



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2022**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor James Fiorentini, Chair 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-Ciardello	Absent	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 of Schools were also in attendance at the meeting.

Mayor Fiorentini read an act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency was signed by Lt. Governor Polito and allows for remote meetings and hearings by public bodies through March, 2023. 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.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais acknowledged the passing of retired educator Hortense Burton with words of grateful remembrance. A moment of silence was observed by all.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote). There was no one present for public comment.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn.

Sean provided an update on high school events:

- Next Wednesday, juniors and seniors will be able to paint their parking spots after school;
- Spirit Week will be held September 26-30th
- Fall Fest will be held on Thursday, September 29th
- Homecoming Game will be held on September 30th followed by the Homecoming Dance on October 1st.

**Communications/Reports - Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

COVID Update from Ms. Katherine Vozeolas, Director of Health and Nursing. Ms. Vozeolas offered updated information regarding COVID [Health Presentation 09.22.22.pdf](#) which were the guiding documents for the district. She emphasized the elimination of testing and masking mandates along with the discontinuation of contact tracing, case counting, testing, and data reporting. Ms. Vozeolas stated that the district aligned with school guidelines and focused on preventive measures (ventilation, opening of windows, handwashing, disinfecting of surfaces). She noted there was no tracking of covid but the nurses did document the cases from a health perspective (103 student cases since opening of schools).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if the school buildings had been reopened to parents pre-COVID times.

Superintendent Marotta responded that the district was moving back to “normal times” for school activities.

The mayor announced the availability of the omicron variant booster in the city and listed the times: every Thursday 10 am-3 pm and 4 pm -7 pm and Sundays 10 am-4 pm at Citizens Center (free of charge) and was a very effective vaccine.

Ms. Vozeolas encouraged preregistration on the vax finder, booster is available to people two months prior and also individuals can get the flu and booster at the same time.

Grants Update. Ms. Jeanne Irwin, Grants Manager provided a report on the grant program [Grants 2023 Presentation.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa highlighted the importance of grant writing and management in the district. He acknowledged the receipt of millions of dollars in grant funds along with the internship for 70 students. Attorney Rosa thanked Ms. Irwin for the good news and the detailed report.

Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged the substantial funds from grants that were assisting the district especially in early college and summer programming.

Ms. Irwin highlighted the early college program and its importance.

The mayor was pleased with 1900 students who participated in summer programming.

Update on Greenleaf School window wallpaper covering.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported that it would be cost-prohibitive to frost the windows, however, window shades had been ordered to alleviate the concerns.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was satisfied with the shades.

### **School Committee Reports/Communications.**

Mrs. Sapienza Donais & Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello: Indoor/Outdoor recess guidelines.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted that several parents had been contacting her and Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello regarding guidelines. She deferred to Superintendent Marotta.

Dr. Marotta referenced the “Child Care Weather Watch” [Child Care Weather Watch.pdf](#) and district-wide guidelines.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Sale of maintenance vehicle previously used by assistant facilities director.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked for an update from Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling on this matter.

Mr. Pfifferling recommended the vehicle be converted to a 7D vehicle for student transportation with a driver with either a 7D or CD license.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Wood agreed with converting the vehicle to assist with student transportation.

Mr. Pfifferling commented that it would assist with the transportation fleet.

Attorney Magliocchetti also concurred with the conversion recommendation.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the conversion of the maintenance vehicle to a 7D vehicle in the transportation department. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Invitation to Massachusetts Teacher STEM Fair. Mrs. Sapienza Donais announced the event that will be held on October 22, 2022 at the Christa McAuliffe Center in Framingham, MA and extended invitation (all Massachusetts teachers and families are invited). She noted her daughter was presenting at the conference and requested that this event be publicized to our teachers.

Attorney Rosa: An Update on current Haverhill Public Schools student enrollment. Superintendent Marotta noted that enrollments were still fluctuating in the schools. She provided preliminary numbers to the committee [2022-2023 Enrollment Census 921.pdf](#). The superintendent referenced the following enrollment numbers:

- 7,900 District
- 1993 HHS
- 86 Gateway School
- 269 preschool Program
- Class sizes: average class sizes 20-23 for elementary schools; a cap at 25 students for middle schools and this figure was consistent throughout the district;
- 8-10 families registering each day along with students moving out of the district.

