



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of October 27, 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	Absent
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present remotely	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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Ms. Alicia Smolar, 2 Edwin Street, Haverhill, MA, stated that the school committee were not heroes of this story. She criticized the school committee for its actions, the court action, restraining order, injunction, and punitive actions. Ms. Smolar criticized Attorney Magliocchetti for his comments.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the comments were incorrect and were taken out of context.

Ms. Smolar stated that it was time for a change on the school committee.

Mr. Nate Hartwell, 18 Fairview Farm Road, Haverhill, MA spoke about the reduced the municipal contribution to the school budget. He stated that the labor dispute, disruptions, learning loss and re-traumatization was unacceptable to the parents and taxpayers. Mr. Hartwell commented on the preventable harm (by HEA and school committee) and expressed his frustration over the labor dispute. He recommended proactive actions to increase local contributions by the school committee.

Mr. Wood clarified that the school committee had no authority over allocation from city and state.

Mr. Jeffrey Martineau, 46 Russet Hill Road, Haverhill, MA stated that the money was removed from the school department budget by the city council.

In response to Mr. Martineau’s questions, Mr. Wood responded that the HEA declined to meet every two weeks during the summer.

Mr. Martineau stated that the HEA voted to strike 7 weeks after the beginning of the school year. He noted that the last contract made adjustments in financial terms and language items. Mr. Martineau referenced that there was a history of underfunding in Haverhill.

Attorney Rosa indicated that there were financial adjustments in the last contract.

Mr. Martineau related that the average teacher's salary was \$75,000 and was closer to \$6,000 compared to the state.

Ms. Sofia Smolar, 2 Edwin Street, Haverhill, MA, asked the mayor about his conflict of interest.

The mayor answered that if he participated in the negotiations there would be a fine from the ethics commission since the contract benefitted his son.

Ms. Smolar commented that teachers would be fired for participating in the strike.

Attorney Magliocchetti responded that no one would be fired for striking.

Communications/Reports.

The mayor asked for comments to be held until he was able to return to the meeting.

A brief recess was declared (7:19 pm) by Vice Chair Sapienza Donais due to a lack of quorum.

The committee returned from recess at 7:21 pm.

Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Haverhill School Committee and the Haverhill Education Association Teachers' Unit 2022-2025 [HEA CBA 2022-2025.pdf](#).

Mr. Wood reviewed the agreement as indicated in the meeting materials – insert the details.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Haverhill School Committee and the Haverhill Education Association Teachers' Unit 2022-2025. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes

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

Motion passes

Mayor Fiorentini provided comments on the resolution of the teachers' contract. He noted that the contract resulted in competitive salaries in the region. The mayor related that the prior contract had resulted in a 10% over three (3) years which was an effort to correct salary deficiencies. He commented that the public relations firm had not been hired by him and that the lawyer was hired by the school committee after a public bidding process. Mayor Fiorentini had been warned by ethics commission to not participate in any way in the teachers' negotiations. He thanked Superintendent Marotta, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling, Mr. Wood, Attorney Magliocchetti and on the last day Attorney Rosa. The mayor commended the superintendent and assistant superintendent for their efforts during the strike. He did not support the strike and thanked all parties for their reaching a resolution. He referenced the Hale Debt that had impacted the city's finances along with the decrease in state funding. The mayor noted that the school budget had been funded 12% above net school spending. Mayor Fiorentini had been concerned that a settlement would be too high to prevent the funding of the Consentino School Building project without a debt exclusion. He made the promise to fulfill the contract terms over the next three (3)

years and would make a funding request to the city council. The mayor stressed the importance of uniting a fractured community. He was committed to narrowing the achievement gap and building a new Consentino School. The mayor

Attorney Rosa thanked Dr. Marotta and her team, Mr. Wood, and Attorney Magliocchetti for their efforts. In reference to the last budget, he commented the \$602,000 for health insurance expenses that had been included in the FY23 budget and noted that only one parent was in attendance at the budget vote. Attorney Rosa commented that no one walked away from the bargaining table and no one was going to be fired or retaliated against because of the strike.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais publicly thanked Mr. Wood and Attorney Magliocchetti for their work on the teachers' negotiating subcommittee. She noted that both she and Ms. Sullivan could not be members of the subcommittee due to their membership in the MTA.

Mr. Wood addressed the rumor that he personally was preventing a resolution to the contract. He indicated that the official record of the mediation would clear up the misconceptions. Mr. Wood stated that the school committee could not terminate employees. He stressed that at no time was firing or retaliation ever considered or discussed by the subcommittee. Mr. Wood noted that the school committee had to live within its financial means. He hoped that there would be significant benefits from the contract. Mr. Wood stressed it was time to move on from the strike.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the lies and misrepresentations was the most difficult part of the strike. He clarified the negotiations had been ongoing prior to the strike. Attorney Magliocchetti emphasized the initial cost of the \$40M cost of the HEA's proposal. He noted that the school department/school committee did not set the budget amount. Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the subcommittee had been given assurances that the contract would be funded by the city and state officials. He reiterated that they did not walk away from the table but the one-to-one with the HEA president jump started the talks. Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged the harm to the children and parents. He related that both the HEA and the school committee had mutual concerns.

Attorney Rosa stressed the importance of maintaining funding and supporting the children of the district.

Mr. Wood thanked school committee secretary Mrs. McGillicuddy, Superintendent Marotta, Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling, and Human Resources Director McArthur for their long hours of work during the strike. He was proud to work with each of them.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn. He was not present.

Superintendent Marotta personally apologized to the children and families. She thanked the leadership team and others who worked during the strike. Dr. Marotta was sad about the strike and the people who were stuck in the middle. She indicated that at no point would she fire staff who engaged in the strike.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

High School Parking Lot Expansion Update – Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling [HHS Parking.pdf](#). Mr. Pfifferling noted that the library area would yield 42-50 parking spaces. He spoke about the type of materials used to create the parking spaces and noted that there would need to be a reallocation of funds and recommended a referral to the finance subcommittee.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to refer this matter to the finance subcommittee.

Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Mr. Wood asked if this was a budget priority since it would be a difficult financial year.

Dr. Marotta would continue the discussion with the high school principal.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked for an analysis of the number of parking spaces.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that this matter had been brought to his attention by the principal and assistant principal and noted the safety concerns.

The mayor requested a roll call vote:

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

5 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais – Discussion of School Calendar [HPS-2022-2023-Student-Calendar-6.1.22-1.pdf](#).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais suggested holding school on January 3, 2023 and Good Friday.

Dr. Marotta related that January 3rd had been designated as a no school day due to Covid.

In reference to Good Friday, Attorney Rosa was concerned with high absenteeism on this date.

Mr. Wood expressed caution about removing Good Friday as a no school day.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to refer the school calendar matter to the policy subcommittee. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mrs. Ryan Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais.
There was no report presented at this meeting.

Attorney Rosa remarked that on October 26th, the MSBA Board of Directors invited the City of Haverhill into the accelerated repair program with regards to the Moody Preschool and Silver Hill boilers. He was hopeful that there would be financial assistance from MSBA.

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased to announce that the Consentino School Building Project received its final approval from the MSBA

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20221028 & EV20221028B totaling \$1,506,290.83 as indicated in the agenda material [Warrants for Approval 10.27.22 EV20221028 and EV20221028B.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Warrants. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mrs. Ryan Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 10.13.22.pdf](#) and for Approval of the Use of Facilities [Updated UOF Detail 10.27.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

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

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mrs. Ryan Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into executive session (8:37 pm) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with the custodians and security specialists and not to reconvene in Open Session. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mrs. Ryan Ciardiello	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood	Yes
Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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