



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee**  
**Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2023**

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mrs. Sapienza Donais called the meeting to order (and requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present in person	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Present in person
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.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Vice Chair Sapienza Donais read the following statement: The Haverhill School Committee encourages the district community to attend its meeting to learn about public school operations and programs. In addition, the committee wants to hear the wishes and ideas of the public. The following points are a summary of the committee's public comment policy: speakers must provide their full name and address and will be allowed three minutes to present their material, the presiding chairperson may permit an extension of the time limit. Individuals may address topics on the agenda item, items specified for public comment, or items within the scope of the responsibility of the school committee. Improper, defamatory or abusive remarks are not allowed and are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or abusive comments, the chairperson may terminate an individual's permission to address the committee. The committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any members of the school committee. All citizens shall speak to the full committee through the chair and should not address individual members or administrators.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reported several losses within the Haverhill community, offered brief remarks and extended sympathies to their families and friends.

Leah Pearce, 2020 HHS graduate and former Student Advisory Council Member

Donna Mears, long-time educator of over 40 years

Carma Selvaggio, long-time teacher (wife of retired principal Ronald Selvaggio)

Joseph Spero, retired police officer and friend of the HPS (husband of long-time principal clerk, Eileen Spero).

At the request of Vice Chair Sapienza Donais, a moment of silence was observed at this time.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment at this meeting.

**Student Advisory Council Report – Sean Wynn.**

Sean provided an update from the high school which included reporting on yesterday's celebration for iReady growth (900 students) and noted that the semester would be ending on January 27, 2023.

**Ms. Sullivan: Report on school adjustment counselor work.**

Ms. Sullivan related those additional counselors had been hired by the district and had requested an update on this subject.

Ms. Jami Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling and Student Support Services along with several school adjustment counselors {Cherie Rousseau, Walnut Square, Maria Geoffroy, Consentino, Petra Farias, Supervisor of School Counseling K-12, Shawna Cruz, bilingual Counselor Grades 9-12 High School} provided a PowerPoint presentation along with highlights from their work in the district to the committee members [HPS Counseling Highlights.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa asked about college and career readiness with respect to participation at coffee hours and monthly tours.

Ms. Farias responded that growth was expected to continue with this new initiative once there was more word of mouth and promotion.

Additionally, Attorney Rosa inquired about grade 9 weekly CCR lessons.

Ms. Farias responded there was a full period of contact with guidance counselors each Friday. She noted that this effort was drop-out prevention and more connections to adults over a four-year period. Ms. Farias commented that it was an aspirational tool and enforced the impact of actions in high school currently and beyond graduation. She provided some examples of Naviance activities, i.e., college or career research with specific exploration items that assisted students in determining a future career.

Attorney Magliocchetti welcomed Ms. Cruz to the team. He was pleased with the data especially the improvements in the Early College Program (217) and the demographic gains.

Ms. Farias noted that the emphasis was on equity and access to the program for students. She related that the program hoped to create awareness, provide academic preparation, inspire confidence and competencies and grant access to college credit-bearing courses.

Attorney Magliocchetti was encouraged by the outreach to grade 7 and 8 students through open houses especially the high school student to middle school student engagement.

Ms. Farias added that there were student tours at the high school and were student-led events and were our best ambassadors.

Attorney Magliocchetti requested follow-up from the high school students regarding their involvement in the outreach efforts. He was pleased with the vocational aspect of the program even though it was not as extensive as Whittier Regional. Attorney Magliocchetti encouraged exploration of solutions for vocationally-inclined pupils.

Ms. Farias responded that there was collaboration with Victoria Kelly from Career Technical Education Program.

In response to Ms. Sullivan's initial question, Ms. Dion related the differing caseloads along with varying types of visits/situations for school adjustment counselors (relationship skills, social media use, anxiety, self-regulation, school avoidance, school transition and school readiness).

Ms. Geoffroy noted that some of the anxiety causes include peer relationship issues.

Mr. Wood asked for data on how many total unique students have visited school adjustment counselors now than previously before the additional staffing (specifics vs. now and then).

Ms. Dion could provide that data to the committee.

Ms. Sullivan asked what types of students were utilizing counseling services (i.e., only 504 or special education).

Ms. Dion responded that counselors saw all students.

