



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2022**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, 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	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 was also in attendance at the meeting. Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair was absent.

Mayor Fiorentini 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 July 15, 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 by the attendees.

Consentino School Building Design Team presenting the design options and cost estimates [2022-04-14 School Committee Meeting.pdf](#)

Mr. Donald Walter, Principal with Dore+Whittier gave an overview of the possible options for the Consentino School Building Project including size, enrollment and cost estimates that are currently under consideration. He noted that the school building committee meeting held on April 28 would be the meeting where the members would choose the preferred option.

Attorney Rosa asked if Option N.1080-A.2 provided the most open space and indoor lighting.

Mr. Walter concurred with that assumption. He continued that schematic design provided a more detailed description of the project costs and materials along with a better understanding of materials and systems. Mr. Walter reported that costs would continue to be monitored all along the process.

Attorney Magliocchetti inquired about the definition of open space.

Mr. Walter related that there were many opportunities for the open space including outdoor learning.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about options for public access to the building.

Mr. Walter responded that there was ability for staff to be able to have visibility of student activity inside and outside the building.

Mayor Fiorentini acknowledged Councilors Barrett and Michitson in the audience. He reported that the building had been well maintained but needed to be updated to current standards such as HVAC and sprinkler systems.

Attorney Rosa explained that renovation of the current building would be more expensive than constructing a new school building.

Communications/Reports ~ Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mayor Fiorentini prefaced the beginning of public comment by stating that the procedural rule about repetitive comments on the same topics would be enforced beginning this evening.

In person: Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA commented on his rights to speak at the meetings. He related that white racist ideology was being taught in our schools and it was the wrong approach.

In person: Sofia Smolar, 2 Edwin Street, Haverhill, MA, spoke against the installation of metal detectors at Haverhill High School to ensure safety at the school. She mentioned incidences of offensive and racist comments that occurred at the school. Student mentioned student forum that was attended by the superintendent. She recommended additional counseling services for students.

In person: Mr. Stephen Costa, 18 Lamoille Avenue, Haverhill, MA, spoke about high school issues. He requested that the school administration and school committee address the many troubling situations within the district. Mr. Costa emphasized the turnover rate of principals at Hunking School and inquired about the reasons for these occurrences. He noted the negative influence of social media on events and asked that the community come together to solve the issues.

In person: Ms. Lynette Hickey, 74 Wheeler Avenue, Haverhill, MA stated her concern about the level of violence and disruption in our schools. She commended the school officials and police officers on their actions at Consentino School last week. Ms. Hickey asked what types of changes needed to be implemented to address these disrespectful and upsetting behaviors. She advised addressing the behaviors of a few disruptive students.

Dr. Poor, Consentino School Principal provided a summary of the event:

- Two students had an altercation; one student left the building
- A student said gun and then another student yelled gun
- Students were told to leave building by school officials
- A parameter was established around the students by adults and then students were walked to their family's car;
- 9-1-1 was called and police responded quickly
- All leads were followed up on and there was no finding that there was an actual gun on school property
- Police addressed and investigated all reports.
- A forum was held on Saturday to offer counseling to the students.

Captain Wayne Tracy, Haverhill Police Department stated there was no evidence of a gun on school property and all reports were investigated thoroughly by the police department.

Mayor Fiorentini was disturbed by the social media comments suggesting a coverup regarding this incident.

Dr. Poor noted that a homeroom lesson was conducted (game of telephone) to explain how messages can be misconstrued in transmission.

In person: Jocelyn Winter Mohns, 25 Leyland Avenue, Haverhill, Consentino School Grade 7 student thanked all the amazing teachers and counselors who assisted the students. She was not supportive of

mental detectors and/or increased police presence. Jocelyn believed that one school resource officer was sufficient for the school.

In person: Mr. Timothy Briggs, HEA President addressed the recruitment and retention matters. He was amazed that a school committee member who was negotiating with security group had made a motion to hire an outside firm to provide security in our buildings and go against a bargaining unit. Mr. Briggs recommended settling contracts with both security specialists and ESP clerks.

In person: Mr. Barry Davis, 198 Mammoth Road, Lowell, MA, suggested that there were incidences last year when both the HEA President and an ESP were silenced during public comment. He recalled a proud moment last year, when there was movement towards a living wage with the ratification of the ESP contract. Mr. Davis commented on the rising costs and advised taking care of the eleven (11) employees who are ESP clerks.

In person: Ms. Samantha Torres, 13 Lockwood Street, Haverhill, MA, reported that as a full-time government employee, she qualifies for every type of assistance and asked for favorable action on the contract proposal.

Remote: Ms. Andrea Watson, Washington Street, Haverhill, MA spoke as a mother, grandmother, resident and taxpayer of the city and recommended coming together to solve issues. She noted the crisis in our school system.

In person: Ms. Rose Leonard-Flynn, 110 Pilgrim Road, Haverhill, MA, provided an insight into her job as an ESP clerk and noted that she was a retainable employee. She asked the school committee to not forget the Haverhill "11".

Remote: Ms. Heather Miller, 5 S Street, Haverhill, MA, a parent and educator in another urban school setting was appreciative of the education her daughter was receiving at HHS. She stated that it was unfortunate that a small segment of students was not being held accountable for their behaviors and noted that it was not just a COVID-related problem. Ms. Miller recommended addressing the behaviors at the early grades, and there was a blatant lack of respect for authority.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Mr. Max Popoloski.

