



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee Hybrid Regular
Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2021**

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-Ciardiello	Present in person @ 7:10 pm
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person @ 7:03 pm	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Present in person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present Remotely		

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chair 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.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Hailey Prunier.

Ms. Prunier provided an update from HHS:

- The past few weeks have been very eventful and a lot more will be happening at the high school;
- This week is Spirit Week which includes Dress Up Days and today was Color Wars along with Fall Fest;
- Tomorrow there will be a Senior Pep Rally, Food Drive, and the Football Game;
- On Saturday there will be Homecoming Dance;
- Sophomores and Juniors recently took the PSAT;
- Seniors, please request transcripts two weeks prior to the college application submission date;
- Student and Faculty Forum to address issues at HHS, the students are hoping for a more collaborative community and continued conversations to implement positive changes to support diversity.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Tim Briggs, 30 Hoyt Road, Haverhill, MA (In-person), parent, citizen, teacher and HEA President provided an update on the conditions within the school buildings. He noted teachers' input in resolving bussing issues which resulted in working beyond contractual time and educational support personnel providing substitute coverage in the classroom due to labor shortage. Mr. Briggs indicated the annual responsibilities had to be completed, however, this added to the staff's burdens. He acknowledged the continued anti-social, negative student actions which required discipline and provided samples of this types of behaviors. Mr. Briggs related that these issues could not have been predicted and noted the lack of structure for students during the pandemic which has caused these bad behaviors.

Mr. Brown who signed up for remote public comment was not present.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Introduction and Commendation for Latinx Educator Excellence Award Recipients. [NE](#)

Attorney Magliocchetti believed it was important to provide highlights of the good works within the district.

Superintendent Marotta noted that both Dinorah Peralta (daughter) and Angela Bonafacio (mother) had been recognized for their contributions to the education and engagement of Latino students and families throughout the pandemic. She related districts had been asked to nominate educators of Latinx descent who had made a remarkable impact on their school and community. She reported that Ms. Peralta, Assistant Principal at Tilton School and Ms. Bonafacio, an ESP in the ELL Program had received an award from the Latinx Educator Excellence Award.

Superintendent Marotta stated that information on this recognition would be placed on our website.

Attorney Rosa acknowledged Ms. Peralta's service to the country as a member of the Army.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that Haverhill had a long history of families within the HPS.

Both Ms. Peralta and Ms. Bonafacio expressed their honor and gratitude for being a member of the Haverhill Public Schools.

The School Committee, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and audience applauded and expressed congratulations to both Ms. Peralta and Ms. Bonafacio.

Scholarship Recommendations 2021 [School Committee Scholarships 2021 revised .pdf](#) ~ postponed from 9.23.21 meeting.

Dr. Marotta announced the scholarship recipients for 2021 {students had at least a 3.0 GPA and had graduated from HHS within the past four (4) years}. She recommended approval by the School Committee.

Applicant Last Name	Applicant First Name	Scholarship Awarded	Scholarship Amount	Scholarship Awarded	Scholarship Amount	Scholarship Awarded	Scholarship Amount
Becker	Allison	Marvin, Beatrice, and Paul Brindis Scholarship Fund	\$200			Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
DeCicco	Felicya			Nicholas C. Johnson Fund	\$500	Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Galvin	Michael					Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Galvin	Katherine					Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Giampa	Joseph					Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
House	Allison					Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Keenan	Natalie	Marvin, Beatrice, and Paul Brindis Scholarship Fund	\$200			Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500

Kelleher	Patrick	Marvin, Beatrice, and Paul Brindis Scholarship Fund	\$200		Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Lacefield	James				Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
Marczak	Derek	Marvin, Beatrice, and Paul Brindis Scholarship Fund	\$200		Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
McKeon	Jason	Marvin, Beatrice, and Paul Brindis Scholarship Fund	\$200		Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500
O'Boyle	Jordyn				Samuel & Bessie Milhender Scholarship Fund	\$1,500

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the scholarship recommendations. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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 Comments/Reports.

