



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2022**

**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:

Attorney Rosa	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present remotely	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present remotely
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 present remotely 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 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.

**Public Comment (In-person).**

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, 185 Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA spoke about racist ideology (evolution) being taught to students and anti-Christian teachings in our schools.

**Communications/Reports.**

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Mr. Max Popoloski.

Max provided a report on high school activities:

- Last week the sophomores took English MCAS;
- Spring athletics has begun;
- Competitive and non-competitive basketball student-faculty event, the first event in 10 years;
- Student Forum was held this past Wednesday;
- March 16th there was a successful March Coffee House (concession and event proceeds donated to Ukraine Project);
- The Drama Club’s Winter One Act Play won the preliminary round of NETG competition at Chelmsford High School and would advance to the final round on March 2;
- Quarter 3 is closing and urged students to be attentive to their coursework and complete assignments in a timely manner.

**Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

**COVID Update.**

Dr. Marotta related that those cases were decreasing in the district. She noted that vaccination rates among ages 5-12 were slowly increasing in the schools.

**FY23 Budget Planning – Dr. Marotta and Mr. Pfifferling.**

Mr. Pfifferling reported that budget planning was progressing according to the timeline and at this time meetings had been held with 60% of the principals and department heads.

**School Committee Reports/Communications.**

Attorney Rosa: Introduction of Athletic Director Thomas O'Brien to provide an update on HPS Athletics.

Attorney Rosa introduced Mr. O'Brien to provide a report on athletics.

Mr. O'Brien acknowledged the challenges faced by student athletes, coaching staff and parents during the pandemic and expressed appreciation to the Hillie family for wearing these obstacles. The athletic director underscored the following special highlights, some of which were contained in the newsletters [HillieNewsFall2021\\_1\(1\).pdf](#) and [Hillie News Winter \(1\).pdf](#):

- Member of MVC (Merrimack Valley Conference), 11-member school conference which is a highly regarded and one of the strongest conferences in the state;
- Accomplishments include 3 team championships, 2 individual championships, 4 players of the year championships along with 2 coaches of the year championships;
- Girls' Volleyball team had a phenomenal season and was ranked #2 in the state with a 19-3 record, the team won the MVC Championship in Division 1 and finished in the top 4 in a state-wide tournament (top 32 teams in MA); Kyalee Burdier was named the 2021 Merrimack Valley Conference Volleyball Player of the Year. The senior was instrumental in leading the team to the MVC title and through the playoff run to the MIAA State Final Four.
- Kevin Murphy was named the Merrimack Valley Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Hillies to the 2021 MVC regular season title. Senior Aiden Azevedo was named the MVC Golfer of the Year after winning the MVC Individual Championship.
- Cailey Simard won the 2021 Merrimack Valley Conference Diving Championship and was named the MVC Diver of the Year. Simard went on to place second at the MIAA State Championship Meet.
- Emma Panto was named the Merrimack Valley Conference Field Coach of the Year. Panto guided the Hillies to seven wins, the most since the 2015 season.
- Mallory Amirian – Soccer Goalkeeper of the Year;
- The Hillie Unified Basketball Team season was perfect in many ways. Not only was it a perfect experience for our athletes and partners, the team also finished with an unblemished record. The Hillies went undefeated on the season, winning all six of their regular season games and sweeping through the season ending Merrimack Valley Conference Jamboree.
- The Hillie Cheer Team was crowned Merrimack Valley Conference Champions. They followed that up with a runner-up finish at the MSSAA Regional Championship. The Hillies then went on to a runner-up finish in the MSSAA State Finals Competition. The squad also captured the title at the Tewksbury Invitational to start the year.
- Wrestling Team: Brent Nicolosi won the MIAA Division 1 State Title. The sophomore won the 145lb weight class, capturing the school's first state title in over 10 years. Nicolosi went on to qualify for the New England Championship and was named Merrimack Valley Conference Wrestler of the Year.
- Danny McLaughlin captured the MIAA Division 1 State Championship in the 50-yard freestyle. It was the first state title for a Haverhill swimmer in 20 years. He was named MVC Swimmer of the Year after winning both the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly at the MVC Championship meet. He holds three individual school records, was a part of three record-setting relays and also claimed a pair of sectional titles.
- George Nigro was named the 2022 MVC Boys' Swim Coach of the Year. He guided the Hillies to a 9th place finish at the MIAA Sectionals and a 12th place finish at the State Championship, both career best finishes for his teams.
- Cheerleading (Winter): The Haverhill cheer team won the 2022 MSSAA Division 1 North Championship with an outstanding performance on March 6. The Hillies received a season high score of 84, beating second place Peabody by four points.

