



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of August 10, 2023

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chair 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-Ciardiello	Present remotely
Mayor Fiorentini	Absent		

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Superintendent was in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling was present remotely.

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

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA spoke regarding free speech, being banned from city hall and the teaching of evolution in our schools.

Mr. Barry Davis, 200 Market Street, Lowell, MA, HEA President thanked the school committee members who supported a living wage for ESP staff. He commented on recent pay increases for several school department employees. Mr. Davis recommended a review of the structure in the school system and supported salary adjustments for school-based employees who impacted student lives.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Melanie Palacios.

Ms. Emmerson Cerasuolo, Student Council Vice President provided a brief update to the committee noting that a meeting would be held with the new principal along with the development of objectives for the new school year.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Summer Update [2023 Summer Programs -take 2.pdf](#).

Ms. Dianne Connolly reported on the summer school programs (including a video).

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's question on staffing, Mrs. Connolly answered that the staff were paid employees and the programs were funded by grants.

Attorney Rosa stated that there had been significant increases in enrollment over the past few years.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais thanked the staff members who worked in the summer programs and acknowledged the caliber of the summer staff.

Mrs. Deborah Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services invited the school committee to the unveiling of the new Moody School playground on August 23, 2023 (5:00 pm) along with a barbeque. She highlighted that the equipment was now handicapped accessible for students.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented on the excitement in the neighborhood regarding the new playground. She hoped that the equipment would be accessible to area children.

Transportation Swipe Cards. [SC Meeting 2023-2024 Back to School Info.pptx.pdf](#).

Ms. Elizabeth Cannata, Transportation Supervisor provided an update to the committee especially the Zonar – ZPASS system (log entering/leaving the bus and can be used as lunch cards). She related that the implementation would start with the youngest children.

Superintendent Marotta asked for patience since the execution of the new system.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about the lost card process.

Ms. Cannata responded that no child would be denied a bus or lunch.

Dr. Marotta noted that videos regarding the new program would be placed on the district's website in various languages.

Haverhill Promise Attendance Incentive Donation.

Dr. John Maddox, Lakeview Avenue, Haverhill, MA provided background on Haverhill Promise organization, one of 350 chapters dedicated to the goal of having children able to read by grade 3. He provided an overview of the incentive (goal of top 5 by 2025) along with data including the impact of COVID. He introduced Dr. Jessica Kallin, the new director who had been selected after a nationwide search and has moved to Massachusetts from Utah.

Dr. Kallin spoke regarding one of the working group's focus areas was school attendance. She noted that the working groups' efforts supported educators and community members. Dr. Kallin related that an environment of safety and belonging was beneficial to the improvement of school attendance. She announced that Haverhill Promise would be making a \$500 donation per elementary school to incorporate more engagement in our schools.

Ms. Sullivan thanked Dr. Kallin for coming to Haverhill and noted the negative results of the inability to read. She was excited to speak about book buddies.

Attorney Rosa noted that the pandemic had adversely affected attendance in our school and possible new solutions to the problem.

Dr. Kallin commented on the incentives that could be employed to encourage family engagement.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about research sources regarding attendance.

Dr. Kallin responded that family engagement efforts incorporated into current school activities along with community resources was found to be beneficial to the improvement in student attendance. She stated that there were multiple options depending on the school.

The superintendent answered there were many avenues to explore in terms of improving attendance especially attendance avoidance issues.

Attorney Magliocchetti recommended a follow-up in the next few months and wondered about the impact of remote working on student attendance.

Dr. Kallin asked for volunteers including becoming a book buddy.

Superintendent Marotta thanked Haverhill Promise for the donation.

NRT Special Education Bus Contract [2023 8 6 Haverhill NRT SPED transportation contract.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa offered a summary of the proposed contract noting there was only one bidder and the bid was at a substantially higher cost i.e., year 1 62% increase (from \$351/bus to \$570/bus). He related negotiations had occurred with the bus company regarding elimination of some language changes in exchange for a cost of \$515/bus. Attorney Rosa related that there was a 3% floor and 6% ceiling based on inflation for the term of the contract with a potential savings range of \$600,000+ to \$1M from initial bid. He acknowledged the assistance of Ms. Sullivan (subcommittee) and Attorney Magliocchetti.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the NRT Special Education Bus Contract as presented. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if the contract amount has been budgeted in FY24.