Superintendent Marotta announced that Ms. Katie Vozeolas, Director of Health and Nursing was present along with members of Healthcare IT Leaders who were assisting the district with testing. Dr. Marotta offered some a brief COVID Update: 56 active cases; eight (8) positive staff members, with total positive student cases of 118 students for the school year. She related that there was a test and stay program (close contacts within school) in the schools and has allowed school attendance for both students and staff. She noted that shortly pool testing would resume within our district.

Ms. Vozeolas explained the pool testing program and the work that had begun with the new vendor. She commented that there would be a soft launch tomorrow at Tilton and Whittier Schools.

Ms. Vozeolas introduced Mr. Bob Bailey, Jeff Mason, and Michele Rossi from Healthcare IT Leaders.

Mr. Bailey noted that his firm provided support to the US healthcare system (Healthy Returns). He acknowledged their work as part of Operation Warp Speed.

Ms. Rossi, RN has experience with COVID and was the mother of a teacher. She acknowledged the concessions that were made during the pandemic.

Mr. Mason, Program Manager for MA noted his management of large endeavors in the United States.

Dr. Marotta was appreciative of their involvement and related that it provided an additional layer of protection for the schools.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about permission slip distribution. Ms. Vozeolas responded that there was not a push

for this endeavor since a team had not been assembled and waited until a team was operational within the district.

Attorney Rosa emphasized the optional nature of pool testing.

Ms. Vozeolas encouraged the participation of all students in pool testing.

Attorney Rosa asked about the change in regulations relative to remote learning.

Superintendent Marotta noted the change in DESE regulations and that COVID positive students could be offered the option of remote learning.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais inquired about suspension rates.

Dr. Marotta answered that suspension rates were higher than satisfactory in the district. She indicated the struggles that students were experiencing due to the pandemic.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced the recent arrests at Lawrence High School due to fighting.

Dr. Marotta reported that there were some legal actions had occurred in the district.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question, the Superintendent acknowledged the partnership with the Haverhill Police Department to provide a safe learning environment.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about the virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences and why there were not in-person conferences.

Dr. Marotta responded that parents had been given the option and that these conferences had been received very well by the parents.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Ms. Sullivan & Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Presentation on Title IX and Proposed Harassment Policy ACAB ~ Attorney Amy Rogers and Ms. Jami Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling and Support Services.

Attorney Amy Rogers, from the Lyons and Rogers law firm started a presentation on Title IX, along with specific types of harassment and the grievance process as part of the new regulations.

Attorney Rogers described the grievance procedure including emergency removal.

Attorney Rogers noted that there was not much leeway in the regulations and preponderance of evidence standard had been adopted by most districts.

Ms. Sullivan commented that there was a time period of 6-8 weeks for an effective action.

Attorney Rogers communicated that the grievance process should be posted on website and included in the student handbook. She noted that supportive measures should protect the students and emergency removal assist in maintaining a safe environment.

Mayor Fiorentini inquired about supportive measures.

Attorney Rogers replied that the complainant was consulted first regarding the types of supportive measures. She related that the federal and state laws had to be followed in these matters.

Mayor Fiorentini did not support due process when it was a grade 5 student.

Attorney Magliocchetti related the complexity of the regulations. He asked the date of the regulation implementation.

Attorney Rogers answered in August 2020.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's inquiry, Attorney Rogers responded that the adoption of the policy is the only role of the School Committee.

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced a Netflix movie called "Guilty" and this movie highlighted some of the issues that should be considered when addressing this matter.

Attorney Rosa asked about federal guidance on this law for Grades K-12.

Attorney Rogers responded that there was no distinction between the grade levels.

Attorney Rosa asked if there needed to be a separate vote if preponderance of evidence were adopted as part of the policy.

In regards to Attorney Rosa's question on the identified individuals as part of the policy.

