communication/Subcommittee Reports - there were none.

New Business.

The Superintendent recommended approval of Warrant EV20200911B totaling \$614,444.07 [Warrant 20200911B](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrants. Ms.Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

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

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

Mayor Fiorentini read a portion of an email from Anthony Parolisi, HEA President which stated that the teachers had voted to enter the buildings tomorrow (under duress) for professional development. He thanked the HEA for their vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (7:57 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Student Advisory Council- Ms. Gabriela Vargas- school start reminder. Seniors-after HS plans

Juniors- work hard

Stay healthy and happy!

C. Superintendent Comments/Reports

- Deb Ibanez , Interim Director of Special Education

Deb Ibanez has been appointed the interim Director of SPED. Pam McDonald is leaving Haverhill for a Superintendents position in another town.

Deb talked about her journey to teaching and teaching SPED and a brief summary of her resume.

Motion to Approve warrant # EV20200091B totaling \$614,444.07.

Moved by Mayor Fiorentini. Seconded by Scott Wood

All Approved, yes

Meeting adjourned 7:57 pm Motion to adjourn- All voted Yes.