### **Election of Vice Chair for 2023.**

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked for nominations for Vice Chair for 2023.

Mr. Wood nominated Maura Ryan-Ciardello as Vice Chair. Attorney Rosa seconded the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to close nominations for vice chair. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	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 elect Maura Ryan-Ciardello as vice chair for 2023. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Maura Ryan-Ciardello	Ms. Sullivan	Maura Ryan-Ciardello
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Maura Ryan-Ciardello	Attorney Magliocchetti	Maura Ryan-Ciardello
Mr. Wood	Maura Ryan-Ciardello	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Maura Ryan-Ciardello

6 members voted in support of Maura Ryan-Ciardello

Motion passes

0 members voted against supporting Maura Ryan-Ciardello

0 members abstained

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello was elected vice chair and thanked the members for their support.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello assumed chairing the meeting.

### **Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

Northern Essex Community College STEM. Dr. Marotta introduced Mr. Kevin Higginbottom, Curriculum Supervisor and Dr. Paul Beaudin, Provost of Academic and Student Affairs, Northern Essex Community College to discuss the STEM Tech Academy Grant [SC STEM Tech Slides.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa inquired about the grant total \$1M and how it is distributed as referenced in the presentation document.

Mr. Higginbottom responded that the initial grant was slightly higher than \$1M.

Attorney Rosa asked about the options for students after high school. Mr. Higginbottom responded that many careers did not need a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Beaudin noted that it was a CTE preparation program and allowed for many options for students including obtaining a bachelor's degree.

### **High School Updates.**

Superintendent Marotta offered an update on the high school football athletic program including addressing the rumors. She stated that there would be a football program next year at the high school and would be asking for the community's assistance regarding the selection of the football coaching staff.

**MSBA Increased Reimbursement Consentino School.** Dr. Marotta announced an additional \$11M from the MSBA with savings of \$22M. She thanked all individuals including the mayor and area legislators, who advocated for Haverhill in this endeavor.

MOA between the School Committee and HEA Secretaries Unit [Memorandum of Agreement ESP Clerks to Principal Clerks Secretarial Unit 12.6.2022 \(1\).pdf](#)

Attorney Magliocchetti announced that this is a finalization of the agreement with the HEA secretarial unit, that was initially approved in executive session.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the MOA with the HEA secretarial unit. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

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

Ms. Sullivan: Budget Goals.

Ms. Sullivan stated student attendance should be a priority in the upcoming fiscal year's budget preparations. She asked for other member's priorities.

Mr. Wood concurred with this priority, especially at the high school.

Attorney Magliocchetti was concern with staffing levels and requested revisiting the unfilled positions.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais concurred with student attendance, but added the inclusion of STEM in the middle and elementary schools. She also suggested reviewing administrator staffing levels particularly after a visit to Hunking School (possibly an additional assistant principal).

Attorney Rosa recommended sections of the budget be presented at every full school committee meeting in order for full committee engagement in budget process.

### **Subcommittee Reports.**

Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Maintenance Subcommittee Update. Attorney Magliocchetti announced visits to Nettle and Greenleaf next week.

### **New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230113, EV20230113B, EV20230113C & EV20230113D totaling \$2,470,851.84 [Warrants EV20230113.](#)

[EV20230113B, EV20230113C and EV20230113D.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrants Warrant Number EV20230113, EV20230113B, EV20230113C & EV20230113D totaling \$2,470,851.84. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstain
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20221223, EV2021223B totaling \$818,182.93 [Warrant EV20221223 and EV20221223B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20221223, EV2021223B totaling \$818,182.93. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	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 approve to approve Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus (included in the agenda material) and disposed of in accordance with city ordinances [Surplus 01.12.23.pdf](#). Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

#### **Items by Consensus.**

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the following items as indicated in the agenda material:

- A. Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2022 [Final Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 12.08.22.pdf](#)
- B. the Use of Facilities [UOF 01.12.23.pdf](#)
- C. Field Trip Request(s) [FT Request 01.12.23.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus (A & C). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes
6 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

In response to Attorney Rosa's inquiry on waiving fees, Mr. Pfifferling answered it was a past practice.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to waive the fees #2 and approve the use of facilities (items by consensus (B)). Mr. Wood seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	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 (8:31pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes