



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2021

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and requested a roll call of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present remotely 7:21 pm	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, 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.

Communications/Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Ms. Hailey Prunier.

Ms. Prunier provided the following report on HHS activities:

- This is a very eventful time at HHS;
- The Scholarship portal is open and everyone should apply;
- A Vocational/Trade Career Week is being held next week (B-C-D Blocks) to explore other post-secondary possibilities;
- Term 3 has started and advises all students to take advantage of the new start and extra help opportunities/Saturday School;
- Juniors and Seniors can re-take MCAS in order to qualify for scholarships;
- Only four (4) spectators/family members per athlete can attend athletic events;
- Reminder to check Google Classroom for assignments, updates and news;
- Check School Brains for course recommendations and preparation for guidance counselor meeting;
- Have a great week!

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Bill Taylor, 51 Sheridan Street, Haverhill, MA, a kindergarten parent thanked the committee for its supports that have allowed for his daughter to thrive in her school environment. He spoke about the recent WHAV news article about the mayor's declining to pursue state financing for the replacement of the boiler and windows at the Moody School and noted comments from both Director of Facilities Dorrance and several teachers. Mr. Taylor was angered by the cancelation of classes following the MLK

holiday due to the failure of the heating system. He admonished the mayor for not supporting the application.

Mayor Fiorentini offered an explanation to Mr. Taylor's concerns. He related that in conversations with MSBA, he was informed about the change in classification of the school from a preschool to a school with one (1) kindergarten class. The mayor further stated that if the cost of repairs extended 30% of the value of the whole school needed to be handicap accessible which in turn would cost over \$1M. Mayor Fiorentini decided to make the repairs locally and go forward on the roof work immediately and also do the window replacement (\$14,000). He recommended a re-appraisal of the building to allow for the heating system to be replaced without making handicapped accessibility.

Mr. Dorrance gave a detailed explanation of the Moody School heat distribution problems that specifically effected two (2) classrooms.

In response to Mr. Dorrance's remarks, Mr. Taylor asked if he had recommended replacement of the system. Mr. Dorrance agreed with his statement.

Mr. Taylor asked that the situation needed to be corrected such as ADA upgrades, since many of the students have high needs and are economically disadvantaged in the school. He was disappointed that the school committee address these issues.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Cyber Attack Update ~ Mr. Doug Russell, Director of Technology.

Mr. Russell detailed the process that had occurred following the cyberattack last year which impacted 277 individuals. He noted that these people were in the process of notification including to the respective governmental agencies. Director Russell offered the following proactive responses:

- Removal of 140 computers from service after cyberattack and recovery of the systems;
- Working with insurance company, cybersecurity law firm and a forensic cybersecurity company;
- No main systems were compromised and are stored online;
- Weakest link is end user;
- Examination of file structures with cybersecurity firm;
- Notification to appropriate governmental agencies fulfilling the legal requirements;
- Restructuring of the technology department with staff being cross trained;
- Updating of password procedure;
- Set up additional automation;
- Notification of vulnerabilities;
- Quarterly scan and audits of systems;
- Implemented data loss;
- Upgraded ransomware and monitoring including with an outside company and the use of artificial intelligence;
- Security training with staff and state;
- Monthly phishing tests;
- Security newsletter;
- Full compliance with all laws and regulations i.e., data privacy agreements.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about two-factor identification.

Mr. Russell responded that it was a lengthy process but provided better protection and it was a time-consuming endeavor.

Attorney Magliocchetti commended Mr. Russell and his IT team for their efforts and asked how often data was backed up to the system.

Mr. Russell answered there were redundant and frequent backups in two locations.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's questions on notification process, Mr. Russell's services

Mrs. Sapienza Donais complemented Mr. Russell for his knowledge, dedication and effort to the district.

Mr. Russell publicly acknowledged his team.

Ms. Sullivan also expressed appreciation but asked if there are other resources that were needed in this department.

Mr. Russell responded that if a significant need presented itself, the committee would be notified of the needs.

MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Applications 2022.

Superintendent Marotta stated that Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling would discuss options with the committee.

Mr. Pfifferling provided documentation on the conditions of the schools.

Attorney Rosa advocated for the Moody School boiler. He also asked about roofs at each of the replica schools.

Mr. Pfifferling noted that Mr. Dorrance could provide more detailed information.

Mr. Dorrance recommended replacement of the replica schools and Nettle School roofs. He noted the significant deterioration on the sun-facing side of each of the schools. Mr. Dorrance stated that there should be a roof replacement project for several years.

Attorney Rosa referenced window and boiler replacements and asked for recommendations.

Mr. Dorrance answered that there were more significant issues such as roofs.

Attorney Magliocchetti concurred that a plan needed to be developed for the roofs but noted the lack of contractors to accomplish the work.

Mr. Dorrance reported that all alternatives had been explored for roof repair.

Attorney Magliocchetti indicated that delaying projects would negatively impact the city with higher costs for both labor and materials.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling explained the deadline for submission was March 25, 2022, and suggested a recommendation for the Moody boiler and windows and Silver Hill/Golden Hill roofs be placed on the February 10, 2022, School Committee agenda since the submission would also require City Council approval.

Attorney Rosa noted the safety concerns associated with facilities issues.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that the older school roofs were in better condition than some of the newer buildings.

In response to the mayor's question on Greenleaf School (slate roof), Dr. Marotta answered that significant work had been completed prior to Mr. Dorrance's tenure.

Mayor Fiorentini related that each year the capital improvement plan was updated and recommended a meeting with the new Chief Financial Officer for the City on facilities.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve a submission for the Silver Hill roof under the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Applications 2022. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve a submission for the Moody School boiler under the under the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Applications 2022. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini asked that this vote be postponed until receipt of the appraisal.

The motion was withdrawn by Attorney Rosa and will be placed on the February 10, 2022, School Committee agenda.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to set the Silver Hill roof as the priority #1 project. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Ms. Sullivan asked the process for repairing the Moody School windows.

Mr. Dorrance informed the members that tabs had been removed from all (110 windows) at the school and replacement tabs (counterbalances) have been located and would be installed at Moody.

DESE Updated K-12 Testing Option [Joint New Testing Program Option Memo 1.18.22.pdf](#).

Superintendent Marotta reported that the COVID numbers were decreasing and pivoting back to normalcy.

Dr. Maddox deferred to Ms. Vozeolas, Director of School Health and Nursing.

Ms. Vozeolas noted that the DESE guidance provided relief from contact tracing with the provision of in-home antigen test kits for districts that agree to opt-in to the program. She stated there was limited exposure in the schools, i.e., test and stay program (2%).

Attorney Rosa inquired if it would better to designate a testing day or leave it up to the family's discretion.

Ms. Vozeolas responded that it should be the family's decision on the testing day and it was an opt-in choice.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked at what vaccination levels would be required to lift the mask mandate.

Ms. Vozeolas conveyed Haverhill's numbers were low in comparison to other communities including gateway cities

Mr. Wood noted Haverhill's vaccination numbers were extremely lower than other cities in the commonwealth in all categories (i.e., ages 5-11 and 12-15) except for ages 16-19.

Superintendent Marotta commented that there had been many clinics throughout the district and it was not about opportunity instead it was about reluctance.

There was discussion about reasons for reluctance in getting vaccinations, especially among the Latino population.

Mayor Fiorentini was interested in any suggestions for increasing vaccination rates.

Dr. Maddox advocated for the adoption of the new policy and the elimination of pool testing.

Mr. Wood supported more education and outreach to combat the resistance to vaccinations.

Dr. Maddox stated that it was a complicated and difficult issue.

Mr. Wood supported elected officials being advocates for vaccinations.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked Dr. Maddox and Ms. Vozeolas for their input. He asked about an in-school vaccination program.

Ms. Vozeolas related there were many opportunities for vaccination clinics however, the issue was convenience for the families.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended holding vaccinations on a particular time and school. He promoted to increase vaccination rates to remove the mask mandate.

Ms. Sullivan asked if there was parental concern regarding safety of the vaccines.

Dr. Maddox reported that the vaccine was safe and was a 1/3 of the adult dosage. He believed that masks will be removed without reaching 80% vaccination rates within the next few months. Dr. Maddox commented that more availability of testing resulted in higher positivity rates.

Mayor Fiorentini offered that anyone who tested positive at home should self-isolate and remain at home. He endorsed maintaining pool testing.

Dr. Maddox related that the current procedure was not working, not sustainable and the adoption of the new policy would be more beneficial for the staff. He did not recommend continuing pool testing.

Dr. Marotta commented that there were on-going clinics in the schools and notification was made using a number of methods and noted it might be an option to have the clinics during student drop-off in the morning.

Attorney Rosa suggested using the remind app for notifications.

Dr. Marotta asked for a vote on the new testing option this evening. She commented conversations would need to be held with the union.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adopt the DESE Updated K-12 Testing Option (home test). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to stop pool testing. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

4 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes
3 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Dr. Marotta noted that contact tracing would also be eliminated once the new program was implemented in the schools.

Superintendent Marotta announced the receipt of a Mental Health and Emotional Supports (\$274,000) competitive grant that was written by the special education and mental health department and this grant will be available to us next year.

Vacation Academies.

Mrs. Connolly, Director of Title I and Community Outreach provided information on the February Vacation Academy:

- Academic lessons and recreational activities during February vacation to keep students engaged in learning and to provide working families with an option of high-quality childcare;
- Partnership with Boys & Girls Club, YMCA and YWCA along YMCA @ Pentucket Lake and will be held at these locations (without membership in these organization to attend);
- 8:30 am-5:30 pm (Academics from 8:30 am-12:30 pm, Lunch 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm, Recreation 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm)
- Students in grades K-8;
- 310 students had signed up for the academy resulting in an increase from last year's enrollment of 164;
- 27 staff members which is an additional 10 staff members;
- Highest grade band is grades 2-3 followed by grades K-1, grades 4-5 and lastly grades 6-8;
- Ratio 1:9;
- Openings in some grade levels;
- Staff openings (3-4 teachers), please contact her directly regarding positions;
- Requests for same assignments to continue working with the same students;
- Title I supported activity.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question on YMCA locations, Mrs. Connolly responded that the YMCA's Pentucket Lake site was included in this year's academy.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Spectator Attendance at Hillie Sports ~ Mrs. Sapienza Donais & Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello.

Mrs. Sapienza-Donais asked how the procedure was implemented in the schools since it was not a School Committee decision.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello noted that middle school students could not attend sporting events after school.

Dr. Marotta responded that during the surge in cases, the Health Committee had made the decision to reduce participation since there were large amounts of staff and students with the illness and the goal was to keep schools open for classes.

Mrs. Sapienza-Donais asked about locker rooms' accessibility.

Dr. Marotta and Mayor Fiorentini noted that it was a Board of Health decision regarding the hockey rink which was not a school department facility.

Mr. Wood commented it was a prudent decision, however, the committee should have been notified so they could answer parent inquiries.

Superintendent Marotta apologized for the lack of notification to the committee.

Director of Facilities Stephen Dorrance to explain Consentino School Condition Report [Existing Conditions Summary SD 01.27.22.pdf](#) ~ Attorney Rosa.

Attorney Rosa had asked Director of Facilities Dorrance to provide an update on the school and would share his opinion if requested with the committee.

Mr. Dorrance reviewed his report briefly with the Committee.

Attorney Rosa asked about unforeseen costs that could impact the project.

Attorney Rosa mentioned the preservation of the gymnasium at Consentino and asked about compliance issues.

Mr. Dorrance related that preservation of an area of the school did not translate to a reduction in costs. He stated that starting with a blank slate (new building) would convert into a less labor-intensive project, a better product along with an extended useful life. Mr. Dorrance also recommendation a project without the employment of Construction Manager at Risk.

Attorney Rosa inquired about unforeseen costs, such as mold and mildew in places in the school.

Mr. Dorrance offered the incidence in a recent project that resulted in the loss of heat for two weeks in an occupied building that caused disruption for students and staff.

Attorney Rosa stated that the relocation of students would be a significant concern.

Director Dorrance agreed with this statement.

Attorney Rosa in reading the full report noted that a proposed new school would be the best solution. He did not recommend preservation of the current gym. Attorney Rosa noted that the proposed new school would not be an extravagant one.

Director Dorrance encouraged building up rather than out in the new school. He suggested using materials that would be easier for maintenance and cleaning and noted the add/alternate option. Mr. Dorrance encouraged building up rather than out in the new school. He suggested using materials that

would maximize more efficient maintenance and cleaning solutions. Mr. Dorrance gave some examples for consideration in the project.

Attorney Magliocchetti requested a consistent message by elected officials that a new school is needed in this section of the city for the students and families for equity. He stressed that it did not make sense to renovate the school from a financial point of view. Attorney Magliocchetti thanked Mr. Dorrance and noted that the maintenance subcommittee would be inspecting the project's progression.

Subcommittee Reports.

Subcommittee Assignments 2022 [HSC Subcommittee Assignments 2022 TSD 01.21.22.pdf](#) ~ Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced the new subcommittee assignments for 2022 and if there were any questions or concerns to contact her.

Maintenance Subcommittee ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the subcommittee's intent to tour the schools starting with Moody School on February 4, 2022.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20220128, EV20220128B, EV20220128C, totaling \$931,926.56 [Signed SC Report EV20220128 & EV20220128B.pdf](#) and [Detail Warrant EV20220128 & EV20220128B.xlsx.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20220128, EV20220128B, EV20220128C. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	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 JE20220128 October 2021 P-Card [October 2021 PCard Warrant.pdf](#) totaling \$6,654.48.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Warrant Number JE20220128 October 2021 P-Card Warrant. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		
5 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
2 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare surplus outdated F&P Kits and donate to Sacred Hearts. Dr. Marotta explained that the Sacred Hearts could use these instructional materials (reading assessment).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the recommendation for surplus and donation of instructional materials to Sacred Hearts School. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	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 as indicated in the agenda material:

- A. Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2022 [Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 01.13.22.pdf](#);
- B. Professional Educational Conference [PoorCONFReq 1.10.22 \(1\).pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Items by Consensus. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		
7 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (9:21 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		
7 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			

0 members abstained