Attorney Rosa asked if the enrollment numbers were at pre-pandemic numbers and Dr. Marotta concurred with this statement.

Dr. Marotta predicted that there will be more students in March 2023 than as of today's date. The superintendent acknowledged the work of the registration center staff.

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased with the uniformity of class size. He asked about the results of the right sizing effort a few years ago.

The superintendent acknowledged very high enrollments ("the schools are packed") but there were reasonable class sizes.

Attorney Rosa: An Update on the status of the Consentino School Building Project.

Attorney Rosa

Superintendent Marotta gave a few details about the project:

- Approaching end of feasibility study which began in May 2020;
- Schematic Design was submitted September 1, 2022 to MSBA;
- New school building behind existing Consentino School;
- 183,000 gross square feet
- 1080 students in grades 5-8

- 160M project budget
- 70.5M MSBA maximum grant contribution
- October 26, 2022 MSBA Vote on scope and budget
- City Council will be asked to authorize any borrowing
- Project funding agreement between the city and MSBA
- Construction will begin 2024
- Building completion will be by Spring 2026
- Demolition of older school building during the summer 2026.

Ms. Sullivan noted the building committee's work on obtaining a good school building with consideration of the financial costs.

Attorney Rosa asked about the funding for the project.

Mayor Fiorentini noted that the current plan was to fund the project without a debt exclusion (Hale Debt along with levy reserve).

### **Subcommittee Reports.**

Policy Subcommittee: Recommendations for additional policy language regarding school playgrounds and update on recent subcommittee meeting. Ms. Sullivan and Attorney Rosa. Ms. Sullivan provided a delineation of the timeframe for use of the playground (KF) with an addition of the following language: "The School Committee desires the maximum use of school playgrounds by the public. Playgrounds on school grounds shall be open to the public from dawn until dusk seven days per week unless the school is in session or a school activity is taking place on the playground.". She referenced the revised policy [Revised KF Policy 09.22.22.pdf](#).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if this policy applied to the track. Both Ms. Sullivan and Dr. Marotta responded that it was a separate policy.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the revised policy KF. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Ms. Sullivan reported at the last policy meeting, two girl scouts Shealeigh Sullivan and Samantha Hobbs presented information on bullying. She noted that additional work needed to be done in the district regarding understanding the policy along with a larger plan to prevent bullying in the schools. Ms. Sullivan related that the new health/wellness district coach would be utilizing some of their materials and October was being designated as bullying prevention month in health curriculum. Finally, Ms. Sullivan would be interested in a follow-up from students and staff.

Attorney Rosa commented that bullying incidences needed to be handled uniformly in the schools.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais. Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the visitation schedule was being finalized for the upcoming school year.

In relation to the Pentucket Lake Driveway deterioration concerns expressed by Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Mr. Pfifferling reported that the estimates for the paving would be \$75,000 (Pentucket Lake) and \$200,000 (Golden Hill). He indicated it would be a finance subcommittee issue and/or conversation since it is not included in this year's facilities' budget.

In reference to an Athletic Subcommittee item, Attorney Rosa congratulated the Haverhill High School for being named by the Special Olympics as a Unified Champion School for 2021-2022. He recognized the coaches, athletes, boosters and special education department for their efforts in practicing inclusiveness.

### **New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances as indicated in the agenda material [Surplus 10.08.22.pdf](#) and [Additional Surplus Item 09.22.22.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to declare the items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Postponed until 10.13.22 - Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number TBA (P-Cards) as indicated in the agenda material.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV202209239 & EV20220923B totaling \$1,249,426.58 [SC 09.22.22 3 C Warrant EV20220923 and EV20220923B copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the warrants. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Abstain	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

5 members voted in the affirmative Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2022, [Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 09.08.22 Final & Approved.pdf](#) and the Use of Facilities [UOF 09.22.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes
6 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 (7:52 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes
6 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			