- Gymnastics: The Haverhill gymnastics team captured the Merrimack Valley Conference regular season championship. The Hillies won five of their last six matches to finish 6-3 and clinch the league title.
- Girls' Hockey: The Haverhill-North Andover- Pentucket girls' hockey team was once again one of the strongest programs in the state. HPNA finished the regular season with a 10-8-2 record and was seeded No. 9 in the 32-team state-wide tournament. The Hillies won the first two games to advance to the round of 16 before falling to No. 1 Austin Prep.
- The boys' hockey team won seven of its last 10 games, qualifying for the post-season for the first time in six years. The Hillies fell to the No. 2 seed Gloucester in the MIAA Division 2 State-Wide Tournament. Earlier in the season, the Hillies won their own Christmas Tournament with victories over Pentucket and Amesbury.
- Haverhill skier Emily Miller qualified for the 2022 MIAA State Ski Championship. After a tremendous season in the North Shore Ski League, Miller represented Haverhill at Wachusett Mountain on March 1. The sophomore had some great runs on the day, placing 44th in the GS race and 56th in the SL race out in a field of just under 150 participants.
- Ephraim Mugwanya placed second at both the Division 1 and All State Indoor Track Championships in the High Jump. His 6'2" jump is 2nd best in school history. The boys' indoor track 4 x 400 Relay of Drew Roberts, Ricardo Galloway, Tyler Carroll, and Nata Vigo Catala were Merrimack Valley Conference Champions. Brenna Corcoran placed second at the MVC Championship in the 600 meters for the girls' indoor track team.

Mr. O'Brien noted that the pandemic had impacted participation numbers but that there were signs of a slow recovery. He announced the Haverhill Ottaviani Track Invitational will be hosted by HHS on April 16<sup>th</sup> on the new Sapienza Track and noted that it was one of the largest running track events.

Attorney Rosa referenced the current student admission fees and asked about the fees (\$3.00 per event).

Athletic Director O'Brien responded it would be a nice benefit for students and that most districts did charge students. He estimated that \$14,000-\$15,000 were received for the year and recommended consideration.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was impressed with the many students' successes at Haverhill High School "Hillie Proud".

Mr. Pfifferling clarified that the fee waiver would only effect regular season events.

Mayor Fiorentini expressed concern about public access to the track.

Mr. O'Brien noted that there was access to the track after school athletic events and on weekends.

Mayor Fiorentini asked for more public access to the pool.

Attorney Magliocchetti recognized Mr. DiBurro's substantial donations to HHS athletics, including the addition of courts.

Mr. O'Brien commended Mr. DiBurro for his generosity and assistance with student athletes and its programs. He noted that there were plans regarding the usage of the new tennis courts and pickle ball courts.

### **Subcommittee Reports.**

Policy Subcommittee Recommendations regarding updating the social media policy for the Haverhill Public

Schools (Policy KDC-1) [../Final & Approved Updated-Social-Media-Policy 03.24.22.pdf](#) and the face covering policy [FINAL EBCFA 02 10 2022 HPS.docx \(1\).pdf](#).

Ms. Sullivan recommended approval of the policies.

Mrs. McGillicuddy noted the face covering policy had not been included in the printed material due to a printing issue but it was in the electronic version.

Ms. Sullivan read the recommended policy:

The Haverhill Public Schools is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the district’s ability to ensure students remain in a full-time classroom learning environment.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, in accordance with guidance and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the following requirements are in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth is strongly recommended to be worn by individuals who remain unvaccinated or are otherwise immunocompromised in school buildings, and on school grounds, even when social distancing is observed.

Individuals who are vaccinated are not required to wear a mask, but may do so if desired.

Students and staff returning from 5-day quarantine following a positive COVID test must follow strict mask use, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms, through day 10 of exposure.

Masks will be required in all school health offices.

By federal public health order, all students and staff are required to wear a mask on school buses.

