



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present in person	Attorney Rosa	Present in person
Ms. Sullivan	Present in person	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present remotely @ 7:03 pm
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person		

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.

Mayor Fiorentini 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.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti spoke about the recent tragedy in Andover involving the death of a sixth grader at St. John's Prep where his son was a senior. He reflected on mental health issues and the need to seek help and/or provide assistance to those persons suffering depression or other issues.. He requested a moment of silence in memory of the family.

Communications/Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn.

Sean offered the following high school update:

- Guidance Parent Coffee Hour will be held next Thursday at 9:00 pm;
- Also, next Thursday, there would be Junior Parent Night;
- Report Cards issued and mailed home;
- Students will be continuing discussions on upcoming plans with their guidance counselors;
- Today at 3:00 pm there was a school-wide presentation from Sandy Hook Promise highlighting the warning signs of personal and mass violence.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote) – see policy summary on the next page.

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, spoke about parent involvement in their student's education and stated his opposition to the teaching of evolution. He strongly recommended eliminating this subject.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Whittier School and School Enrollment Projections [SC Update - February 9, 2023 .pdf](#).

Superintendent Marotta provided an introduction to the presentation allow with a review of several pages of the document entitled:

- What are we preparing for
- Taking a look back as we forward
- What are we preparing for
- JG Whittier Space Issues: Enrollment
- JG Whittier Space Issues: Cost of Modulares
- JG Whittier Space Issues: No Modulares includes a plan for SY23-24:
 - Pentucket Lake adds Grade 5 to total 3 classrooms
 - Whittier drops a Grade 5 to total 3 classrooms
 - Walnut Square keeps current Grade 2 and adds a Grade 3
 - Walnut Square's 2 ASD classes move to Silver Hill
 - Silver Hill Grade 5 to Consentino as planned
- Preschool numbers on the increase
 - 2018-2019 (197)
 - 2019-2020 (204)
 - 2020-2021 (218)
 - 2021-2022 (319) with second location
 - 2022-2023 (340) anticipated
 - 2023-2024 (400) anticipated

Ms. Craig and Ms. Ibanez reported that there was an increase enrollment based on many children turning 3 years old in March. Ms. Ibanez noted

Attorney Rosa asked for the general public an explanation of the 3-year enrollment increase.

Ms. Craig replied that Haverhill has early intervention which requires a program for these children.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for budget items be placed on the agenda at one of the month's school committee meetings to be kept updated on the budget needs and progress.

The superintendent noted that intervention was a very positive aspect of our educational program.

Dr. Marotta continued with data on the building projects from previous years slide which revealed that about 20% of units house HPS students; the majority of those buildings have 1- & 2-bedroom apartments; three (3) major building projects are coming to Bradford and two (2) will be within the next year; we can conservatively project 10-15% of the 672 in the three (3) developments highlighted will yield 67-100 students and the recommendation is to prepare schools for the growth residential developments will bring to our schools.

Attorney Rosa referenced that this data was important to the district's planning efforts.

Ms. Sullivan commended the school department for obtaining the information on the impact of housing development. She noted that the new Consentino School would not be open until fall 2027. She stated that education was the top priority.

Mayor Fiorentini did not agree with the numbers offered in the documents. He commented that young families were the future of the city. The mayor stated that there was decrease in student enrollment and

birth rate. He indicated that this was a short-term issue.

Superintendent Marotta reviewed SY23-24 scenarios with the committee.

Mayor Fiorentini asked the superintendent to explore the use of Burnham School and Wood School.

Mr. Wood thanked the superintendent for a very detailed analysis of the district's enrollment. He asked for the mayor's perspective on funding and buy-in.

Attorney Magliocchetti inquired about Zion College or Northern Essex Community College as possible alternatives.

Attorney Rosa commented on the substantial modular expense. He stated that there would not be a new JG Whittier School in the near future and modular classrooms would be a longer-term solution. Attorney Rosa also referenced the upcoming construction of a new Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School which would have a higher cost than the new Consentino School.

Superintendent Marotta suggested that the committee reflect on the presentation over the next few weeks and discuss at a future meeting.

In response to Attorney Rosa's comment that the plan did not take into account growth, Dr. Marotta agreed with this statement.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reported that on a recent visit it was an overcrowding situation at every level.

Attorney Magliocchetti agreed on Mrs. Sapienza Donais' impressions and encouraged a proactive approach.

Mr. Condon, Whittier Principal addressed the daily operations of the school and accommodations to provide education to all segments of the student population. He indicated the additional six (6) modular classrooms would provide extra learning space (breathing area) to improve the learning community. Mr. Condon was thankful for the opportunity to be heard about these matters.

"Red/Green" Report: Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling provided the [Red Green Report 01-25-23.pdf](#) to the committee.

FY24 Budget Preparation – Salaries: Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling acknowledged an aspect of budget preparation as suggested by Ms. Sullivan. He reviewed these documents [School Committee Budget Update 02-09-23.pdf](#) and [School Committee Budget Transfers 02-09-2023.pdf](#).

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that work was underway at Greenleaf School. He was concerned about Golden Hill and Silver Hill Schools' alarm system and if there was a response from Ameresco.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noticed that the high school parking lot (to the left) was in complete darkness in the evening and indicated it was a safety concern.

The mayor asked why these matters were being spoken about at school committee meetings and should be addressed by maintenance director.

Dr. Marotta advised the committee to contact Mr. Pfifferling regarding these matters. She commended the facilities staff for their work during the recent frigid temperatures last weekend.

Mr. Pfifferling commented the facilities staff were working 12-14 hours this week.

Finance Subcommittee Update including P-Card Policy [Haverhill Public Schools Mail - P-Card Authorization Process Form.pdf](#) and [P-Card Pre-Authorization Form.pdf](#), FY24 Budget Schedule [School Committee Budget Update 02-09-23.pdf](#) and other financial updates: Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood commented on the P-Card policy and indicated that after many years that there was a policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the P-Card policy. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	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 approve the financial transfers [School Committee Budget Transfers 02-09-2023.pdf](#). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Athletic Subcommittee: Attorney Rosa.

Attorney Rosa provided an HHS Athletics Fall/Winter 2022-2023 highlight report [Athletic Update 02.09.23.pdf](#).

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230210 & EV20230210B totaling \$1,433,670.78 [Warrants EV20230210 and EV20230210B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230210 & EV20230210B totaling \$1,433,670.78. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	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 EV20230210A totaling \$2,227.95 [02.09.23 Warrant EV20230210A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230210A totaling \$2,227.95. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant JE20230206 November 2022 P-Card totaling \$625.79 [November P-Card.pdf](#) and Warrant JE20230206 December 2022 P-Card [December P-card.pdf](#) totaling \$5,029.22 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant JE20230206 November 2022 P-Card totaling \$625.79 and Warrant JE20230206 December 2022 P-Card totaling \$5,029.22. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

7 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 Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2023, [Final Edit Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 01.26.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the hybrid regular meeting minutes of January 26, 2023. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini	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 (8:33 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

7 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained