



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

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson Pro Tem 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 in person @ 7:07 pm
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person @ 7:45 pm		

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.

Mr. Wood 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.

Communications/Reports.

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

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus referenced a no-trespassing letter sent by Mayor Fiorentini. He stated that his first amendment rights were violated at a previous meeting and asked for an apology from Mrs. Doherty. Mr. Yannakoreaus was concerned about the teaching of evolution.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello assumed chairing the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Mr. Stephen Costa, 18 Lamaille Avenue, a parent and city council candidate was pleased with the work done by the superintendent, assistant superintendent, administrative staff and school committee for advocacy for new school buildings. He was concerned with the building conditions at Whittier School and was disheartened about comments at the last meeting. Mr. Costa was hopeful that a change in mayor’s office would bring about a different viewpoint to prioritize building improvements.

Mr. Chad Phiel, 54 Ledge Road, JG Whittier School Site Council member referenced the February report provided to the school committee by the superintendent. He requested that the school committee support the installation of six (6) modular classrooms at the school, since there may be a wait of up to ten (10) years for resolution to overcrowding.

Mr. Ken Morse, 34 Ledge Road, JG Whittier Site Council member spoke in support of the installation of modular classrooms at the school and noted it was the best option.

Ms. Jennifer Morse, 34 Ledge Road, spoke regarding the inequity at the Whittier School due to the lack of adequate space for learning. She was worried about teacher retention and lack of proper staff meeting space. Ms. Morse concluded by asking about the committee's legacy.

Ms. Gilliane Melville, 14 Magnavista Drive, parent and JG Whittier School site council member supported the modular classroom option to address overcrowding and lack of suitable learning and meeting space. Ms. Melville advocated for a proper middle school environment. She pleaded for the committee to advocate with the city council.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello thanked everyone for their comments tonight.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn.

Sean offered the following high school update:

- Scholarship portal was now open in Naviance;
- Progress reports have been issued;
- Coffee House was held on 3.15.23 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm;
- Student/Faculty Game will be held on 3.29.23 at 6:00 pm
- Spring Sports Season starts on March 20th;
- iReady testing will occur for all grade levels; freshman are required to take the test in winter and spring; sophomores, juniors and seniors can opt out if their scores are on grade level, AP or Early College classes.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

MSBA Statement of Interest for JG Whittier School: Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling [Draft JGW 2023 SOI.pdf](#). Mr. Pfifferling stated this was the fourth year that a SOI had been submitted for this school.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the submission to MSBA Statement of Interest of Interest for the JG Whittier School. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

The Assistant Superintendent read the following statement to be included for the vote:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 9, 2023, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Haverhill, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 02, 2023 for the John Greenleaf Whittier School located at 256 Concord Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 1 - Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists; Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding; Priority 4 – Prevention of server overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; and Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City of Haverhill to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Attorney Magliocchetti accepted the friendly amendment with the designated language.

Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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

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

Motion passes

FY23 Financial Documents: Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling [02-28-23 Red Green Report.pdf](#).
Mr. Pfifferling referenced the report and there were no questions initially from the committee.

FY24 Budget Preparation – Transportation: Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling [Transportation Preview.pdf](#).
The assistant superintendent reviewed the presentation with the school committee members.

Ms. Sullivan inquired about the Consentino School principal’s salary.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that the salary noted was for Tilton and the principal’s salary was under two separate line items.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: Continued discussion regarding modular classrooms at JG Whittier School.

Attorney Rosa related that this item was included on the agenda to keep the matter on the top of mind for the school committee and that the school committee support the modular classrooms to alleviate the situation at the Whittier School. He reviewed enrollment data obtained from DESE. Attorney Rosa noted that Haverhill schools continued to have increased enrollment after the October 1st reporting deadline. He corrected the inaccurate enrollment information that stated there was a decline of 1,200 from 2019. Attorney Rosa noted that the enrollment was back to the pre-pandemic levels.

Superintendent Marotta provided an overview of potential changes within the district to reduce class sizes at Whittier School and throughout the district.

Mr. Wood stated support for the motion. He advised relying on birth rates only as a predicting factor for student enrollment since Haverhill had a transient population. Mr. Wood thanked the parents for attending tonight’s meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated the preferred option was for six (6) classrooms with two (2) restroom facilities for a total of \$3M.

Attorney Rosa accepted the friendly amendment.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais supported the motion.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello also would vote for the motion and thanked the parents for their advocacy.

Attorney Rosa suggested that locker rooms should not be used for other purposes, but remodeled to be used as locker rooms.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the preferred modular classroom option of six (6) classrooms with two (2) restroom facilities for a total of \$3M. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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	Abstain		

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

Motion passes

Update on JG Whittier School enrollment and potential district lines: Superintendent Marotta.

Superintendent Marotta suggested hearing Dr. Poor’s (Consentino School Principal) viewpoint on the potential changes. He offered that the class sizes would be reasonable and that there would be an increase in classes and staff movement. Dr. Poor’s focus was on building a cohesive team prior to the opening of the new Consentino School (spring 2026). He requested expedite action by the school committee to allow for proper planning.

Mr. Wood stated that the superintendent’s (administration’s) recommendation had merit and would make the motion.

