



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2023**

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mr. Wood, 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	Absent
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person		

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 Millvale Road, Haverhill MA asked if parents were allowed to know what curriculum was being taught in the schools.

Mayor Fiorentini replied that parents did have this right.

There was an exchange between the mayor and Mr. Yannakoreaus.

Mr. Yannakoreaus was upset that there was a poster displayed at Nettle School many years ago that was anti-Christian. He was opposed to indoctrination in our schools and the teaching of evolution.

Mr. Barry Davis, 100 Market Street, Lowell, MA commended the school committee for its efforts in advocating for the FY24 budget. He also acknowledged the work of the school committee in its efforts to support the debt exclusion.

Yannakoreaus (Peter’s son) asked for his father to be treated respectfully and also advocated for assistance for students with disabilities. He commented on his own disabilities including dyslexia etc.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn & Melanie Palacios. Sean related that last Saturday, the class of 2023 graduated and then introduced Melanie Palacios, the new student council president.

Ms. Palacios provided her background to the school committee.

The committee welcomed Melanie and wished Sean well.

Old Business.

Professional Educational Conference/Workshop Request (tabled 06.01.23) [file:///Professional Educational Conference/Workshop TK 06.08.23.pdf](file:///Professional%20Educational%20Conference/Workshop%20TK%2006.08.23.pdf).

Mr. Kempinski spoke in support of his request highlighting the following:

- Has applied multiple times for these opportunities on the holocaust;
- Conference does not include airfare;

- Working conference;
- Developed and teaches genocide course at the high school;
- Teaching these types of courses was a requirement in the state;
- Special opportunity and a unique event.

Attorney Magliocchetti was supportive of Mr. Kempinski’s participation.

Mr. Wood requested a process in the future opportunities.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commended Mr. Kempinski for his selection and acknowledged his forfeiting of personal time to participate in this professional development conference.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to remove the professional educational conference/workshop request from the table. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a vote with the following results:

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

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Tennis Court Facility (indoor and outdoor) including pickleball [pickleball-tennis bldg rendering.pdf](#).

Attorney Magliocchetti announced a donation from Mr. Ernie DiBurro for a new tennis court facility.

Mayor Fiorentini introduced Kathleen Lambert, city project manager.

Ms. Lambert provided an overview of the racquet facilities’ proposal.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged the importance of this new facility with a \$3.4M total cost (\$1M from Mr. DiBurro and \$2.5M from the city).

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that this proposal preserved outdoor tennis courts at this location for a total of five (5) courts.

Ms. Palacios was concerned with the location and its impact on parking.

Ms. Lambert replied there would be additional parking spaces.

Dr. Marotta noted that an additional gravel lot needed to be created at the school.

Ms. Lambert related that siting this project had been difficult and that the building was presently located in Riverside Park and needed to be relocated before cold weather.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the location of a new tennis court facility on school grounds. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa inquired if the motion needed to be amended to state there was an understanding that additional parking spots would be part of this project.

Attorney Magliocchetti answered that the amendment was not needed at this time.

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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Request for approval of the updated school calendar 2023-2024 [06.08.23 HPS 2023-2024 Student Calendar 6.8.23.pdf](#).

Superintendent Marotta hoped that this would be the last revision to the school calendar.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the updated school calendar 2023-2024. Mrs. Sapienza Donais 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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Facilities Update on HVAC Projects [AC similar schools.pdf](#).

Mr. Stephen Dorrance, Facilities Director provided an overview of his presentation.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the recommendation from the last maintenance subcommittee meeting was to stagger the projects and requested that the assistant superintendent provide the financing options.

Mr. Pfifferling recommended the allocation of ARPA and IVAC funds for critical projects at the 1990's schools, specifically Pentucket Lake and Golden Hill.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if the staggered timing would allow for completion of the projects in all the schools.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that grant funding and/or other funding sources would need to be sought to complete the remaining projects. He suggested the following project order: Tilton Upper, Silver Hill using ARPA/IVAC fundings then progressing to Golden Hill, Pentucket Lake and Bradford Elementary Schools.

Attorney Rosa asked about specifics.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to allocate the funds to complete the work at the Tilton and Silver Hill Elementary Schools (ARPA funds) followed by planning for Golden Hill, Pentucket Lake and Bradford Elementary as stated by the assistant superintendent. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question on penthouse (encased under the roof, Mr. Dorrance replied that the air handling equipment was located on the third floor and (long steel staircase) only accessible by tradespeople, with the refrigeration units on the outside of school building (second floor).

