



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2022

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:

Attorney Rosa	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present in person @ 7:03 pm	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Present in person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present		

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

The mayor 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 July 15, 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 by the attendees.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Mr. Sean Wynn.

Mayor Fiorentini introduced the newly elected Student Advisory Council Representative for 2022-2023 who was greeted with applause by the audience.

Mr. Wynn provided the following report:

- Friday is a half-day for all non-seniors and Monday is Memorial Day, a no-school day;
- Senior Chapel will be held on Friday (5.27.22) at 9:45 am in the backfield at the high school (weather permitting);
- The R. Elaine Croston Poetry Reading Contest will be held tomorrow (10:30 am);
- Night of the Stars will be held tomorrow night at 6:00 pm;
- Report cards will be issued to seniors on June 1st, followed by the Senior Prom will be held at the Atkinson Country Club at 7:00 pm;
- On June 2nd there will be following activities for seniors: Graduation Practice, Senior Cookout, Senior Coffee House;
- June 3rd is Graduation;
- Grades 9-11 there will be finals at HHS will be held from June 10-June 15;
- Last day of school is June 15th.

Communications/Reports ~ Public Comment.

Mrs. Linda Koutoulas, City Clerk urged the school committee to adjust the proposed school calendar to indicate a no school day on September 6, 2022, since it is state election primary day and due to the changes in polling locations, changes in the precincts along with many logistical issues. She noted that there had been complaints in the past with parental concerns regarding student interaction. Mrs. Koutoulas asked for the committee's consideration of this amendment to the calendar.

Mr. Timothy Briggs, HEA President, announced that teachers' negotiations are beginning shortly and that it would be a different type of negotiations. He related that many members of the HEA were present at tonight's meeting to show support for the upcoming process and that it would not be business as usual in

these negotiations.

Mayor Fiorentini asked Mr. Briggs to alert him at subsequent meetings if he would be speaking regarding teachers' negotiations.

At the request of Mayor Fiorentini, a moment of silence was observed for the people of Uvalde, Texas and Buffalo NY (who had recently experienced deadly shootings). He hoped this would be the last time a request for moment of silence because children were killed in the classroom.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Introduction of Ms. Jennifer Rubera along with Walnut Square's NECC Peace Poetry Winners who will read their poems. Ms. Rubera introduced each of the Peace Poets who read their poems:

Honorable Mentions:

- Chrissy Gayot
- Emelia Green
- Aiden Colon
- Vincent Arlequin
- Delilah Ramos
- Jayleani Reynoso
- Aria Wiley
- Dan Okoko

First Place: Kali Trocki

A request was made by school committee member Maura Ryan-Ciardello for copies of the published poems. Mrs. Rubera would ask for additional copies for the members.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve the school calendar for 2022-2023.

Dr. Marotta reviewed the rationale behind the calendar highlighting the original request to hold a school day on primary election day September 6, 2022 which included the following: school started later (8.30.22) with the first week being 3 ½ days followed by a long-weekend for the observance of Labor Day.

Mrs. Antkowiak stated that due to a shorter winter recess break and in consideration of COVID, additional no-school days had been added in January 2023.

The mayor suggested reducing winter break by one day to accommodate a no-school day on primary election day and emphasized the many changes this year with redistricting and new polling locations for approximately 40% of the voters.

Attorney Rosa made a motion to have a no-school day on September 6, 2022 (primary election day) and that winter recess ends on January 2, 2023 with a return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. He requested the superintendent's input on this motion.

Dr. Marotta expressed concerns and noted that a longer break had been considered since staffing levels been negatively impacted by COVID following last year's winter recess and other breaks throughout the school year.

Attorney Rosa amended his motion to amend the proposed 2022-2023 school calendar to have a no school day on September 6, 2022, with the tentative last day being June 14, 2023. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais suggested removing Good Friday as a no school day in the school calendar.

Ms. Sullivan agreed with Attorney Rosa's motion.

Dr. Marotta commented that Good Friday (when it was not a no school day) was a day of high absenteeism.

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, Chairperson	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 the amended school calendar [HPS 2022-2023 Student Calendar 5.31.22.pdf](#). 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, Chairperson	Yes		

7 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Introduction of Mr. Thomas Jordan, High School Social Studies Dean along with teachers and students regarding civic projects. [Final School Committee Presentation 5.26.22 \(2\).pdf](#)

Mr. Jordan expressed his gratitude to the committee for their support of social studies education. He acknowledged fellow educators, Marc Harvey and John Craven.

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the project.

Several students presented a brief synopsis of their projects: Madison Kulpa (Ms. Amie Alosi), and Serenity Robbins (Mr. Marc Harvey).

Ms. Meghan DeLong, Social Studies Coach (Grades K-8) provided a project summary for grade 8 students. She introduced Lincoln Bohanan who spoke about his project "lowering college tuition".

Attorney Magliocchetti commended and thanked the teachers and students, Madison, Serenity and Lincoln on their presentations. He expressed interest in exploring the start time of high school.

COVID Update. Dr. Marotta reported that the updated guidance, effective immediately allowed for students to attend school even if they were close contacts or non-vaccination status.

The mayor asked if there were any recommendations on masks.

Superintendent Marotta replied that there was no guidance on this matter.