Vice Chair Wood thanked Attorney Rogers for her presentation.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to adopt Policy ACAB as presented in the agenda material. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardillo	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

Attorney Rosa: HPS October 1, 2021, enrollment numbers ~ postponed until a later date.

Attorney Rosa: Length of School Lunches.

Attorney Rosa indicated that a parent was concerned with the length of lunches and that students were not able to finish lunch during the allotted time frame.

Superintendent Marotta provided details on the time and learning requirements as it relates to the school day, lunches and recesses. She indicated that the situation had been monitored since the matter had been brought to the district's attention and it was being addressed by the administration.

Ms. Sullivan asked if Ms. Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling and Support Services could address supportive measures.

Ms. Dion stated this school year was very difficult coming off an equally hard year. She thanked everyone (parents, staff, students) for showing up to school. She referenced the many behaviors that were being exhibited by students as a product of the pandemic and remote/hybrid learning. Ms. Dion specified that students handled the pandemic differently and needed distinctive types of supports. She indicated that school counselors were leading small groups throughout the year. Ms. Dion announced that there would be two parent workshops on Fostering Resiliency and Distress Tolerance.

The Committee thanked Ms. Dion for her attendance and report.

Attorney Rosa: Middle School and High School Sports Transportation.

Attorney Rosa asked for an update on the transportation challenge this year.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported on the complications with the intramural middle school soccer program. He had a remote meeting last week with Athletic Director Tom O'Brien, Ralph Wolfendale, and the four middle school principals to discuss options. Mr. Pfifferling offered that the new transportation coordinator had a CDL license and was transporting student athletes. He noted that a signed permission slip for each occurrence would allow for parental car pooling. The Assistant Superintendent researched leasing a van from NRT or other companies and it was not a viable option. He authorized contracted service into vehicle line for purchase of vehicles.

Attorney Magliocchetti offered that the Transportation Subcommittee was meeting regularly (bi-weekly) to stay abreast of the transportation matters.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello: Itemized List of what has been spent from the \$25m received from COVID.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling provided information on the Federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds [SC ESSER Funds Update 10-14-21.pdf](#)

Attorney Rosa clarified that the monies were not expressly used for positions.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello: Introduction of Adam Rodis regarding an Update on Mask Update.

Mr. Adam Rodis, Haverhill, MA spoke about the Mask Update, Vaccine, Gene Therapy and Natural Immunity. He noted the effects of cancel culture. Mr. Rodis expressed opposition to the enforcement of mandates including vaccine mandates.

Mr. Rodis polled the members regarding mask mandates. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello offered a response in support of parental rights and no other members offered a response.

Dr. Marotta related that once an 80% vaccination rate had been achieved the district could submit a form to remove the mask mandate. She noted that the vaccination rate was not near the 80% figure.

Superintendent Marotta offered that physician's note could be submitted for students that needed a medical accommodation to the mask requirement (mostly sensory or cognitive issues). She responded that DESE had not needed to be contacted for any clarifications and there had been no denials of requests.

Mayor Fiorentini: Diversity Officer.

The mayor wanted to move this matter along in order to implement the position. He indicated that the focus of the position should be hiring and recruitment.

Vice Chair Wood responded that the Finance Subcommittee would be bringing a recommendation to the full Committee by the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports.

Finance Subcommittee Report ~ Recommendation for Moody Tuition [School Committee Remote Finance Subcommittee Minutes 10.04.21.pdf](#). Mr. Wood referenced that there would be no tuition fees this year (covered by ESSER II funds) and that the tuition would be budgeted in the next fiscal year.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Recommendation for Moody Tuition as presented. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Finance Subcommittee Report ~ Recommendation for Amendment to Vehicle Policy [Proposed Amended HPS Vehicle Agreement 10.14.21.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the amendment to the Vehicle Policy. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Old Business.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Transportation ~ updated by Attorney Magliocchetti earlier in the meeting.

