



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024**

Governor Healey has extended pandemic-related authorizations thereby allowing remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through March 31, 2025.

Mayor Barrett read the following statement published for the record: those attending tonight's meeting should be aware that the meeting is being audio and video recorded by HCTV, ET and WHAV. Any audience members who wish to record any part of the meeting must inform the Chairperson who will announce the recording. This is to comply with the MA wiretap statute.

**Roll Call - Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Barrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Attorney Rosa	Present in person
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Remote @ 7:21 pm
Ms. Ferguson	Present in person @ 7:07 pm	Dr. Story	Present in person
Dr. Grannemann	Present in person	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Mrs. Lalumiere	Present in person	Mayor Barrett	Present in person
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person		

Superintendent Margaret Marotta, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members and the audience.

**Public Comment.**

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus, Millvale Road, Haverhill, MA made statements about being disrespected by the mayor and school committee. He believed no one cared about him and the city of Haverhill was trying to ruin his reputation and livelihood.

Mrs. Devon Ferreria, City Councilor extended congratulations to the new school committee and was pleased with the ward representation.

Mr. Barry Davis, HEA President congratulated the new members on their election to the school committee, Ms. Sullivan for her re-election and the historic election of Mayor Barrett. He spoke about being hopeful for the community and school committee. Mr. Davis was hopeful that the ESP unit contract negotiations would be successfully completed in the near future. He concluded with comments on looking forward to working together in the coming year.

**Student Advisory Council Report – Melanie Palacios.** Ms. Palacios presented a brief update on activities at the high school which included: proposed skate night along with a trivia night entitled “Are you smarter than a Hillie” with no specific dates for these events.

Ms. Palacios along with her fellow students Nick King and Blaudain Coneelly made a presentation regarding early college and AP courses at the high school [Early College Review Committee Proposal \(1\).pdf](#). She related that several meetings had been held with Assistant Principal Victoria Lu and Superintendent Marotta to discuss this topic and was hoping to form a committee with the inclusion of school committee members.

Attorney Rosa was pleased that the students were in attendance tonight to cover their viewpoints. He asked if there were AP classes that were not run due to lack of enrollment/interest.

Ms. Palacios responded that was correct and that in order for AP classes to run at least ten (10) students needed to seek enrollment and indicated that this was a result of early college offerings. She reported that some classes that had under-enrollment were AP Chemistry and AP Art History.

Attorney Rosa clarified that early college was easier than advanced placement courses.

Mr. King gave an example of AP Literature course enrollment in the morning having almost 30 students and AP Literature in the afternoon having only five (5) students. He noted that this was a similar pattern with other AP classes.

Ms. Palacios related that many students in the early college program were not in the under-served communities and was a major issue with the current program and was not the intention.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question, Ms. Palacios answered that CP stood for college preparatory class.

Superintendent Marotta answered Attorney Rosa's question on NECC programming and noted that the school had discretion in the courses offered to our students.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the evolution of the early college program. He asked about the economic impact of the early college program and noted the financial aspect was a major factor in participation. Attorney Magliocchetti commented that not all early college courses were accepted at colleges and universities but many more institutions were beginning to accept these colleges.

Ms. Palacios noted that the early college courses were not accepted at some ivy league and/or other universities.

Attorney Magliocchetti was concerned that students and parents believed all early college courses would be accepted by all universities and asked the superintendent to ensure the correct information was provided to students and parents. He commended the students for their poise and knowledge tonight.

Dr. Story was concerned with the impact on scheduling, enrollment and staffing in regards to classes and the negative impact of early college on advanced placement courses at the high school. She noted that all opportunities should be preserved for students. Dr. Story was interested in the profiles of students enrolled in both courses and its impact. Dr. Story was concerned with the lack of communication regarding course selection between the high school and Northern Essex. She suggested refinement of the two programs. Dr. Story asked to be part of the proposed committee.

Ms. Collins thanked the students for their presentation. She was enrolled in the Classical Academy during her high school career. She asked about the application process. Ms. Collins asked to be considered for participation on this committee.

**Election of Vice Chair for 2024.**

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to open nominations for vice chair. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. Mayor Barrett requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes

Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

11 members voted in the affirmative  
 0 members voted in the negative  
 0 members abstained

Motion passes

Mayor Barrett asked for any nominations.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to nominate Attorney Paul Magliocchetti. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. There were no further nominations.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to close nominations. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. Mayor Barrett requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

11 members voted in the affirmative  
 0 members voted in the negative  
 0 members abstained

Motion passes

Ms. Collins	Paul Magliocchetti	Attorney Rosa	Paul Magliocchetti
Ms. Diaz	Paul Magliocchetti	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Paul Magliocchetti
Ms. Ferguson	Paul Magliocchetti	Dr. Story	Paul Magliocchetti
Dr. Grannemann	Paul Magliocchetti	Ms. Sullivan	Paul Magliocchetti
Mrs. Lalumiere	Paul Magliocchetti	Mayor Barrett	Paul Magliocchetti
Attorney Magliocchetti	Paul Magliocchetti		

11 members voted in the affirmative  
 0 members voted in the negative  
 0 members abstained

Motion passes

Attorney Paul Magliocchetti was elected vice chairperson for 2024.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked the committee for its endorsement and the members congratulated him.

**Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

Superintendent Marotta related that the leadership team came to the same conclusions as the students in regards to the early college and advanced placement courses. She indicated that a committee would be assembled to examine the program and propose improvements. Dr. Marotta noted that the program had grown from 100 to 240 in recent years and the program had growing pains that needed some resolution.

Introduction of High School Principal Michael Downs seeking acceptance of a donation from the Educational Alliance to Haverhill High School.

Mr. Downs congratulated the school committee members on its election. He stated that the high school was a great place and a vast majority of the students were great kids. Principal Downs invited the members to visit the school. He introduced Mr. Ben Bolen, Manager, Wholesale Operations Summit Distributing, LLC

who stated that Haverhill Mart on 401 Amesbury Road in Haverhill was the local Mobil distributor. Mr. Bolen related that each year \$3500 grants to fund STEM programs <https://www.exxon.com/en/educational-alliance>. Mr. Downs accepted the \$500 grant on behalf of Haverhill High School. The school committee members thanked Mr. Bolen and Haverhill Mart (Mobil) for its donation.

### **School Committee Reports/Communications.**

#### **Dr. Grannemann: Member Comments on School Committee Opportunities and Objectives for 2024.**

Dr. Grannemann recommended more evidence-based decision-making along with an evaluation of progress and also make better use of subcommittees to achieve our outcomes such as focused workshops for more extensive discussion. He asked for any input tonight or in the future.

**Dr. Grannemann: Reorganization of subcommittees.** Dr. Grannemann suggested fewer subcommittees and larger membership, such as five (5) members with a quorum of three (3) members. Dr. Grannemann offered a suggestion on new subcommittees such as, Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation.

Attorney Rosa agreed with Dr. Grannemann's perspective on subcommittees and commented that well-functioning subcommittees were beneficial for the superintendent.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that several subcommittees were formed for a specific purpose and it was a past procedure to make continued adjustments including consolidation of subcommittees. He would circulate documents regarding the existing subcommittee structure and have a discussion at the next meeting.

#### **Mrs. Lalumiere: A discussion of the vote on the proposed rebuild of Whittier Tech.**

Mrs. Lalumiere stated there was an upcoming vote on Whittier Tech Building Project to be held on January 23, 2024 (11:00 am – 7:00 pm), in-person or by absentee ballot to be requested by 01.16.24. She was in support of additional opportunities for students and was disappointed that the building's capacity was not increased from current capacity. Mrs. Lalumiere wished that the Whittier Tech's superintendent had not canceled its community forum on the building project. She related an invitation had been extended to Whittier superintendent, however, she was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

Attorney Rosa was disappointed there was no public meeting held in Haverhill on this building project. He had also extended an invitation to the superintendent and she declined this invitation. Attorney Rosa was supportive of vocational education. He expressed concern with the voting process which did only allow for an eight-hour window for voting and excluded early voting. Attorney Rosa noted that Whittier Tech had never been on the agenda at our meetings and no updates had been provided to the Haverhill School Committee and was hopeful that there would be at least 2-3 updates per year.

Ms. Sullivan was disenchanted with the entire process and believed the process was not adequately rolled out in terms of the building project. She believed that it was disrespectful to the committee by not attending a meeting to address the proposed new school. She did support vocational education.

Mayor Barrett believed the vocational schools lived in their own bubble and this perspective was reflected in the manner in which this project was outlined to the community. The mayor reported that Haverhill would be responsible for a large portion of the cost. She indicated that the town/city clerks advocated for a separate election.

Ms. Diaz attended Whittier Tech and agreed with Mrs. Lalumiere that the superintendent should attend a future meeting of the school committee.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the expense of the new Whittier Tech. He was discouraged that the

administration ignored the need for increased enrollment. Attorney Magliocchetti did see the presentation at a City Council meeting. He believed that there was a lack of involvement in the process. Attorney Magliocchetti suggested a special school committee before the vote and asked the mayor to extend an invitation to Ms. Lynch.

Ms. Collins suggested greater collaboration and communication between high school programs and the vocational school's courses. She advocated for the best opportunities for students including program accreditation.

Dr. Story indicated that there was misinformation in the community about the building project and there was a need for clarification. She related that it was more cost effective to fund the project through MSBA and if the vote failed there still would be a need for renovation and there would be no state funding. Dr. Story clarified that the increased enrollment would have been cost prohibitive for the communities.

Ms. Sullivan asked for clarification on state reimbursement.

The mayor believed the MSBA reimbursement rate was approximately 36%.

Ms. Sullivan asked for clarity and it was an important point.

Mayor Barrett reported that the reimbursement rate from MSBA has been reduced over the years and noted the advocacy by Haverhill for a better rate for Consentino School. She added it would be a significant expenditure for Haverhill.

Attorney Rosa stated that it was important to have a Whittier Tech representative to address any concerns or questions.

Dr. Story believed there were many great opportunities at HHS. She suggested better promotion of the programs at the school to eighth graders.

Attorney Magliocchetti related that renovations never worked with a school building project and there were increased costs and a complex process. He indicated that the current Whittier Tech reimbursement was 40%). He asked for a proper presentation and noted the difficulties in our understanding of the procedure. Attorney Magliocchetti offered that the school committee representative did not provide any updates to Haverhill.

Superintendent Marotta clarified that the Consentino School building project reimbursement rate was close to 70%.

Mayor Barrett would extend an invitation.

**New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20240112 and EV20240112B totaling \$1,792,466.31 [Warrant EV20240112 and EV20240112B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number EV20240112 and EV20240112B totaling \$1,792,466.31. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes

Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Rosa	Yes		

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

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number 20240112A [Warrant EV20240112A \(1\).pdf](#) totaling \$9,694.65 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number 20240112A totaling \$9,694.65. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstain
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Rosa	Yes		

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

**Items by Consensus.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2023, [Final & Approved Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 12.14.23.docx.pdf](#) and the Use of Facilities [UOF 01.11.24 \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the items by consensus. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Rosa	Yes		

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

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to go into executive session (8:21 pm) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding non-unit therapists, ESP unit of the HEA and non-unit employees, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares and to not reconvene in open session. The chair declared there is a need for an executive session. Dr. Story seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes

Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Rosa	Yes		

11 members voted in the affirmative  
0 members voted in the negative  
0 members abstained

Motion passes