



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of October 12, 2023

Governor Healey has extended pandemic-related authorizations thereby allowing remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through March 31, 2025.

Statement published for the record: those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, ET and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Chairperson who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute.

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-Ciardello	Present remotely
Mayor Fiorentini	Present remotely		

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Superintendent was also in attendance. Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling was absent.

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

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote). There was no one present for public comment.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

MASS Superintendent's Awards: Janiya Ellis and Jackson Morin. High School Principal Downs introduced Jackson Morin who was presented with the prestige award. He noted that Janiya Ellis was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Marotta related that very few awards were presented throughout the state and it was a tremendous honor for these two students.

HHS New Credit Recovery Program. Mr. Downs provided a brief summary of the program which had been funded by a grant. He noted from his observations several students had not been successful in high school or by attending summer school. Principal Downs applied with the assistance of colleagues for a grant entitled "Mass Grad" which totaled \$75,000. He reported that the grant application was approved and with this additional money, three credit recovery sessions will be run during the day at the high school, which started two weeks ago with a 75-student enrollment. The principal added that student attending class during the day and then had classes that ended by 5:00 pm with the hopes of attaining grade level and graduating from high school.

Attorney Rosa congratulated Janiya and Jackson and his parents on their awards. He extended appreciation to Mr. Downs for applying for the grant and requested a follow-up report later this school year.

Ms. Sullivan thanked Mr. Downs and inquired about the form for the program.

Principal Downs expressed his gratitude to the two coordinators Erica Lynch and Shawn Cruz for their assistance in implementing the program. The principal commented that the four (4) curricula areas {history, science, mathematics and social studies} were blended in the curriculum. He noted that there was a two-pronged goal of credit recovery and connecting the school or a teacher in a

different manner. Mr. Downs stated that the teaching of the curricula in an engaging manner would lead to student success.

Student Advisory Council Report.

Ms. Melanie Palacios. Melanie shared an update from the high school. She related that next week would begin homecoming week (Spirit Week); Fall Fest has been changed to 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm on 10/26/23; and the student council was in the process of reviewing the differences between AP and Early College courses.

Budget Update (Red/Green Report) [Financial Report 10.12.23.](#)

The superintendent related that the assistant superintendent was out on a medical date and discussion will be delayed until the next meeting.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

MASC Voting Delegate and Resolutions (included on agenda by school committee secretary) [MASC Delegate Form and other information 2023.pdf](#); [2023 MASC Resolutions.pdf](#) and [conferencebrochure23.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to appoint Ms. Sullivan as Haverhill's Voting Delegate. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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

Ms. Sullivan was elected as the voting delegate for the school committee. Mr. Wood asked for the committee's review and direction to Ms. Sullivan by the next meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Discussion of a response to the open meeting law complaint filed by Timothy Coco [8-28-23-Haverhill OML Complaint Form-signed \(1\).pdf](#). Attorney Magliocchetti requested that someone work with Attorney Connelly to provide a response to the Attorney General.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to select Attorney Magliocchetti as the member to work with Attorney Connelly to address this matter. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to appoint Ms. Sullivan as Haverhill's Voting Delegate. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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

Attorney Rosa volunteered to follow-up with Attorney Connelly to allow for the dismissal of the DLR

complaint.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Discussion of the open meeting law and school committee compliance. [Opening Meeting Law Training Materials KP/Law](#). Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the workshop on the open meeting law including remote participation guidance under city ordinances Chapter 66, sections 5-7. He related that if you have video capability it must be used during remote participation. It was noted that the technology in the council chambers did not have this ability.

Ms. Sullivan recommended a meeting with the new members after the election in November. She commented on the complexity of the school committee's role.

Mr. Wood noted that new members were required to attend training under state law. He related at the beginning of his tenure; senior members provided guidance to him on committee operations and authority. Mr. Wood suggested a discussion of the policies and procedures. He explained that the incoming school committee would be a large group.

Subcommittee Reports.

Athletic Subcommittee Report: Proposal for the full school committee relative to the cost of admission to Haverhill Public Schools' athletic events and the use of the "Gold Card" for Haverhill residents 62 years and older [Admission to Athletic Events Proposal - October 12, 2023 2.pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa reviewed the proposal with the committee members noting that this item had been discussed at a recent athletic subcommittee meeting and if approved would start at the beginning of the winter season 2023. In relation to the gold card IDs would not be checked at the door and/or gate. Attorney Rosa clarified that the only individuals paying would be non-Haverhill residents and Haverhill residents under 62 years of age. He indicated prices had not increased in 20 years and were the lowest rates in the Merrimack Valley.

Superintendent Marotta explained the gate receipts had been decreasing over the years since free student admission. She highlighted the importance of season passes (\$25) and noted the cost of running events.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve an updated admission policy as stated. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	No	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	No
Mayor Fiorentini	No		

4 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

3 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

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

Attorney Magliocchetti related that there were no new updates.

In response to Mrs. Sapienza Donais' question on who had jurisdiction over the former Wood School, Superintendent Marotta replied that the recreation department had responsibility for this facility.

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that pickleball bids came in within the estimated parameters and

work would commence shortly.

Attorney Rosa commented on a recent visit by MSBA officials to JG Whittier School the possibility of admitting the school to the Core Program with a decision by the MSBA Board next year.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to request approval of the financial transfers [10-10-23 Budget Transfer Request.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the financial transfers. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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 EV202301013 & EV202301013B totaling \$1,271,498.05 [Warrants EV202301013 and EV202301013B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV202301013 & EV202301013B totaling \$1,271,498.05. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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 EV202301013A totaling \$3,086.47 [Warrant EV202301013A \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV202301013A totaling \$3,086.47. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call with the following results:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstained
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 September 28, 2023, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 09.28.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2023. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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 Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (7:39 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mr. Wood requested a roll call 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