Attorney Rosa provided an update from the Athletics Subcommittee. He shared some good news:

- ◆ Hillie Volleyball Team (10-1) defeated unbeaten North Andover and are now ranked 5th in MA;
- ◆ Our Golf Team recently won the 2021 Regular Season MVC Championship finishing with a 12:1 record after beating Central Catholic;
- ◆ Senior Golfer Aidan Azevedo won the MVC Individual Championship in Lowell, after tying in the first

playoff hole

- ◆ Unified Basketball Team has a record of 3-0 with the last game being held on October 26th and if you have not seen a game you will leave with a smile on your face for the rest of the day.

HVAC Estimates and– postponed from the 9.23.21 meeting ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced the report to install air conditioning in the four (4) replica schools. He had requested an update on available funds from the Assistant Superintendent.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted the documents that had been distributed this evening:

- SC Approved Projects dated 03.25.21 and 06.10.21 [FY21 SC Approved Facilities Transfers - Projects \(1\).pdf](#);
- Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds breakdown [SC ESSER Funds Update 10-14-21.pdf](#);
- Four (4) Replica Schools itemized costs for 2nd and 3rd floor air conditioning [AC cost projection \(1\).pdf](#)

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for the amount of remaining available funds.

Mr. Pfifferling answered \$154,000 was available with a shortfall of \$5,000.

Mr. Dorrance, Director of Facilities provided information on the four (4) replica schools. He wanted to avoid the bid process in this project. Mr. Dorrance reviewed the cost projection document.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that the ESSER grant did have monies designated for building maintenance and repairs. He was confident that there was \$36,000 available for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Marotta offered that there were savings due to vacancies.

In reference to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on the number of electricians for this particular job, Mr. Dorrance answered three (3) electricians would be needed to complete the work.

Attorney Rosa asked for an explanation of unit cost extended as indicated in the document.

Mr. Dorrance replied it was the unit cost multiplied by the number of units.

Mr. Wood clarified that there was a shortfall of \$86,000 for the project.

Mr. Pfifferling was confident that there were available with a future financial transfer.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the work on the 3rd floor of the four (4) replica schools in the amount of \$236,150.80 with the caveat that the financial transfers are brought to the Finance Subcommittee for review and approval in the amount of \$86,000. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

Attorney Magliocchetti expressed concern regarding the service (400 amps) at Tilton School. Vice Chair Wood indicated that the matter would be discussed at the next Finance Subcommittee meeting.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant JE20211015 July 2021 P-Card [PCard July 2021 SC 10.14.21.pdf](#) totaling \$3,928.50 as indicated in the agenda material.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais questioned the Worldpoint ECC Inc. and International Transaction Fee charges.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that it might be for items purchased out of the country (international transaction fee).

Dr. Marotta noted that the \$3,573.90 was for CTE/CVTE equipment for the CNA Program.

Attorney Rosa related that his business website host is located in Canada and there was a similar charge on his credit card.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant JE20211015 July 2021 P-Card (\$3,928.50). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	No

5 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
1 member voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20211015, EV20211015B & EV20211015C [Detail Warrant EV20211015 EV20211015B and EV20211015C \(1\).pdf](#) totaling \$1,474,455.68 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20211015, EV20211015B & EV20211015C (\$1,474,455.68). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

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

Recommendation from the Director of Facilities to declare surplus items from 60 Brown Street ("The Barn") [Facilities Surplus 10.14.21.pdf](#)

Due to an error the pictures were not included in the agenda material.

Mr. Dorrance explained that 8-10 pictures had been provided to show the amount of materials/equipment for disposal.

Vice Chair Wood indicated that for public records requirements the items needed to be listed for disposal and on file for 7 years.

Mr. Dorrance would empty the building and provide a listing.

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2021 [Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 09.23.21.pdf](#) and Remote Emergency Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2021 [School Committee Remote Emergency Meeting Minutes 09.29.21.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the minutes. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

6 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 (9:48 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained