



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of August 24, 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 remotely
Ms. Sullivan	Present in person	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present remotely
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person		

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members and the audience.

Public Comment.

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 85 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA spoke about school posters (defaming Jesus) and other anti-Christian teachings such as evolution. He asked for the matter to be addressed by the school committee and inform parents.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Melanie Palacios.

Ms. Palacios reported that there were policy changes including gender-neutral bathrooms and diversity in curriculum, being discussed at the high school. She added there was painting occurring in the parking lots along with preparations for fall fest.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

School Opening.

Superintendent Marotta announced that a large group of students and parents from Bartlett School are attending an event at Fenway Park tonight for the Flutie Foundation. She noted that Opening Houses have been posted to the district’s website [HPS Open Houses 2023](#). Dr. Marotta added that there were last minute preparations for the opening of school including staff orientation which was held last week. The superintendent indicated that the classrooms are ready, it was an exciting time of year with hopes for a smooth opening. Additionally, an transportation department email had been sent last Friday and bus routes are online under the Transportation Department tab.

FY24 Budget Discussion.

Dr. Marotta noted that this item was requested by school committee member Attorney Magliocchetti. Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted there were six (6) outstanding contract negotiations. He commented there were sufficient funds \$1.785M dollars above the budgeted amount and in FY25 an additional \$951,000 besides the \$1.7M+ in FY24.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that the state funding needed to address employee compensation. He commented on a conversation with a DESE official that Chapter 70 funding needed to be adjusted to increase funding for Haverhill to solve employee hiring in a very challenging and competitive market. Attorney Magliocchetti did not want to enter into agreements and then have to lay off employees to fund the contracts.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted that Amesbury was paying its ESPs at a much higher rate than Haverhill. She suggested following up with a letter.

Superintendent Marotta added the education official was Deputy Commissioner Russell Johnson.

Dr. Marotta indicated that the Moody playground opening was a fabulous event last evening and was fully grant funded through an early childhood grant from DESE.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Ms. Sullivan: Substitute Salary Comparisons.

Ms. Sullivan referenced the document outlining the substitute rates in the area. She recommended an increase in pay.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for the cost of this increase for the next meeting.

Dr. Marotta stated it was a tradeoff and was certainly beneficial for students.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais recommended the Methuen rate of \$150.

Mr. Wood offered that the outstanding contract should be settled prior to addressing the substitute rate.

Ms. Sullivan noted that many ESPs were working to support IEP for students.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Update on concession stand at stadium.

Attorney Magliocchetti introduced Mr. William Bourque who as a booster advocated for the new concession stand [Hillies Concession Stand.pdf](#). He noted that there were donations to fund this project.

Mr. Bourque gave a brief history on the benefits of these improvements for the students, parents and fans. He highlighted the final work product which would include drawings of student athletes in Hillie uniforms.

The mayor related that additional funding had been allocated to the stadium to reduce rentals and increase use by sports teams.

Subcommittee Reports.

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

Attorney Magliocchetti related that a tour of four (4) middle schools had been held with Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling. Mrs. Sapienza Donais was unable to attend due to a home maintenance issue (burst water heater), but was updated during the tour.

Attorney Magliocchetti was particularly impressed with Consentino School.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230825 and EV20230825B totaling \$2,368,372.27 [Warrants EV20230825 and EV20230825B copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor conducted a voice vote with all members replying aye.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2023, public minutes of the mediation sessions between the Haverhill School Committee Teachers' Negotiations Subcommittee and the Haverhill Education Association Teachers' Unit on the following dates - October 15-16, 2022, October 17-20, 2022 and October 20, 2022. 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	Abstain		

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into executive session (7:42 pm) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the secretarial unit of the HEA and litigation matters and to not reconvene in open session. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The mayor did not request a roll call vote and all members verbally agreed to enter into executive session