Attorney Rosa confirmed there was access but it would require removal of the roof.

Mr. Dorrance could replace part of rubber roof out of the facilities' operating budget.

Mr. Pfifferling related that Silver Hill roof would be the next project for the accelerated repair program application process.

The assistant superintendent noted that the MSBA accelerated repair program needed to come back online from the state.

The mayor was hopeful that the Whittier School project would be advanced at the state level and would make some inquiries regarding the accelerated repair program.

The assistant superintendent noted that all roofs at 1990 replica schools will need to be replaced within the next five (5) years.

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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Student Outcomes Presentation.

Superintendent Marotta indicated that at the city council budget meeting a request had been made for budget overview in relation to student outcomes [HPS Budget Related Student Data Final June 2023-1.pdf](#). She related that the post-pandemic recovery continued in our schools and that the supports that had been added to the budget were needed to support these efforts.

Ms. Sullivan was stunned by the large percentage of high needs students (69.8%) in the district.

Attorney Magliocchetti hoped that the councilor who requested this information understood the extraordinary challenges facing the school district. He noted that this data was a “wake-up call” to state legislature.

Attorney Rosa indicated that prior to the pandemic, significant progress had been achieved in the district.

The mayor did not believe there was a no correlation between per pupil expenditures and student achievement. He was pleased with the increase in graduation rates and decrease in dropout rates.

School Committee Reports/Communications/Subcommittee Reports.

Consentino Building Project Update: Ms. Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan related that there were estimators (two separate parties) who evaluated the building costs (line by line). 1% of total team had done a good job of making adjustments without sacrificing programs. She noted that there were no city permitting fees which allowed for the reallocation of monies.

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

Donais parents and concerned citizens with lighting at Haverhill High School and Nettle School.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that Mr. Dorrance photo-sensors on the poles at Nettle School and the high school situation would be investigated to find a solution.

Attorney Rosa announced that the Athletic Hall of Fame would be held at 4:00 pm on June 17, 2023 at the Bradford Country Club. He noted that tomorrow was the last day to purchase tickets through [www.haverhillhillies.com](http://www.haverhillhillies.com)

Attorney Rosa noted that the following Hillies who were announced as Hall of Fame Inductees 2023:

- Rick Brown '75 Football, Track
- Samantha Good '96 Volleyball, Basketball, Softball
- Sara (Jewett) Hopkins '96 Basketball, Softball
- Marc Spencer '91 Golf
- Paul St. Onge '71 Football, Wrestling, Track
- Amy (Veilleux) Simmons '94 Volleyball, Basketball
- Steve Wholley '74 Football, Indoor Track, Baseball
- Mary & Ted Murphy Brown & Gold Lifetime Achievement

Mayor Fiorentini suggested recognition of the late Irving “Sheik” Karelis, a wonderful man and one of the most outstanding baseball pitchers for HHS, who was drafted by the Red Sox and after WWII could no longer pitch as a result of his war service.

**New Business.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230609 and EV20230609B totaling \$1,579,565.02 [Combined Warrants EV20230609 and EV20230609B.pdf](#) and [Detailed Warrant EV20230609 and EV20230609B copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20230609 and EV20230609B totaling \$1,579,565.02. 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	Mayor Fiorentini	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 EV20230609A totaling \$7,416.59 [Detailed Warrant EV20230609A.pdf](#) [Combined Warrant EV20230609A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230609A totaling \$7,416.59. 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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

5 members voted in the affirmative                      Motion passes  
 0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [Recycling as of April 2023 – Technology.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. 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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the FY24 Public Hearing Minutes of June 1, 2023 [Hybrid FY24 Budget Public Hearing Minutes 06.01.23.pdf](#) and the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2023, [Final Edit Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 05.25.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the items by consensus. 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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Motion passes

Executive Session/Adjournment: the school committee will go into executive session (Superintendent's Conference Room – City Hall, Room 206) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding school nurses, non-unit therapists and the ESP unit of the Haverhill Education Association and to not reconvene in open session.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood (8:32 pm) to go into executive session (Superintendent's Conference Room – City Hall, Room 206) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding school nurses, non-unit therapists and the ESP unit of the Haverhill Education Association and to not reconvene in open session. 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	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

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

Motion passes