In response to the mayor’s question on a legal review, Ms. Sullivan responded that MASC usually recommended policy revisions and that they had vetted the policies through the association’s attorney.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve both of the recommended policies face covering and social media. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. A roll call vote was requested:

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

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

Student Opportunity Act Goals Review ~ Ms. Sullivan.

Ms. Sullivan stated that since next year’s budget was 60% complete it was good to revisit the goals.

Dr. Marotta related that many of the goals were almost fully complete at this point. The Superintendent

reported that there were multi-year goals for urban districts that had traditionally been underfunded communities. Dr. Marotta related that the goals were underway, one of which was the expansion of preschool opportunities with the opening of Moody on Main. She continued that there was significant demand for spaces and there were efforts underway to find additional educational space. Superintendent Marotta noted the increase in post-pandemic needs for counseling and alternatives (i.e., PASS Program) to address student unacceptable behaviors including a high-quality middle and high school level alternative school. The superintendent stated that one of the goals was better supporting inclusion with ELL students in educational programs and summer learning along with expansion of vacation academies with partner agencies.

Ms. Sullivan clarified that these goals were established to assist students in ways the district could not have accomplished without these funds.

Mayor Fiorentini noted the underfunding for gateway communities over the past decade.

#### Finance Subcommittee Update ~ Mr. Wood.

Mr. Wood announced the awarding of two scholarships named after Michelle DeLuca Benedetti scholarship recipient (Criminal Justice) in the amount of \$2,200 Maxwell Bourque International College in Worcester and was an accomplished athlete with a solid academic record, who worked at the Sylvan Grill. He congratulated Maxwell on this honor.

Attorney Rosa thanked Mr. Wood.

#### Maintenance Subcommittee Update ~ Attorney Magliocchetti.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that the school tours would begin April 1st.

#### Old Business.

##### **Statement of Interest Submission to the MSBA's Core Program for a new JG Whittier School.**

Mayor Fiorentini related it was an exercise in futility. He suggested that Tilton School be considered before J.G. Whittier School.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted that the possibility of two larger schools might allow for a repurposing of the Tilton School in the future. He clarified that the recommendation was for two schools, i.e., Consentino and Whittier Schools.

Attorney Rosa commented that "kicking the can down the road" would magnify the costs and noted that if the Consentino School project had been initiated five years earlier there would have been substantial savings in building costs. He asked if there might be a consolidation aspect to the project.

Mr. Wood acknowledged that Whittier Vocational Regional Technical High School was also in the MSBA pipeline.

Mr. Pfifferling read the following statement into the record:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 24, 2022, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the School Committee of the City of Haverhill, 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 March 16, 2022 for the John Greenleaf Middle School located at 256 Concord Street, Haverhill, MA 01830 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 1 - Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school

children, where no alternative exists; Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding; Priority 4 – Prevention of server overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments; and Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and local requirements; 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 of Haverhill to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the submission of SOI to the MSBA Core Program for the JG Whittier Middle School and to change the answer on page 4 to yes for potential consolidation. 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

Mayor Fiorentini clarified that he supported new schools. He asked for a motion to develop a plan for the renovation, reuse or phasing out of the Tilton School.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for clarification regarding the plan development and questioned the assumption regarding declining enrollments.

Attorney Rosa supported the development of plans but suggested Including alternatives to the current leases for both St. James and Temple Emanuel locations for our programs which would save \$400,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to develop a usage (renovation, reuse, and/or phasing out) plan for the Tilton School. Attorney Rosa 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

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20220325 & EV20220325B, totaling \$1,795,666.94 [Cover Warrant 032522](#) [Warrants 032522](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20220325 & EV20220325B, totaling \$1,795,666.94 [Cover Warrant 032522](#) [Warrants 032522](#). 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

Superintendent’s Recommendation to declare items surplus [Surplus 03.24.22.pdf](#) and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the declaring items surplus and disposing of in accordance with city ordinances. 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

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2022 [Hybrid School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes 03.10.22.docx.pdf](#) and Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of Use of Facilities [UOF 03.24.22.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve the minutes and use of facilities. Attorney Rosa 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 Mr. Wood to go into executive session (8:10 pm) for a continued discussion of non-unit/principal salaries and to not reconvene in open session. Attorney Rosa 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