



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
FY23 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2022**

**Roll Call**

Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and requested a roll call of the members:

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

Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent of Schools were also in attendance at the meeting.

Superintendent Marotta distributed a priority 1 list to the members.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reported that the mayor had informed the finance subcommittee that monies for crossing guards are being eliminated from the city's budget.

Dr. Marotta reviewed the priority 1 list and highlighted the Director of Security position.

Mr. Wood explained the position and its duties along with the possibility of hiring outside the public school system.

Superintendent Marotta clarified that the professional development offered to current staff was not related to law enforcement.

Mr. Wood suggested training of de-escalation practices.

Attorney Rosa asked that night school expansion be included in the budget.

Dr. Marotta commented that there was a strong team in place at Hunking School and did not know if the request for an additional assistant principal was a long-term need.

Ms. Sullivan questioned the portable classroom request for Whittier School.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais explained that this request came from the maintenance subcommittee's tour of the school and was included as an option. She noted that there could be grade movement between Pentucket Lake and JG Whittier.

Dr. Marotta stated that the Pentucket Lake School Principal would be doing a survey of parents regarding staying at the school for another year.

Mr. Wood recommended a serious discussion on the bottom line.

Mr. Pfifferling related that the insurance chargeback for this year was \$1.2M (according to the mayor).

Dr. Marotta urged an agreement between the school department and city.

Attorney Rosa clarified that the 56 positions may have been added but not all positions were filled for this school year.

Dr. Marotta stated that many more people did take health insurance this past year.

Mr. Wood related that in the past a figure was calculated for budgeting purposes, i.e., \$10,000 single plan and \$15,000 family plan.

Ms. Sullivan asked about retirements this year.

Mrs. McArthur responded that 10 teachers were retiring this year.

Mr. Pfifferling offered there was a savings factor for retired teachers.

Ms. Sullivan was concerned about staff hiring and the health insurance impact.

Attorney Rosa inquired if there were any districts that paid its health insurance.

Mr. Wood would not fund portable classrooms.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about the intervention support technician and its duties.

Dr. Marotta responded that these positions were behavior-related and supported teachers.

Mr. Wood asked about any changes to the original budget proposal.

Dr. Marotta expressed concern about the elimination of the assistant director of facilities.

Mr. Pfifferling recommended a local person to supervise the project.

Dr. Marotta related that it was important to have a manager of the building project.

Ms. Sullivan suggested a work around for the building project.

There was discussion regarding the elimination of the assistant director's position.

Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling advocated for oversight of the buildings and its systems.

Ms. Sullivan interjected that many of the issues were related to HVAC systems.

Mr. Pfifferling related that the oversight of day-to-day operations of our buildings was a needed area.

There was discussion regarding hiring a consultant for the project with a limited timeframe to provide support for the superintendent.

Mr. Wood offered that there was not widespread support for the high school restructuring. He urged another solution.

Ms. Sullivan opened the discussion about ways to improve the culture and operation of the high school, such as two assistant principals for grade 9.

It was agreed that an additional assistant principal for the high school would be substituted for the executive assistant principal.

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Wood would make an appointment with the mayor to discuss the FY23 budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (8:30 pm). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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