



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023**

Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wood, Chairperson Pro Tem called the meeting to order (7:02 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 (7:05 pm)
Mayor Fiorentini	Present in person @ 7:15 pm		

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Superintendent was in attendance at the meeting.
Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling was not in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Herb Bergh, President of the Haverhill Education Foundation along with board members Jenny Arndt and Joanna Dix promoted the upcoming the Scratch Ticket Bingo Fundraiser event Haverhill Education Foundation Fundraiser [Bingo flyer 2023 \(1\).pdf](#) being held at 6:00 pm (doors open) and 7:00 pm (Bingo) on Friday, May 19, 2023, at Amvets Post 147, Haverhill, MA. Mr. Bergh related that donations could be made at www.haverhillfoundation.org.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commended the Haverhill Education Foundation for funding mini-grants for teachers and noted that she was a recipient of several mini-grants during her teaching career.

Mr. Wood reiterated the date of the event Friday, May 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm (doors open) with an event start time of 7:00 pm at the Amvets Post 147, 576 Primrose Street, Haverhill, MA and the website information www.haverhillfoundation.org.

Student Advisory Council Report ~ Sean Wynn.

Sean provided a brief high school report:

- Next week was the beginning of AP Exam Testing: May 1, 2023 @ 8: 00 am and AP US Government and 12:00 AP Chemistry;
- Early College Graduation on May 11, 2023;
- Financial Aid Webinar will be held on May 8, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Mayor Fiorentini assumed chairing the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

FY24 Budget Update. Mr. Pfifferling noted that there was a tentative budget workshop scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023,

FY23 Budget Update (red/green report) [04-25-23 Red Green Report.pdf](#). Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported there were unexpended funds totaling approximately \$200,000.

Early Childhood Grant. Mrs. Craig, Ms. Fuller and Ms. Perry.

Dr. Marotta reported on the receipt of a preschool expansion grant and introduced Mrs. Kristi-Lynn Craig,

Ms. Tracy Fuller and Ms. Perry. Mrs. Craig felt honored to have received a three-year grant in the amount of \$744,000. Ms. Perry noted that Haverhill was positioned for additional future funding in this area.

The committee appreciated the efforts to secure this funding.

Superintendent Marotta noted this grant was part of the movement towards universal preschool.

Summer Programs: Mrs. Dianne Connolly.

Mrs. Connolly reported on the upcoming summer program.

Attorney Magliocchetti was pleased with the program effectiveness and increased participation in the program.

Mayor Fiorentini was delighted with the summer program (estimated enrollment 2,000 students) and the positive student impact.

Mrs. Connolly provided a brief overview of the 2023 April Vacation Academy Summary (366 students). She thanked the committee for its support of this program.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Youth Cannabis Misuse Discussion by Randi Melissa Schuster, PhD, Director of School-based Research and Program Development at the Massachusetts General Hospital Center for Addiction Medicine
[Schuster Haverhill 4.27.23.pdf](#): Attorney Rosa.

Dr. Schuster reviewed her presentation with the school committee members. She referenced some key points and slides:

- Most students do not use substances, but many do;
- More discrete manners of substance usage in the school setting;
- Adolescents are at heightened risk for negative effects;
- Adolescents who use cannabis are more likely to experience other mental health concerns;
- Schools represent the prevention arm of our mental health system; there should be more preventive measures including early intervention;
- A review of the Monitoring the Future Study, the University of Michigan;
- Cannabis is viewed by students i.e., risk % seeing “great risk” in using regularly along with the disapproval % of using regularly;
- Trends in Annual Prevalence and 30-Day Prevalence of Daily Use in Grades 8, 10, and 12;
- Vaping Trends Post-COVID: Trends in 30-Day Prevalence of Use in Grades 8, 10, and 12;
- Rates of use are not universal in the following categories: smokeless tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, vapes, cannabis, alcohol (sexually diverse more likely to use substances);
- Cannabis is far more potent than in prior decades (THC levels) 1960’s level was 2% and now students are using higher potency THC products and lower potency CBD products;
- Vaping has become very popular which allows for easy concealment or discrete use;
- Increased usage of edibles (100% of surveyed students have used edibles);
- Overshooting potency;
- Dabbing results in more dependency;
- Broad distribution of THC binding sites

In response to Attorney Rosa’s question on the effects of THC on children by age, Dr. Schuster replied that the younger the child the more profound effect of the drug.

