



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 25, 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
Mayor Fiorentini	Present remotely		

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, 85 Milvale Road, Haverhill, MA stated that the school committee was trying to destroy him economically and there was also a life-time ban on his attendance. He was opposed to the teaching of a racist and anti-Christian ideology within the Haverhill Public Schools. Mr. Yannakoreaus refused to leave the podium and demanded answers.

Mr. Stephen Costa, 18 Lamoille Avenue, Haverhill, MA commended the school committee and teachers' negotiating subcommittee for standing firm regarding the school department budget. He stated his opposition to the mayor's statements to cut other items in the city budget and a proposed \$3.3M cut. Mr. Costa was committed to supporting the teachers and the proposed budget.

Mr. Barry Davis, 200 Market Street, Lowell, MA, Interim HEA President was shocked that the mayor had created a \$3.3M shortfall. He supported the submission of a level-service budget. Mr. Davis advised fully funding our schools.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn & Melanie Palacios was postponed to 6.08.23 school committee meeting.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Request for approval of the updated school calendar 2023-2024 [HPS 2023-2024 Student Calendar Revised 05.23.23.pdf](#).

The superintendent noted that the previously approved calendar was an earlier version and indicated that the last day of school was now June 11, 2024.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the revised student calendar for 2023-2024. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood 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 Marotta reported on the Night of Stars was ongoing tonight at the high school. She related that \$217,000 in scholarship monies was awarded to approximately 200 students. Dr. Marotta stated that it was an exciting time for seniors with the upcoming prom along with graduation which will be held next Friday, June 2, 2023.

FY24 Budget Presentation.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reviewed the Haverhill Public Schools' Budget FY24/SY2023-2024 document [05-25-23-Proposed-Budget-1.pdf](#) and [FY24-Budget-Presentation-1.pdf](#).

Superintendent Marotta continued the presentation with a review of past budget successes SY2019-2023.

Mr. Pfifferling resumed the review of the budget presentation by reviewing the following slides: fiscal cliff, school year 2023-2024 proposed budget funding, and level service budget drivers.

Dr. Marotta discussed the redistribution of resources, and priority initiatives.

The assistant superintendent recounted the last school year's 2023-2024 priority initiatives, along with other funding sources such as IDEA (\$2.7M) and Title Grants (\$3.3M) accomplished many important undertakings, i.e., extended school year, summer/vacation academies.

Mr. Pfifferling announced the public hearing would be held next Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the library at Hunking School.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that the budget presentation was very clear regarding the needs of the school district.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve the budget as presented. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Magliocchetti offered a friendly amendment for a proposed budget in the amount of \$127,937,276.

Attorney Rosa reviewed several of the budget initiatives that had been implemented to benefit students and make important improvements within the district. He stated that kindergarten had previously cost \$4,000 per year and now there was free kindergarten within the district. Additionally, Attorney Rosa commented that in SY2019 the district had only 1/3 of the Chromebook inventory. He noted that items were prioritized in the budget that had resulted in significant benefits to the students in Haverhill.

The mayor related that after hearing concerns of the teachers' union president along with the school administration and school committee, he affirmed his commitment to funding a level service budget for FY2024. He stated that if the debt exclusion passed there would be a recommendation for an additional \$1.6M.

Attorney Magliocchetti responded that the \$1.6M was promised with the settlement of the teachers' contract. He commented that this was the first time in his tenure on the school committee that funding for more than a level service budget was supported by the mayor.

Attorney Rosa clarified that \$1.8M was included in the budget, then removed on a Thursday (5.11.23) and then reinstated on a Tuesday (5.16.23). He commented that the contract would not have been approved without those assurances.

Mr. Wood stated that the finalization of the contract was contingent on the funding commitment from the mayor. He indicated that because of these assurances the contract was settled with the teachers' union. Mr. Wood stated his support for the budget.

Mr. Wood 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	Present		

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

1 member voted present

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Subcommittee Reports.

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

Attorney Magliocchetti reported on the new air conditioning units in our school buildings that would result in better working conditions and a more comfortable environment.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose in accordance with city ordinances as indicated in the agenda material [CONSurplus 5.23.23.pdf](#), [Surplus 05.25.23](#), [Surplus 05.25.23 #2](#), [Surplus1Sp23.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230526 and EV20230526B totaling \$1,522,354.66 [Detail Warrant EV20230526 and EV20230526B.pdf](#) [Combined Warrants EV20230526 and EV20230526B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20230526 and EV20230526B totaling \$1,522,354.66. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. Mr. Wood 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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230526A totaling \$11,499.97 [Detail Warrant EV20230526A.pdf](#) [Combined Warrant EV20230526A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20230526A totaling \$11,499.97. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the FY24 Budget Workshop Minutes of April 10, 2023 [Final Edit FY24 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes 04.10.23 \(1\).pdf](#) and the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 05.11.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

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

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

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (8:15 pm). 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

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

Motion passes