



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2021**

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and requested a roll call of the members:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present in person	Attorney Rosa	Present in person
Ms. Sullivan	Present remotely	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Absent
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Present in person
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Present in person		

Dr. Margaret Marotta, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent were present in person.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson read an act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency was signed by Governor Baker and allows for remote meetings and hearings by public bodies through April 1, 2022. This meeting will be available via live streaming over HCTV and WHAV. The full meeting recording will be posted on the HCTV website.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Holiday Musical Selections from the Haverhill High School Select Chorus.**

The Haverhill High School Select Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Salvi performed two selections: Carol of the Bells and Christmas Song. Mr. Salvi invited the School Committee to a Holiday Performance to be held on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 6:00 pm at Haverhill High School.

Mayor Fiorentini extended an invitation to the Mr. Salvi and the Select Chorus to perform at the Inauguration on January 3, 2022.

**Communications/Reports.**

**Student Advisory Council Report ~ Hailey Prunier.**

Ms. Prunier provided an update from HHS:

- An amazing Coffee House was held yesterday, with a Food Drive at this event which was very successful with more cans than expected; the donations will be brought to Tilton Upper;
- NHS and Key Club are also conducting food drives;
- Extended a warm welcome and congratulated Mr. Ashworth as the new assistant principal and acknowledged his contributions to her academic success and future career path;
- Announced opportunities for getting involved in school (clubs etc.)
- Advised students to maintain academic focus;
- Wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

**Public Comment (In-person & Remote) ~ None.**

## **Superintendent Comments/Reports ~ Communications/Reports.**

**Consentino School Building Project Overview by Colliers Project Leaders (OPM) and Dore+Whittier (Architects).** Mr. Walter and Ms. Donovan, from Dore+Whittier were present remotely to provide an overview of the Consentino School Building Project.

Superintendent Marotta noted that the Consentino School Building Project Presentation was available for viewing on HCTV in English and Spanish.

Ms. Donovan provided an overview for the Committee: [2021-12-09 School Comm Mtg \(1\).pdf](#)

Attorney Rosa asked about the difference between the Working Group and School Building Committee.

Ms. Donovan responded that the working group was a select group that was committed to long-term process and included educators.

Mr. Walter related that the 650 construction included complexities of the project.

Attorney Rosa indicated that there were many complexities involved when working around students.

Mr. Walter stated that there was minimization of using modules because the costs would be not be recouped by the city.

Ms. Donovan noted that one move was the least disruptive option.

Attorney Rosa reported that the current enrollment was 730 students.

Ms. Donovan reported that the current configuration was not operational for present-day standards.

Attorney Rosa asked how many options would be part of PDP submission to MSBA in January, 2022.

Mr. Walter commented that 4-5 selections would be narrowed down by MSBA. He noted that the narrowing of choices was decided by the community and the school building committee, with the final decision in the spring of 2022. Mr. Walter added MSBA did not dictate the selected preference for the building.

Ms. Sullivan asked about cost increases.

Mr. Walter related that 3-5% over the past several years, but the COVID impact (supply chain and cost) was being closely monitored by the architects, with the encouragement to order materials in a quicker manner.

Ms. Sullivan asked what the challenge of maintaining the gym and any structural issues. She asked what sustainability would look like in this project.

Mr. Walter related that the structure was sound but did not meet seismic codes. He stated that there were

many different levels but if the goal was to achieve a highly energy efficient and healthy building there were many different levels of sustainability for consideration.

Ms. Donovan described there were levels of sustainability such as Basic (MSBA), Gold, and Platinum designations. She noted that the MSBA did encourage this option but it was the Basic level (2%).

Mr. Walter related that the working group and building committee would be discussing these topics.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about the possibility of not meeting seismic codes.

Mr. Walter advised that these codes needed to be followed and it was a labor intensive process in current school construction.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if new technology could be adapted to a currently constructed school.

Mr. Walter responded that a new technology structure could be installed in the school.

Mayor Fiorentini was excited about the Consentino School Building Project and acknowledged the structural integrity of the building, but noted the need for replacement of HVAC, and roof. He was concerned about the size of the building and did not believe enrollments would be impacted by new housing development.

**Professional Development Initiative regarding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by Equity Imperative** ~ Dr. Marotta asked to table this item since Equity Imperative could not attend the meeting. She noted it was a professional development offering that emphasized diversity, equity and inclusion.

Superintendent Marotta announced the following personnel changes:

- Mr. Ashworth's appointment as Assistant Principal at Haverhill High School;
- Mrs. Fitzgerald returning to Hunking School as an Assistant Principal;
- Mr. Mangion assuming the role as Assistant Principal at HHS.

Dr. Marotta offered the following Fridays for Professional Development 1/14, 2/18, and 5/27 with half-days for students and full days for staff.

In response to the mayor's inquiry on professional development impact on state learning requirements and topics, the superintendent responded no and offered that social emotional learning and mental health.

Mayor Fiorentini responded that this proposal went against his belief of longer school hours even though these were worthwhile subjects.

Superintendent Marotta replied that at this time, teachers needed these supports.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to add three early release half-days for students (full-days for staff development) on January 14, February 18, and May 27, 2022. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
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Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	No

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

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if there was a school committee meeting on February 23, 2022. It was noted that there was no meeting on that date.

Dr. Marotta announced that there would be a letter along with revised calendar sent to families on Monday.

**Vo-Tech Information.**

Policy Subcommittee Recommendations (New Career Technical Education Application and Admissions Policy) ~ Ms. Sullivan.

Dr. Marotta related that this matter had been approved by the Policy Subcommittee last week.

Ms. Kelley, Supervisor of Career & Technical Education provided a review of New Career Technical Education Application and Admissions Policy:

- [CTEApplication-ENG-6.docx.pdf](#);
- [FY22 Draft Admissions-Policy-HHS CTE.docx.pdf](#);
- [DESE CVTE application-process \(3\).docx.pdf](#);
- [DESE CVTE model-Adm policy-template.docx.pdf](#)
- [DESE CVTE admissions-policies-practices \(3\).docx.pdf](#)

Mr. Higginbottom, STEM Curriculum Supervisor introduced himself to the committee and asked if there were any questions.

In response to the mayor’s question on the reason for the vote and submission, Ms. Kelley responded that it was a requirement /recommendation from DESE in regards to vocational programs at comprehensive high schools similar to those in vocational schools. She further noted that the students would be applying for a four-year career-technical program at HHS, which required an application process (DESE requirement).

Superintendent Marotta indicated that as part of the additional DESE funding for vocational programming to Haverhill High, there was a prerequisite to have an application and interview.

Ms. Kelley stated that no students had been denied entry to the program.

Attorney Magliocchetti commended Ms. Kelley and acknowledged the importance of these programs for students. He stated a concern that the programs could not be similar to Whittier Vocational.

Ms. Kelley clarified that the school could offer a non-Chapter 74 Perkins qualified program which is the same as Whittier Vocational, i.e., engineering program.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked if auto repair could be offered at the high school in the future. He commented that certain trades impacted under-served and/or minority students (HVAC and Auto) and that this matter had been raised by the Latino Coalition.

Ms. Sullivan reported that the Policy Subcommittee had reviewed the material and highly recommended approval of the admissions policy and application.

Regarding the mayor’s recommendation about exploring after-hours options with Whittier Regional since the school had the equipment, Ms. Kelley related that she would explore this possibility.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve New Career Technical Education Application and Admissions Policy. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

### COVID Update.

Superintendent Marotta introduced Dr. Maddox and Ms. Vozeolas the current COVID statistics.

Ms. Vozeolas reported that 157 students and 21 staff members are being tracked after testing positive for COVID along with tracking close contacts/symptomatic people which is an additional 600 individuals within the district. She noted the volume and communications were straining the system. Ms. Vozeolas noted that there were 5% positive pools each week and test/stay program was a robust one (152 students today participated in the program). She emphasized the distraction from other work such as delivering quality care for medically fragile students. Ms. Vozeolas continued by stating the close working relationship with the City Health Department. She commented that the positivity rate this week was at 10.17% (79 average daily incidence) which was two times larger than last year at this time, however, the good news was there was a high vaccination and lower illness rates.

Dr. Maddox recounted that last year’s peak was being repeated this year. He related the positive outcome from the implementation of the hybrid model. Dr. Maddox noted that the tradeoff of total in-person learning would be the rise in COVID cases.

School Physician Maddox shared several data points:

- the success of the vaccine in reducing deaths in COVID patients [City of Haverhill Average Incidence](#);
- Cumulative Infection Rate [Cumulative Infection Rate](#);
- [MA Covid Dashboard](#) which details the trend lines for cases, hospitalizations, testing and deaths and highlights the effectiveness of the vaccination rate;
- below state average vaccination rate for Haverhill in all age groups [Haverhill Vaccination Rate](#) and acknowledged the impact of the pandemic in the black and brown communities and the goal should be a higher than state average vaccination rate.

Dr. Maddox complimented Mary Connolly, Katie Vozeolas, nursing staff and all school personnel. He supported surge protocol and the ability to triage.

Attorney Rosa questioned whether the high school had fewer cases since the 16-19 age group had a higher vaccination rate.

Ms. Vozeolas responded the cases were spread out among the vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals.

Dr. Marotta added that there would be an exploration of changes in operation.

Mayor Fiorentini was disturbed by the surge.

Attorney Magliocchetti announced the passing of a Hunking School grade 8 student. Dr. Marotta offered that the student had passed away after a yearlong battle with cancer and this loss had considerably impacted the staff and students in dealing with this loss.

**A moment of silence was observed for the student.**

**School Committee Reports/Communications.**

**Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2022 ~ Mr. Wood.** Vice Chair Wood referenced the meeting schedule document in the meeting materials and recommended approval.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the 2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the results were the following:

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

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

**Moody School Accelerated Repair Program ~ Attorney Rosa.** Attorney Rosa indicated that there was no reason to delay projects within the district since costs are dramatically rising at this time. He noted the MSBA approval was only for the roofing project, note the boilers and windows.

Ms. Sullivan stated the original request was for windows due to safety concerns and asked why there was a change in the proposal.

Mayor Fiorentini would pursue repair of the windows and the boilers.

Ms. Sullivan asked why the project was changed when the windows had been included in the original proposal to MSBA. She asked several times why there were changes and did not receive an answer.

**Subcommittee Reports.**

Policy Subcommittee matter already address earlier in the meeting.

**Finance Subcommittee Report and Recommendations ~ Mr. Wood.**

Mr. Wood noted the transfer of funds request had been distributed by Mr. Pfifferling and that he

recommended approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the financial transfers. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested and the results were the following:

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

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

Mr. Wood thanked Superintendent Marotta, Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Sapienza Donais and Attorney Rosa for the work on the Diversity position posting [HPS HR Diversity Specialist](#). He highlighted that there were specific goals contained in the job description.

In response to the mayor's question on sharing with the city, Mr. Wood responded that it needed to be a full-time school department position, but at times could provide consulting services to the city at an agreed time.

Mayor Fiorentini stated it would be helpful and that assistance would be needed in the matter of recruitment and training.

Superintendent Marotta related that some assistance could be provided to the city in the matter of training.

Mr. Wood reiterated that there was no opposition to assisting the city. He thanked Mrs. McArthur publicly for her work on diversity issues and the posting. Attorney Magliocchetti concurred with Mrs. McArthur's commendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Diversity Specialist posting. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

**Maintenance Subcommittee Report ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.**

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that the subcommittee continues to meet on a regular basis. He noted that Consentino School was being monitored until the beginning of the new construction. Attorney Magliocchetti referenced that the roof was a serious issue but structurally sound however, there is needed work. He noted that there were peeling ceilings in older buildings (melanite ceilings) and Mr. Dorrance has found a possible solution. Attorney Magliocchetti found the meetings to be very informative and the buildings are in decent shape.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that the subcommittee was monitoring the installation of air conditioning units since bidding was set for January 2022.

**New Business.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20211203, EV20211210, EV20211210B totaling \$2,291,188.26 and Warrant JE20211015 July P-Card totaling \$5,430.28 and Warrant JE20211015 August P-Card totaling \$17,109.34 as indicated in the agenda material [Warrant Binder 12.09.21](#).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about Atkinson Graphics cost and if the expenditure was for sport team uniforms.

Mr. Pfifferling responded the expenditure was for the Hillie Shop.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number EV20211203, EV20211210, EV20211210B totaling \$2,291,188.26. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

In reference to Warrant JE20211015 July P-Card totaling \$5,430.28 and Warrant JE20211015 August P-Card totaling \$17,109.34, Mrs. Sapienza Donais questioned the expense.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded that it was for work from inmates at the Essex County of Correction and that the tradeoff was to provide meals.

Vice Chair Wood noted that the individuals were still prisoners and that the food provided should be basic ones since they usually have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches while in jail.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling would communicate that suggestion.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant JE20211015 July P-Card totaling \$5,430.28 and Warrant JE20211015 August P-Card totaling \$17,109.34. Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	No	Mayor Fiorentini	Yes

4 members voted in the affirmative                      Motion passes  
2 members voted in the negative  
0 members abstained

**Items by Consensus.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2021 as indicated in the agenda material [Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 11.18.21](#)

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the minutes. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to go into executive session (8:42 pm) to discuss the discipline or dismissal of an employee, to review and discuss a proposed MOA with the HEA Safety Specialists, MOA with HEA Teachers regarding payment for teaching extra classes at HHS, MOA with ESP Unit of HEA, and, MOA with the HEA regarding Opening of School (COVID). The Committee will reconvene in open session to approve any actions taken in executive session. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mayor Fiorentini requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Sullivan	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes	Mayor Fiorentini	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 return to open session (9:14 pm). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes

4 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 MOA with ESP Unit of HEA. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes

4 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 MOA with HEA Teachers regarding payment for teaching extra classes at HHS. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes

4 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 MOA with the HEA regarding Opening of School (COVID). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes

4 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 (9:16 pm). Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. Vice Chair Wood requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes	Mr. Wood, Vice Chair	Yes

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