FY23 Budget Planning Update along with a request for school committee approval of FY23 budget ~ Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling. [SC Budget 2022-23 525.pptx \(2\).pdf](#)

Attorney Rosa clarified that the vote of the school committee had been to fund a budget with \$8.9M.

Superintendent Marotta indicated that a PowerPoint presentation would be delivered by both herself and the assistant superintendent.

Ms. Sullivan clarified that she and Mr. Wood had met with the mayor. She related that budget scenario #3 had not been discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Wood stated that he asked the administration to prepare budget #3 as a result of the today's meeting with the mayor.

Mayor Fiorentini provided information on the health insurance impact as a result of the addition of 55 teachers (\$739,000). He went through a detailed explanation of city costs and other city expenses. The mayor acknowledged the increase in net school spending (over \$8M) and affirmed his commitment to the student opportunity act. He offered a compromise regarding the FY23 budget with the addition of \$750,000 from the city for health insurance increase costs.

Ms. Sullivan noted that \$8.9M was from student opportunity act with zero contributed from the city.

The mayor stated that if the state funding went away there would be a tremendous problem with the FY24 budget with major layoffs.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for an analysis of the funding sources.

Ms. Sullivan asked if a precedent was being set if there was no chargeback agreement.

Mayor Fiorentini approved the development of an agreement between the city and schools on chargebacks.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the school committee was advocating for the children.

Dr. Marotta reviewed several of the budget scenarios.

Mr. Wood referenced budget scenario #2 (school committee's offer from FY23 budget workshop on 5.19.22). He related that the compromise number from the mayor was not included in tonight's presentation. Mr. Wood indicated that there were many crises in the district such as, mental health, security, and educating our neediest students. He noted that when hiring personnel, the health insurance cost had been calculated into the cost of the position (whole cost). Mr. Wood did not want to have a "hardline" on the budget since with the city's form of government (strong mayor), the mayor had control over the budget and he wanted to ensure all available funds went to the students. He cautioned against an inflexible position.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais advocated cautiousness in budget negotiations with the mayor and was enlightened by the mayor's perspective.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Budget Scenario #3. Mr. Wood seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa would oppose this scenario since it resulted in a funding cut (\$602,503). He passionately advocated for monies to go to the students to close the achievement gap and disagreed with the mayor's budget viewpoint.

Attorney Magliocchetti expressed concern with the recent events at local beaches and that all available monies needed to go the school budget for needed services to address the mental health crisis with appropriate services and staffing.

Superintendent Marotta replied the needs were tremendous across all grades and ages (mental health and learning loss) and was grateful for the student opportunity act funds and any other funds.

Ms. Sullivan asked Dr. Marotta to provide information on the Consentino School Building project and the support needed by facilities experts regarding this project (i.e., 15 hours per week).

In regards to the proposal for the building consultant, Ms. Sullivan expressed concern with cutting this line item from the budget.

Dr. Marotta responded there was significant amount of time devoted to this project each week, but she was not an expert in facilities decision-making. She clarified that the Director of Facilities spent considerable time dedicated to this project and the assistant director's position was not in the budget.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the building consultant was not a permanent position and would have a specific timeframe for employment.

Mr. Wood asked about health insurance for new positions covered by grants.

Both Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling responded that health insurance was not factored in grants due to the 9% "tax" to the state. She noted that there was payment to the city for health insurance through a journal entry.

Attorney Rosa clarified that there were unfilled vacancies in last year's budget. He highlighted the reductions in budget scenario #3 (identified the reductions): building consultant, attendance contracted service, evening school, security enhancement, two esp's, one math coach, one K-3 interventionist, security consultant and Bradford Elementary teacher.

A roll call vote was requested and the results were as follows:

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

4 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

3 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Mayor Fiorentini noted the OPM's role needed to be clarified in order to address the superintendent's concerns. He suggested a meeting be scheduled in person with the OPM.

Dr. Marotta expressed concern regarding taking the lead on the school construction project.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Finance Subcommittee Update ~ Mr. Wood replied there was no report.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update ~ Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais. There was no report.

Superintendent's Recommendation on School Choice for SY 2022-2023.

Dr. Marotta recommended not accepting any students for school choice due to lack of space.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to not accept any school choice students for school year 2022-2023, Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mr. Wood clarified that the approval of the budget was for the purpose of moving the FY23 budget to the public hearing.

Attorney Rosa noted that the public hearing would be held on June 2, 2022 at 7:30 pm in the City Council Chambers.

A roll call vote was requested and the results were as follows:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson	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 EV20220527 & and EV20220527B totaling \$1,944,065.56 [Combined Warrant EV20220527 and EV20220527B.pdf](#) and [Detail Warrant EV20220527 and EV20220527B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20220527 & and EV20220527B totaling \$1,944,065.56. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the results were as follows:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson	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 JE20220525 April 2022 P-Card totaling \$10,933.60 [April P-Card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220525 April 2022 P-Card totaling \$10,933.60. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the results were as follows:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

2 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Mayor Fiorentini recommended a discussion about the use of p-cards at a future meeting.

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2022, [Final Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 05.12.22.pdf](#) and Approval of Use of Facilities [UOF 05.25.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus ~ minutes and use of facilities. 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, Chairperson	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 (8:40 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