Mr. Pfifferling answered that the contract was covered in the budget.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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-Ciardiello	Yes

6 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Update on Tilton's electrical upgrade and A/C units for 3rd floor.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked for an update regarding the installation since concerns had been brought to her attention by Tilton staff and parents due to stifling heat on third floor.

Mr. Pfifferling related that \$350,000 in ARPA funds was finally approved in late spring, 2023. He stated that this work required an upgrading of electrical service at Tilton with a 600-amp service, a new circuit breaker panel, switch gears and new meters. The assistant superintendent noted that there was 2-month lead time special panel. He related that the installation would take four consecutive days (no power) with the proposed schedule for new service was during Christmas break (service upgrade and panel) and then February break (wiring to classrooms) with backup options for upgrade during February and April school breaks.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was pleased that there would be improved conditions for staff and students at Tilton.

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update: Attorney Magliocchetti & Mrs. Sapienza Donais. There was no new information at this time.

ESP Negotiations: Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan noted that there had been a negotiations session today. She related that there was support for living wage agreement, but the dilemma was how to fund these increases in salaries. Ms. Sullivan commented that the discussions were good natured in tone and one of the ESP unit's concerns were with coverage along with children's needed services. Since this was an issue, she proposed an adjustment in substitutes by \$25 per day to be more competitive in rates with surrounding districts and address the concern.

Attorney Rosa commented that there were frank and productive talks. He stated the main concern was funding these salary adjustments since not being cognizant of the financial impacts would be a breach of fiduciary duties to the taxpayers and unfavorable to employees. Attorney Rosa commented that today marked the seventh session and the teams would hold another session on August 21 (eighth session). He concluded that this was substantial work among the parties to resolve the contract issues.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked the superintendent to research substitute rates in the area. He indicated that the state needed to resolve the funding issues to provide greater equity statewide in Massachusetts. Attorney Magliocchetti advocated for better wages in the school district especially due to the high cost of living. He complemented the negotiating team and the ESP unit for its phenomenal work.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented that the substitutes were one of the lowest paid in the area. She indicated that the substitute adjustment did not address the living wage matter. Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked that Haverhill find a way to pay ESP staff.

Athletic Subcommittee: Attorney Rosa [Coaches 08.10.23.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa provided a brief overview of the proposal noting that the funds were included in the FY24 budget. He outlined the reasons for including these 12 coaches i.e., lowest paid and length of season. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Old Business.

Approval of School Nurses MOA (tabled 07.20.23) [2023 8 8 Haverhill School Nurses tentative MOA MNA \(002\) dmc.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to remove the School Nurses MOA from the table. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the School Nurses MOA from the table. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked for a friendly amendment to approve pending ratification by school nurses. Both Attorney Magliocchetti and Ms. Sullivan accepted the friendly amendment.

Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

City/School Agreement regarding new indoor tennis courts at Haverhill High School (Attorney Magliocchetti and Attorney Rosa) [COHHPSErnest DiBurro Pickleball Agreement v1 rev paul and margaret and bill and rich August 10 2023.pdf](#).

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that the agreement had been finalized over the course of several months. He related the city would cover the total cost of construction to supplement Mr. DiBurro's generous donation. Attorney Magliocchetti related that the public will have use of the facility in coordination between the city's recreation director and the school district's athletic director on scheduling. Additionally, he stated that CORI checks would need to be completed for all public participants.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the city/school agreement regarding the new indoor tennis courts at Haverhill High School as presented in the document. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230811 and EV20230811B totaling \$1,835,431.43 [Combined Warrant EV20230811 and EV20230811B.pdf](#) [Detailed Warrant EV20230811 and EV20230811B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV20230811 and EV20230811B totaling \$1,835,431.43. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230811A totaling \$7,100.91 [Combined Warrant EV20230811A.pdf](#) [Detail Warrant EV20230811A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV20230811A totaling \$7,100.91. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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
5 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
1 member abstained			

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare surplus curriculum materials and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [EnVision Surplus for Voting \(1\).pdf](#).

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to declare surplus curriculum materials and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2023, [First Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 07.20.23.pdf](#) and the Use of Facilities [UOF 08.10.23 \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve hybrid regular meeting minutes of July 20, 2023, and use of facilities. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Executive Session/Adjournment. The Haverhill School Committee will go into executive session to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the secretarial unit of the HEA and to not reconvene in open session.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to go into executive session to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the secretarial unit of the HEA and to not reconvene in open session. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood, Vice Chairperson, 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

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained