



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

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 remotely	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present in person (7:10 pm)
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present remotely	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 present in person.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson 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.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Congratulations and Recognition of the December 2021 HHS Night School Graduating Class.

Mayor Fiorentini commented that he along with Attorney Rosa had attended the graduation ceremony. Mr. Meland, High School Principal announced the graduation ceremony had been held at 5:30 pm in the City Hall Auditorium. He read the names of the graduates:

- Nathaniel Bah
- David Feoli
- Robert Grullon
- Stevin Grullon
- Dalvel Gutierrez
- Aleigha Montgomery
- Xavier Morales

The school committee and audience applauded the students' accomplishments.

Mayor Fiorentini commended Donald Davoli for his work with the night school students.

Election of Vice Chair for 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to nominate Mrs. Sapienza Donais as Vice Chair for 2022. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to close nominations. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call was requested with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		

A roll call vote was held on Mrs. Sapienza Donais as Vice Chair for 2022:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Attorney Rosa	Mrs. Sapienza Donais
Ms. Sullivan	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Mr. Wood	Mrs. Sapienza Donais
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Mrs. Sapienza Donais		

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was elected Vice Chair for 2022.

Mayor Fiorentini and the members congratulated Mrs. Sapienza Donais and asked her to chair the meeting.

Communications/Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Ms. Hailey Prunier.

Ms. Prunier announced the following HHS activities:

- Starting tomorrow the HHS Drama Club will present two (2) one act plays (pre-order tickets since there are attendance limits);
- Encouraged masking and vaccinations (if able) and if unwell get tested, since COVID was on the rise;
- Seniors who are unsure of their plans for next year should consult with their guidance counselor;
- There is a Job Board available in the mall near the cafeteria and if employed be sure to obtain a work permit at either City Hall or the F-Wing/200's Office;
- Encouraged involvement in extracurricular or club activities at the school;
- Grades are closing within the next week with mid-terms being held shortly thereafter.

Ms. Prunier announced her acceptance to George Washington University (Political Science).

The members congratulated Hailey.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Peter Yannakoreaus, 85 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA, spoke against white racist ideology being taught to students and reiterated his concern with this ideology.

Tiffany Ann Bell, 93 Blaisdell Street, Haverhill, MA, District Family Engagement Nurse spoke on behalf of the district nurses and noted their exhaustion and concern with the workload during this pandemic. She advocated against contract tracing which resulted in extreme fatigue among the staff and asked for the committee's consideration.

Katrina Sullivan, 16 Westminster Avenue, Haverhill, MA, Co-Chair of School Nurses' Association stated her appreciation to Superintendent Marotta and Director Vozeolas for their support during COVID. She described a day in her work day and its complexities, including the huge increase in COVID cases at any time during the pandemic. Ms. Sullivan acknowledged the fear of making a mistake in the performance of

her duties. She suggested a change in contract tracing.

Timothy Briggs, 30 Hoyt Road, Haverhill, MA, HEA President noted the presumptive action by the Superintendent by distributing two (2) kits to each staff member before the winter recess. He related that DESE's rigid requirements/guidelines were not in the best interest of Haverhill. Mr. Briggs suggested looking at a different approach.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Superintendent Marotta read a statement on the district's cyberattack which indicated there was a data breach. She noted that there were 300 impacted individuals, who will be notified by the district. Dr. Marotta indicated that Technology Director Doug Russell will be attending the next meeting to give a complete report to the members.

Early College Promise [Expanding Early College at Haverhill High.](#)

Principal Jason Meland introduced Assistant Principal Sam Bradbury, College and Career Counselor Dianne McCarthy and remotely Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Alliance for Early College Chessye Moseley offered a presentation on this program.

Mr. Meland was excited to share this opportunity with the committee.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about transfer credit.

Ms. Moseley explained that there would be an exploration for credit acceptance for out of state universities.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about increased participation and some strategies.

Ms. McCarthy related that increased parent involvement and outreach to students which dispels the barriers to pursuing this option, including middle school evening parent/student presentations.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's question on supporting growth of Early College, Ms. McCarthy reported the tremendous assistance from Northern Essex Community College in this endeavor.

Ms. McCarthy commented on the first-year summer seminars and professors assisting with reviewing mid-terms, which would assist in removing obstacles

Mr. Meland stated that the school was awaiting final approval of the grant application to support this program. He thanked Ms. Moseley for her assistance.

Ms. Sullivan asked if there were participants who could offer guidance to students who were interested in Early College Promise.

COVID Update: Nursing, Pool Testing and Contact Tracing.

Dr. Marotta reported on the significant COVID presence in the district. She indicated that if the numbers increased to a higher level, each individual school might need to have a snow day with a make-up day

later in the school year. Additionally, the superintendent commented that excused absences were an option for parents. Dr. Marotta stated that contact tracing was a DESE requirement and was a significant burden on our nurses and the district was exploring alternatives.

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased with maintaining open schools.

Superintendent Marotta explained that the entire security guard workforce was out ill today with the administrative team performing those duties along with Mrs. Connolly performing high school lunch duties and Mr. Pfifferling driving school buses. She described that closing equals the percentages of absences among staff and students, with high absenteeism among staff.

In response to the mayor's question on substitute teaching, the superintendent provided the Human Resource Department telephone number (978-374-3400) to initiate the hiring process.

Attorney Rosa inquired about contract tracing.

Ms. Vozeolas explained the contract tracing process in our schools.

Attorney Rosa suggested that the substitutes should have a designated assignment.

Mayor Fiorentini commended everyone for their efforts during the pandemic.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

FY22 Budget Update ~ Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the "red-green" report had not been received by the committee in a number of months.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling distributed the report this evening and apologized for missing the meeting materials deadline [HPS Expenditures as of 1-3-2022 \(1\).pdf](#). In reference to the "red-green" report, Mr. Pfifferling offered that the document contained all the budget line items and at present there was a \$3.9m balance. He related that the balance was due to staffing vacancies and end of year expenses. The assistant superintendent stated that the budget was in a good position, however, there were significant needs in the district. Mr. Pfifferling noted that this report would be presented monthly to the school committee at its first meeting of the month.

Attorney Rosa questioned the DCF transportation line item (\$85,000).

Mr. Pfifferling replied that this was one of the areas that was similar to special education transportation. He related that it may need further study along with the possibility of pursuing state reimbursement for the costs.

Attorney Rosa questioned the Bartlett School and Assessment Center line item (offset receipts) in the amount of -\$400,000. Mr. Pfifferling explained that Haverhill had a specialized program at this location that was not offered in other communities therefore, it was for anticipated tuitions (which had not been calculated into the budget balance or surplus).

Ms. Sullivan asked about budget planning for FY23.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded that there was a draft FY23 budget timeline [Budget Timeline \(1\).pdf](#). He noted that the finance subcommittee was meeting bi-weekly through June 2022 to discuss both FY22 and FY23 matters. Mr. Pfifferling highlighted the following months dates in the budget timeline:

January	Historical budget information distributed to Principals / Dept Heads
January	Principals / Dept Heads Budget Procedure Review
February	Budget Retreat / Leadership
February	Release Community Video / Survey
March	Community Survey Closes
March	Principals / Dept Head Budget Submission Deadline
March	Principals / Dept Head Budget Meetings
March	Leadership Team Reviews Budget Requests
April	Leadership Team Prepares Draft of FY22 Budget

Report on Consentino School Building Project ~ Ms. Sullivan.

She offered a recap of the building project, including the submission of the preliminary design proposal (PDP) to MSBA as voted by the Consentino School Building Committee on January 6, 2022. She related those plans needed to be submitted for three (3) enrollments (715, 985, 1080) along with three options which included repair, renovation or new construction. Ms. Sullivan emphasized no decisions had been made other than the PDP submission to MSBA.

Subcommittee Reports.

Finance Subcommittee Recommendation on Minimum Wage Increase ~ Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood reported that there was a recommendation to bring several employees up to the minimum wage of \$14.25 (cost of approximately \$33,000). He noted however after discussion with Attorney Rosa, the recommendation had been changed to \$15.00/hour minimum wage increase (approximately \$60,000). Mr. Wood commented that wages at this time were higher in most instances than the minimum wage and was a fairer option for our employees.

Attorney Rosa agreed with the change and noted that many businesses were paying higher than the minimum wage.

Mayor Fiorentini strongly supported the recommendation.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling acknowledged there may be a need for additional transfers.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adopt the minimum wage of \$15.00 for HPS employees. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

Mayor Fiorentini	Yes		
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7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling thanked the committee for its vote. He requested a transfer of \$66,253.98 and noted that additional transfers may be needed since some employees were already at the \$14.25 rate (specifically cafeteria staff).

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the financial transfer in the amount of \$66,253.98. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Maintenance Subcommittee ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that this subcommittee had continued with its bi-weekly meetings with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to discuss school maintenance issues. He announced that school tours had to be postponed due to the snow storm last week, however they would begin shortly in order for both he and Mrs. Sapienza Donais to observe the issues and talk with building personnel. Attorney Magliocchetti informed the members that the RFP for air conditioners had gone out per the Director of Facilities.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked Superintendent Marotta if it was advisable to tour buildings at this time due to the increase in COVID cases. Dr. Marotta answered that in three weeks the district would be in a better position.

The subcommittee agreed to await further information from the superintendent.

Attorney Rosa thanked Attorney Magliocchetti and Mrs. Sapienza Donais for touring the schools to assess the facilities in firsthand manner.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20211223, EV20211223B, EV2022114, EV2022114B, EV2022114C, [Comb Warrant for 01-13-2022 SC Meeting.pdf](#) totaling \$4,055,791.07 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant approve Warrant Number EV20211223, EV20211223B, EV2022114, EV2022114B, EV2022114C, [Comb Warrant for 01-13-2022 SC Meeting.pdf](#) totaling \$4,055,791.07 as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Recommendation for approval of financial transfers ~ Mr. Pfifferling 01-13-22 Budget Transfer Request.pdf. Mr. Pfifferling reviewed the total of each of the financial transfers with the committee.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the financial transfers (salary reserve line item) as presented by the Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	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 approve Warrant Number JE20220114 September 2021 P-Card totaling \$3,998.33 PCard September 2021 for SC Approval 01.13.22.pdf.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220114 September 2021 P-Card totaling \$3,998.33. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked about the green highlighted expenditures. Mr. Pfifferling responded that this was the vendor that provided DOT physicals for the employees who recently obtained hoisting licenses.

In response to Mr. Wood's question on Dunkin and JW Pepper, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling answered that the Dunkin expense was his reimbursement for providing light refreshments and coffee for bus drivers and monitors at a team meeting at the DPW and the other expense was for music instruments and supports.

A roll call vote was requested:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021 [Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 12.09.21.pdf](#) and Approval of Field Trips [Signed FT Requests 01.13.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mayor Fiorentini to approve both items by consensus. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	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 Mayor Fiorentini to adjourn the meeting (8:43 pm). Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained