



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2022**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fiorentini, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and requested a roll call of the members:

Attorney Rosa	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present remotely & then in person @ 7:10 pm	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mr. Wood	Present in person	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, 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.

Communications/Reports.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Ms. Hailey Prunier.

Ms. Prunier provided the following report on HHS activities:

- Reminder to solidify post-graduation plans;
- Half-day for students;
- Student Job Board;
- Winter Sports Season is ending ~ get records and meet results
- Thank you!

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA questioned the committee the reasoning behind not answering his question on religious ideology.

Representative DiZoglio’s Aide presented a certificate to Sylvia Pastrana Scott and it was received on Sylvia’s behalf by Cara LaBelle.

Ms. Lynette Hickey, 74 Wheeler Avenue, Haverhill, MA spoke in favor of mask choice regardless of vaccination status.

Ms. Kara Sotirakopoulos, requested that the committee “stop the madness” and focus on addressing the results of mitigation methods such as learning loss and depression in children. She stated that forced

masking of children will never happen again in this country.

Mr. Travis Ducharme, Hunking School Special Education Teacher addressed the false report from the CDC study which cited that masking prevented disease transmission. He mentioned multiple sources of data which indicates the harm that masks have caused for children. Mr. Ducharme gave statistics and focus on the holistic approach to health for youth.

Mr. Adam Rodis, 1 Brandon Road, Haverhill, MA, commented that DESE still left the option for masks. He related that the school committee (community servants) was hampered by the state.

Ms. Alexandra Phipps, Rosemont Street, Haverhill, MA spoke as a student about fear associated with mask wearing and teacher comments “that she is killing people” and thanked the committee for the discussion and consider the science and well-being of students.

Mr. Barry Davis, thanked Dr. Marotta and Mrs. Sapienza Donais for their tributes for Gina Allen and Sheila Jameson and offered personal remembrances of both staff members. He noted the recent drop in COVID numbers in Haverhill. Mr. Davis referenced Governor Baker’s decision-making in reversing the mask mandate. He also spoke about the spike in cases after the winter break and the number of schools that were on the verge of closing due to COVID. Mr. Davis asked for the mask mandate to be extended for two weeks to ensure that there is not another spike in illness after February break.

Mr. Timothy Briggs, 30 Hoyt Road, Haverhill, MA was speaking as a parent and teacher not as the HEA President. Mr. Briggs referenced the state decision and requested that a plan be developed to ensure a meaningful education in the district.

Mr. Jack Roy, Brandy Brow Road, Haverhill, MA advocated for parental choice in regards to masks.

Ms. Barbara Greenwood, outlined the negative impacts of mask wearing for children i.e., empathy. She supported parental rights.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

COVID Update.

Superintendent Marotta announced the availability of free test kits.

Ms. Vozeolas reported on the COVID statistics and the steady decline in cases since mid-January.

Dr. Maddox commented that it was a difficult decision regarding masks. He stated that the district had navigated the pandemic in a thoughtful manner. Dr. Maddox was present to assist the committee in its decision-making. He referenced the 51% vaccination rate in the state and 32% in Haverhill in ages 5-11 (985 more students to reach the state level). Dr. Maddox reported that Massachusetts was in the red, highest level. He continued by citing several studies noting the decrease in transmission in schools with mask requirements.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked for Dr. Maddox’s opinion.

Dr. Maddox responded that mask removal was not a terrible idea.

Mayor Fiorentini asked about positivity rate in the city and the schools and which was a relevant rate.

Dr. Maddox noted that the community rate is a determining factor.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked both Dr. Maddox and Ms. Vozeolas on their work. He asked what criteria Governor Baker used in his decision-making.

Dr. Maddox responded it was grounded on the vaccination rate in the state.

Ms. Vozeolas did not recollect a decision to use KN95 or N95 masks.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the confusing amount of information.

Dr. Maddox referenced the negative mental health implications of mask wearing by children.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to remove requirement effective February 28, 2022. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa tried our best to navigate through the pandemic. He noted that schools had been in session for a longer time than other districts. Attorney Rosa commented that pool testing had begun prior to any other communities. He emphasized the uncharted territory as a result of pandemic. Attorney Rosa suggested accommodations for medically fragile staff members.

Ms. Sullivan commended Dr. Maddox and Ms. Vozeolas for their efforts and willingness to advise the School Committee during these difficult times. She advised being proactive as a school committee and ensuring the test kits distribution.

Mr. Wood recognized the commitment of parents regarding this issue. He had supported mask mandates in the past and would now recommend the lifting of the mandate. Mr. Wood advised sensitivity to students and staff who wished to wear masks.

Attorney Magliocchetti inquired if the vaccination rates would increase with the lifting of the mask mandate.

In regards to the mayor's question on timing, Dr. Maddox noted it was not a perfect stage for mitigation.

Mayor Fiorentini was proud of the community's efforts during the pandemic. He was concerned about the 10% positivity rate and the timing and would not support the motion.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to follow Governor Baker's recommendation and remove the mask mandate effective February 28, 2022. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

Seal of Biliteracy.

Ms. Heidi Perez, K-12 English Language Learner (ELL) Curriculum Supervisor spoke about this successful program which was a designation of proficiency in at least two languages. and referenced that the seal honored diversity and biliteracy (an honorarium).

Discussion and Recommendation for MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Submission for the Moody School (boiler) and Golden Hill School & Silver Hill (roofs).

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling read the vote format into the record for the Silver Hill (roof):

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 10, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Haverhill, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 9, 2022, for the Silver Hill Elementary School located at 675 Washington Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 9, 2022, for the Silver Hill Elementary School located at 675 Washington Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes

Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	Yes		

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

Mayor Fiorentini thanked Attorney Rosa for his advocacy on facilities issues.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling read the vote format into the record for the Silver Hill (roof):

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 10, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of Haverhill, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 9, 2022, for the Moody School located at 59 Margin Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 9, 2022, for the Moody School located at 59 Margin Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future. Priority 5 - Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

Attorney Rosa clarified that Moody School was ADA compliant with the exception that the elevator did not fit a full-size stretcher.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling related that there are five (5) small furnaces that are in the same room.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais reiterated the ADA compliance that was in the Moody School including ramps and equipment.

Attorney Rosa noted that MSBA would not invite the JG Whittier School into the process. He recommended the continuing of the application process.

School Committee Communications.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello: Introduction of Ms. Cara LaBelle to provide a report on recent sports team activities.

Ms. LaBelle reported on the Girls' Basketball Team recent event (January 28, 2022) in support of a staff member.

Cara LaBelle, 10 Auburn Street, Plaistow NH, provided background on the community event for Sylvia Pastrana Scott, Supervisor of Security {who has battled cancer for the past nine (9) years} that involved the junior varsity and varsity teams along with Central Catholic. She remarked the good attendance at the event and the team's efforts to support of "Miss Sylvia".

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello presented a citation from Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito.

Ms. Pastrana Scott thanked Hillie Nation for its support and noted that she was blessed to have such an amazing team.

Subcommittee Reports.

Finance Subcommittee Report and Recommendations ~ Mr. Wood.

There was no report and/or recommendations.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported that the Chapter 70 funds were estimated at \$8.9M for FY23.

Maintenance Subcommittee ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the subcommittee was in the process of rescheduling the Moody School visit. He asked for an update on the air conditioning in the schools.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded that three bids had been received and the execution of the contract was in process along with the installation of the units in the four (4) replica schools and Tilton School.

New Business.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20220211, EV20220211B, totaling \$1,499,744.78 [WARRANTS DETAILS EV20220211 AND EV20220211B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

Attorney Rosa	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mr. Wood	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	Yes
Mayor Fiorentini, Chair	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 approve the Superintendent’s Recommendation and declare surplus Consentino School equipment (listed in agenda material) and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [Surplus Consentino SC 02.10.22.pdf](#). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

Items by Consensus.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the following items by consensus as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

- A. Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2022 [Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 01.27.22.pdf](#);
- B. Approval of Field Trip Request(s) [FT Requests SC 02.10.22.pdf](#);
- C. Use of Facilities [UOF 02.10.22.pdf](#)

A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

At the request of Mr. Wood and with no objections for the committee, the use of facilities’ fee structure will be reviewed by the finance subcommittee.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to adjourn the meeting (9:02 pm). Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. . A roll call vote was requested:

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

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