Dr. Schuster continued:

- Addiction liability = comparison of addictive potential by drug type (tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, stimulants, analgesics, psychedelics, and heroin);
- Cannabis and Nicotine Craving (within 30 minutes, within 1 hour or more, or never);
- 80% who struggle with addiction will go into recovery;
- Cannabis use and cognitive function noting late onset marijuana users or early onset marijuana users;
- Ongoing study on neurocognitive recovery with cannabis abstinence in high school students which showed abstinence improved cognitive function i.e., memory and the effects were not permanent for these students;
- Children who use cannabis regularly are more prone to psychiatric concerns (emotional reactivity such as ADHD, PHQ4);
- Daily cannabis users in relation to suicidal tendencies: thoughts, how and attempt;
- Students Intent to Quit in relation to support at school.

Attorney Magliocchetti requested that the presentation be placed on the website and social media. He asked for trends for the next 10 years (prognosis for students).

Dr. Schuster did not have an answer to this question, but the projection of high potency users was not a optimistic one.

In response to the mayor's question on long-term double blind clinical studies, Dr. Schuster answered that these studies were still illegal.

Regarding the use of cannabis for treatment of nausea, Dr. Schuster reported that 7% of expectant mothers had this drug in their system.

Dr. Schuster reported that students are not purchasing cannabis through legal methods, i.e., dispensaries instead they are using the black market or from older siblings. She highlighted that the preeminent gateway drug was nicotine with an example of pre-treating with nicotine and predisposition to using cocaine.

Mayor Fiorentini commented on the prominence of the cannabis industry in lobbying.

Dr. Schuster related that there was a difference between legalization and commercialization.

Attorney Rosa asked for Dr. Schuster's main takeaway message.

Dr. Schuster related that substance abuse needed to be addressed as a mental health issue and treated with compassion and care; not a moral failure. She advised offering a safe space for treatment.

Attorney Rosa thanked City Council Vice President John Michitson for attending tonight's meeting.

The Haverhill Public Schools Wellness Committee hosting a free presentation for students and families featuring former Celtics NBA player Chris Herren for to discuss addiction and recovery: Attorney Rosa.

Attorney Rosa introduced Mrs. Megan Arivella, who announced the upcoming free presentation for students and families featuring former Celtics NBA player Chris Herren for to discuss addiction and recovery.

Mrs. Arivella commented on the positive efforts in Haverhill that were ongoing in the district. She was seeking additional grant funding to support wellness efforts. Mrs. Arivella announced the following partners who supported the event. Additionally, she related that May was Wellness month with the color purple symbolizing mental health awareness and issues. Mrs. Arivella asked the committee's support for next week's event on May 2, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Ms. Sullivan reported that the Haverhill Education Foundation item had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports.

Finance Subcommittee Update: Mr. Wood.

Attorney Rosa related that a meeting was held this past Wednesday on the FY24 budget.

The assistant superintendent reported that a transportation vehicle had been totaled in an accident and he was asking for the transportation vehicle to be transferred back to facilities department.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question on whether this was the best course of action, Mr. Pfifferling replied that it was the best use of the vehicle.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to transfer the transportation vehicle back to the facilities department. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

Mr. Wood asked about the age of the vehicle.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling responded that it was four (4) years old and the insurance payment valued the vehicle at \$7,000.

The mayor requested a roll call vote 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

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

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

Attorney Magliocchetti reported that the concession stand at the stadium had been condemned and there were several parents who had volunteered to replace it. He was hopeful that there would be funding available from the school district to support their efforts.

In response to these efforts, Dr. Marotta related that the parents were conducting fundraising and if needed would ask for funding from the school committee.

Ms. Sullivan announced the MASC Day on the Hill: "Staring down the fiscal cliff, to be held at the UMASS Club Thursday, May 4, 2023 [MASC Legislative-Priorities 2023.pdf](#). She encouraged her colleagues to attend this event.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230428 and

EV20230428B totaling \$1,633,514.31 [Detail Warrant EV20230428 and EV20230428B.pdf](#) [Combined Warrants EV20230428 and EV20230428B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230428 and EV20230428B totaling \$1,633,514.31. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote 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
 0 members voted in the negative
 0 members abstained
 Motion passes

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20230428A totaling \$175.00 [Detail Warrant EV20230428A.pdf](#) [Warrant EV20230428A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Wood to approve Warrant Number EV20230428A totaling \$175.00. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of:

- the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2023, [Final Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 04.13.23 \(1\).pdf](#)
- field trip request(s) [FT 04.27.23.pdf](#) [FT 04.27.23 #2](#);
- use of facilities [Updated Request to SC for UOF-04.27.23.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the items by consensus. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Dr. Marotta asked for an amendment to approve the field trip requests for all four (4) middle schools. The committee members agreed to this change.

The mayor requested a roll call vote on the amended motion 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
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to adjourn (8:47 pm) the meeting. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote 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
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Motion passes