- Max did not condone recent violence;
- Representative Trahan and Senator Markey presented American Rescue funding and students were able to ask questions of the legislators;
- Prom tickets are on sale as well as Junior Social;
- Wizard of Oz – thanked public for their support; • Senior progress reports will be issued shortly;
- He wished everyone a great vacation.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

COVID and other school updates.

Dr. Marotta announced Mr. Betty's appointment as Hunking Principal. She related that Mrs. Russell wished to return to her previous role as assistant principal since she has young children. The superintendent noted that Mr. Betty had worked in the district for many years and wished to make the move to Hunking School. Dr. Marotta reported that the Whittier principal's position was in the process of being advertised and remains an open position.

Mayor Fiorentini left the meeting at 8:50 pm and Mrs. Sapienza Donais assumed chairing the meeting.

Superintendent Marotta went to the podium and introduced the leadership team who supported her at HHS including: Bonnie Antkowiak, Dianne Connolly, Jami Dion and Stephen Dorrance. The superintendent provided a review of the Haverhill High School Plan [Haverhill High Planning Document final \(1\).pptx \(1\).pdf](#) along with the following leadership team members:

- Mr. Meland reported on the discipline process relative to the recent event;
- Mr. Dorrance commented on security;
- Ms. Dion described the counseling and mental health supports;
- Mrs. Antkowiak addressed the needs for consistency and consequences along with discussions with the students;
- Mr. Meland updated the bathroom situation at HHS and noted that all bathrooms are open at the present time i.e., some bathrooms have had to be closed and communication has been improved regarding notifying the school population.
- Ms. Connolly reported on expanding community in the district;
- In conclusion, Superintendent Marotta offered suggestions for buy-in/rewards.

Attorney Rosa commented that most people at the high school would not support metal detectors and referenced the unattended consequences of installation (large group of students outside the building where they could possibly be harmed and vulnerable). He commented on the caseload of school counselors since many students still had not met with their counselor this year. Attorney Rosa noted that several students did not have access to tutoring after school. He was concerned because these students were seeking help and did not have the opportunities.

Attorney Magliocchetti appreciated the detailed presentation and highlighted the high student enrollment and its impact on mental health. He acknowledged the sad commentary when we cannot aid our most vulnerable citizens and the community needs to come together to assist with the problems.

Mr. Wood stated the prioritization of the Gateway Program Expansion and consistent discipline and consequences in discipline matters.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello remarked on the influence of social media and the need for consequences, specifically detention and in-school suspension.

Mr. Meland responded that the consequence needed to fit the behavior.

In relation to Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello's question on re-entry, Principal Meland explained the discipline procedure along with the parent's role in the matter along with the student's accountability.

In terms of additional cameras, Mr. Dorrance recommended immediate installation in strategic spots since security audits had been completed by two vendors who identified the same locations.

Dr. Marotta commented that the school district was the largest social service agency in the city.

COVID Update.

Dr. Marotta noted that numbers were increasing in the district.

FY22 Budget Update and FY23 Budget Planning ~ Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling.

Dr. Marotta suggested this item be combined with Ms. Sullivan's item.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: Student admission fees for middle school and high school sporting events.

Attorney Rosa reported that this item had been discussed at both the subcommittee and meeting level. He related that no action had been taken until the financial impact evaluation had been completed by the school committee.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to remove student admission fees for all Haverhill students to all athletic events. 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

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

Ms. Sullivan: Budget Goals. She stated that academics should not be neglected in the budget planning especially reading.

Subcommittee Reports.

Maintenance Subcommittee Update along with update on air conditioning from the Director of Facilities ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti advocated for a new JG Whittier School and commended Mr. Betty and his staff for educating the students. He recommended portable classrooms (4-5).

Mr. Dorrance reported that all units would be installed by the end of school vacation.

In reference to the Tilton School upgrading (electrical upgrade), Mr. Dorrance reported that the cost would be \$325,000 and was not possible in this year’s current budget.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the lack of doors on the bathrooms at Tilton School.

Mr. Wood recommended installation of the bathroom doors.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais suggested the installation of the bathroom doors.

Mr. Dorrance recommended a partition or privacy screen, i.e., 4 hours per installation.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if the bathrooms could be installed by May 2, 2022.

Mrs. Antkowiak suggested using bathrooms that have doors.

Finance Subcommittee Update ~ Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood did not have a report for this meeting.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20220401 December 2021 P-Card totaling \$5,385.92 [December P-Card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220401 December 2021 PCard. 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	No	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	No

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 January 2022 P-Card totaling \$2,332.76 [january p-card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 January 2022 PCard. 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	No	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	No

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 February 2022 P-Card totaling \$8,773.46 [February P-Card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 February 2022 PCard. 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	No	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	No

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 March 2022 P-Card totaling \$11,239.68 [march p-card updated copy.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220429 March 2022 PCard. 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	No	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	No

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20220415, EV20220415B, and EV20220415C totaling \$2,334,008.42 [Warrants EV20220415, EV20220415B and EV20220415C copy \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20220415, EV20220415B, and EV20220415C. 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

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

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20220401 November 2021 P-Card totaling \$6,263.35 [P-Card November.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello asked for more transparency in submitting the p-card warrants.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20220401 November 2021 P-Card. 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	No	Mrs. Sapienza Donais, Vice Chair	No

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

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval Hybrid Special Meeting Minutes of April 4, 2022 [Final Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 04.04.22.pdf](#), and the Use of Facilities [UOF 04.14.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the Items by Consensus. 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

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 (10:18 pm) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the following employee groups: maintenance/facilities, ESP clerks, and the teachers' unit, a discussion regarding a proposed non-unit administrator's contract and non-unit salaries. The School

Committee will not reconvene in open session. 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

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