



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, Chairperson Pro Tem called the meeting to order (7:02 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 (7:00 pm)
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person (7:15 pm)		

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA spoke about the receipt of a no trespass order and complained about not receiving an answer on his previous questions. He would continue attending the meetings until he received answers.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Abigail Brown.

Ms. Brown, Vice President of the Student Council highlighted the following high school activities:

- School year is ending shortly;
- On May 17 a Coffee House will be held outside with seniors performing for the last time;
- Installation of bathroom carts (misuse of feminine products in bathrooms) re-locate to outside assistant principals' offices;
- Elections recently held at the school for school offices.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Essex County Safe Prom and Graduation Grant.

Mr. Soraghan spoke about piloting the use of breathalyzers at events at Senior Prom and Senior Farewell.

Assistant Principal Nelly Garcia-Santana provided an overview of the grant (\$2,500).

Mr. Wood announced his strong backing of the program and believed it helped with saving student lives. He did not consider it controversial since it was a highly successful program.

Attorney Rosa referenced the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey which found that high school students during a 30-day period:

- 29% drank alcohol;
- 14% binge drank;
- 5% of drivers drove after drinking alcohol;
- 17% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

Attorney Magliocchetti speaking as a parent of a senior student attending a prom was supportive of the efforts to save student lives.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to accept the Essex County Safe Prom and Graduation Grant including the policy, timeline for pilot, and disciplinary action. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The Vice Chair Pro Tem 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

Proposed School Calendar 2023-2024 [HPS 2023-2024 Student Calendar.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the proposed school calendar 2023-2024. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The Vice Chair Pro Tem 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

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais.
There was no new information from the subcommittee members.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20230310 March 2023 P-Card totaling \$5,469.00 [March P-Card 2023.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number JE20230310 March 2023 P-Card totaling \$5,469.00. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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 JE20230310 February 2023 P-Card totaling \$2,971.99 [February P-Card 2023.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant JE20230310 February 2023 P-Card totaling \$2,971.99. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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 EV20230512 and EV20230512B totaling \$1,524,615.57 [Warrant EV20230512 and EV20230512B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20230512 and EV20230512B totaling \$11,524,615.57. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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 EV20230512A totaling \$18,408.06 [Warrant EV20230512A copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20230512A totaling \$18,408.06. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 04.27.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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			

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted that item 3 c was incorrect on the agenda, it should be \$1,524,615.57.

A motion was made by Mayor Fiorentini to reconsider item 3 c with the correct amount of \$1,524,615.57. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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 Mayor Fiorentini to approve Warrant Number EV20230512 and EV20230512B totaling \$1,524,615.57. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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			

The Vice Chair Pro Tem requested a recess at 7:24 pm. The meeting reconvened at 7:40 pm.

FY24 Budget Workshop.

Superintendent Marotta noted that budget development had been ongoing over the past few months with the finance subcommittee.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reviewed the FY24 Budget Workshop information along with budget assumptions.

There was discussion regarding the city's contribution to settle the strike.

Mayor Fiorentini indicated that the schools would not be receiving an additional \$3.3M from the city.

Attorney Rosa clarified that without funding a level service budget there would be cuts in the FY24 budget.

Mayor Fiorentini related that the current school administration did not work with him on the budget.

Mr. Wood recommended that the school committee provide guidance to the leadership team.

Dr. Marotta outlined the other budget drivers:

- Inflation which impacted electricity and heating costs;
- Out-of-district special education transportation increased by \$900,000;
- Special education tuition increase by the state was 14% (over \$1M);
- Out-of-district and homeless transportation costs have dramatically increased this past year;
- Salaries are a piece of the budget but there are other areas that have led to the increases for FY24.

Attorney Rosa noted that the large bus contract had dramatically increased last year and this year there was a substantial increased cost in the special education (small bus) contract with one bidder.

Superintendent Marotta stated that there were no additional full-time positions proposed for the next fiscal year. She indicated that current vacant positions would remain unfilled and removed from the budget document. Dr. Marotta commented that any additional requests would require a reduction in the budget to avoid layoffs. She added that circuit breaker monies might also be a possibility for funding.

Attorney Rosa asked if salaries were incorporated into a grant would necessitate a 9% penalty. He opposed removing money from circuit breaker to fund the budget since there were always unforeseen situations.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted that during Dr. Marotta's tenure the circuit breaker account had been built back up to cover unexpected events.

Mayor Fiorentini suggested that the superintendent work with him on the budget. He reiterated that the city could not fund \$3.3M.

Attorney Rosa stated that today was the first time the committee had heard about the withdrawal of the commitment from the mayor.

Mayor Fiorentini recommended that the budget be revamped to deal with these new developments.

Attorney Magliocchetti explained that it was disingenuous to say that the school department was not being collaborative in the budget development process.

Mr. Pfifferling stated that Mrs. Perkins had noted that the budget had not been released and, that Chapter 70 included \$1.8M however, there was not an additional allocation.

Ms. Sullivan indicated that the proposed budget included reasonable increases to maintain educational programs. She noted it was very difficult with higher costs for running buildings, transportation contract escalating costs (i.e., resulting from a monopoly). Ms. Sullivan stated that it was imperative to retain good people to work in the district. She added that it was a complicated situation within a tight timeline.

Mr. Wood proposed a Finance Subcommittee on FY24 Budget be held next Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

There was consensus that at the May 25, 2023 regular meeting, the agenda would include a budget workshop. Additionally, there would be recommendation to cut \$3.3M from the proposed budget.

Attorney Rosa asked for a listing of all cuts with the costs associated with each item.

Consensus was also reached that a tentative new public hearing date would be finalized at the May 25, 2023 school committee meeting.

Superintendent Marotta related that a budget crisis may allow for a waiving of June 15th layoff requirement.

In relation to the Temple Emanu-El lease, Mr. Pfifferling noted that the synagogue had proposed an extended lease for a 3-month period.

The superintendent's recommendation was to terminate lease since the location was not suitable for use by the district.

In response to the mayor's question on a repurposed usage, Dr. Marotta answered that the location could not be used by middle school students. Furthermore, she noted that the space required smaller class sizes and more teachers which was not an educationally and economically efficient use of the area by the district.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to terminate the lease with Temple Emanu-El. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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 Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn (8:41 pm) the meeting. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chair Pro Tem 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