Dr. Marotta offered an overview of the possible changes:

- Tilton Upper Grade 4 to Tilton Lower Grade 3 remain at Tilton Lower next year;
- Tilton Upper Grade 4 to Grade 5 Consentino School next year;
- St. James School would be open and relocate the Gateway School Program to allow up to 300 students in the facility (phased in expansion for middle school and high school)
- The Crowell School would transition preschool students to this location, since Temple Emanuel lease will be expiring next year; there may be a need for 2-3 additional classrooms. It would also keep the school open and be potential swing space.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the superintendent’s recommendation for possible district changes as outlined and guidance for the administration. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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
 0 members voted in the negative
 0 members abstained

Motion passes

Attorney Magliocchetti: Discussion on sex education in the Haverhill Public Schools along with an introduction of Ms. Catherine Rogers who will read a statement from concerned parents.

Attorney Magliocchetti acknowledged Mrs. Catherine Rogers, parent and city councilor.

Ms. Catherine Rogers, 161 Neck Road, and Ms. Carmen Garcia King, 109 Middlesex Street, spoke about the importance of the opt-out option for parents along with sufficient time to review the instructional material.

Ms. Megan Arivella, District Coach of Health and Wellness provided a summary of the health and wellness education (sex education grades 5-12) parents [Review of Health Curriculum- School Committee \(1\).pdf](#).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais acknowledged the substantial accomplishments since the establishment of the position.

Mayor Fiorentini was pleased with sex education instruction in our schools. He asked about the teen pregnancy rates.

Ms. Arivella responded that the rate was 10%.

Dr. Marotta commented that contraception was not distributed in our schools.

The mayor asked about opt-out provision and if it was enforced in our schools. Ms. Arivella answered that the parents' wishes were supported and also noted that sex education was not taught in elementary grades.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked that the presentation be placed on the website.

Superintendent Marotta noted that the opt-out letter and links to the curriculum would be placed on the health and wellness website.

Attorney Rosa asked about the letter going to students.

Ms. Arivella clarified that the letter was sent home with students and included in google classroom.

Ms. Rogers asked if the students were exposed to pictures of naked students in sexual positions or if terms of equity is there any discussion of any race being oppressed or being oppressors.

Dr. Marotta clarified that equity was addressing how to provide assistance to students.

Ms. Garcia King thanked Dr. Marotta and requested that the information be given to parents in real time.

Attorney Magliocchetti and Ms. Sullivan: Cost impact of the new Consentino School including funding methods.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the city/district had to be careful regarding the funding options for the new Consentino School and its impact on education. He asked the mayor to request that Mrs. Perkins, the City's CFO attend the next meeting to discuss financing of the project. Attorney Magliocchetti announced a community meeting regarding the new Consentino School.

Ms. Sullivan, a member of the Consentino School Building Committee asked for a logical, fact-based presentation on the school's funding. She commented that it was important to build a new school and wanted to know the long-term impacts of the financing. Ms. Sullivan asked for clarity since there was general confusion on the impact of choices for the life of the debt.

The mayor replied that retired Hale debt and excess levy reserve would be utilized to build the new school. He assured that regardless of the results of the debt exclusion vote, the school will be built in the near future. Mayor Fiorentini would ask the city's financial officer to provide a clear explanation.

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais. Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about for an update on HHS lighting. Mr. Pfifferling that the problem had been identified and resolved at the school.

Finance Subcommittee Update: Mr. Wood. Mr. Wood had no update at this time.

Athletic Subcommittee: Attorney Rosa. Attorney Rosa provided an update on the hiring process for a new high school football coach and announced Mr. Robert Pike as the new coach. He related that Mr. Pike was an experienced coach and long-term educator at HHS. Attorney Rosa welcomed Mr. Pike to his new position.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230224 and EV20230224B totaling \$1,169,277.32 [Warrant EV20230224 and EV20230224B copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230224 and EV20230224B totaling \$1,169,277.32. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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 EV20230224A totaling \$2,724.28 [Warrant EV20230224A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230224A totaling \$2,724.28. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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 Number EV20230310 and EV20230310B totaling \$1,643, 241.00 [Warrant EV20230310 and EV20230310B copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230310 and EV20230310B totaling \$1,643, 241.00. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230310A totaling \$10,042.17 [Warrant EV20230310A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230310A totaling \$10,042.17. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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
0 members voted in the negative
1 member abstained

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20230310 P-Card totaling \$13.27 [P-Card Jan 2023 \(1\) copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number JE20230310 P-Card totaling \$13.27. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [PenLake Surplus Form - student desks, chairs, etc \(2\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

Attorney Rosa offered in reference to the use of facilities request, the applicant had requested an additional reduction in fees.

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the following items as indicated in the agenda material:

- A) the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2023, [Final Edit Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 02.09.23.pdf](#)
- B) use of facilities [UOF 03.09.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.
- C) out-of-state field trip(s) [FT 03.09.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.
- D) professional educational conference/workshop(s) [Professional Conference Request 03.09.23.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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	No		

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into executive session @ 8:58 pm (City Hall, Suite 206) to discuss strategy regarding custodial negotiations and to not reconvene in open session. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello 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