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Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 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.

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 remotely
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Absent
Ms. Ferguson	Absent	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.

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of retired stadium groundskeeper Dante "Danny Gobbi. Mayor Barrett commented that Mr. Gobbi impacted many children's lives through coaching and was a great family man from a wonderful family.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote). There was no one present for public comment.

Student Advisory Council Report – Melanie Palacios.

Ms. Palacios reported on upcoming activities at the high school which included:

- A trivia contest "Are you smarter than a Hillie" in late February;
- Winter Formal will be held on February 9, 2024;
- The first early college meeting will be held after school on Tuesday, January 30, 2024;
- A survey will be distributed to students to access school climate and other matters.

School Committee Reports/Communications. At the request of Attorney Magliocchetti, Vice Chair and with the agreement of the committee, the following item was moved up in the agenda order Ms. Sullivan: Reading Curriculum Materials.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the importance of literacy was a priority and therefore, she had requested a report from the district's curriculum leaders.

Mrs. Bonnie Antkowiak, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leading and Ms. Jennifer Peterson, ELA Curriculum Supervisor provided an update on current ELA curriculum in the district [Updated Copy of School Committee 1 25 \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#).

Ms. Samantha Ovalle, Golden Hill fourth grade teacher provided an overview of the end of module task in the Circulatory System Booklet. The following Golden Hill fourth graders read sections from this booklet: Charlie Graham; Aurora Gentile and Rhett Lanzi.

Ms. Jessica Todd, Literacy Coach offered an explanation of the exercises. She introduced the following Tilton students who read from Shark Barrier: Jonathan Santiago (Grade 3), Jadys Santiago (Grade 3) Rayan Salaudeen (Grade 3) and David Anumele (Grade 4).

Mrs. Antkowiak outlined the cost for this program:

- full implementation of the program would cost \$421,117 plus \$22,310 (professional development);
- Grade K-2 implementation would cost \$260,588 plus professional development;
- Grade 3-5 implementation would cost \$138,218 plus professional development.

Attorney Rosa related that Governor Healey was proposing state funding for promising districts and encouraged Mrs. Antkowiak and Ms. Peterson to pursue this funding source.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the impressive reading skills of the students. He stated that this was the most streamlined recommendation for a curriculum implementation. The vice chair asked how the schools (Golden Hill and Consentino) were selected for piloting “Wit and Wisdom?” and especially wanted to ensure teacher buy-in to the program.

Mrs. Lalumiere commented on her recent tour of Tilton Lower and the poster display for the program. She inquired when the strong data would be available to determine student growth and performance. Mrs. Lalumiere wanted to ensure there was proper implementation time to ensure a successful program.

Ms. Sullivan thanked the district leaders for their presentation along with bringing the students to the meeting.

Ms. Collins congratulated the students. She asked which students were captured and if they were the same students and also how the ML students were exposed to the program.

Ms. Peterson explained the students were from Nettle and Tilton.

Ms. Collins asked about outreach to parents to encourage at-home reading.

Ms. Peterson offered that the parent language was distributed in multiple languages.

Mayor Barrett commented on the awesome student presentation and noted that input would be sought from the curriculum leaders in the budgetary decisions on implementation.

Dr. Marotta congratulated the ten (10) students who graduated from night school and commended Mr. Don Davoli for his dedication to these students.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Renamed Item: HHS Auschwitz Tours [Genocide Education SC Presentation 1 25 2024.pptx.pdf](#).

Ms. Meg DeLong provided an overview of Genocide Education in the district.

Mr. Kempinski thanked his team Ms. DeLong and Mr. Craven for their support. He also extended appreciation to Dr. Marotta and the school committee for its approval of his conference in Poland. Mr. Kempinski noted that a private donation was provided by Mr. Peter Early which allowed him to tour Auschwitz. He pointed out the virtual tour of Auschwitz which could be accessed via the link in the document. Mr. Kempinski noted the private and governmental funding that was secured to wire the memorial site to deliver this virtual tour.

Mr. John Craven, Dean of the High School History Department reported that high school's history teachers were writing the curriculum. He added that teachers would be connected with Holocaust survivors and noted the enthusiasm of the staff. Mr. Craven noted that the curriculum would be extended to the Gateway Academy and ML schools.

Ms. Meghan DeLong related that parents would have the ability to opt-out if the virtual tour was deemed too sensitive for some students. She reported that the grade 9 team would be presenting at the MASS Conference in the summer and also at the upcoming Social Studies Conference which will be held in Boston, MA.

Attorney Magliocchetti: School Committee subcommittees and negotiation teams presented the [HSC Subcommittee Assignments Final 2024 \(1\) copy.pdf](#) for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the subcommittee and negotiation teams. Dr. Grannemann seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Attorney Magliocchetti: Superintendent's Contract. Attorney Magliocchetti reported that Dr. Marotta was interested in a successor contract. He noted that both Mayor Barrett and himself would be working with the superintendent on a new contract.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Whittier Tech School Committee representative. He reported on the unsuccessful vote and how overwhelming the vote was in all the other communities and commented that Haverhill was on an island. Attorney Magliocchetti noted that one of the representatives, Mr. Dick Early's term, would be expiring in the near future.

Mayor Barrett stated that Mr. Early had expressed interest in continuing as the Haverhill representative and had successfully gained admission to the school for hundreds of Haverhill students.

Vice Chairperson Magliocchetti recommended inviting our two representatives (Mr. Early and Mr. Wood) to the next meeting along with a status report on the building project from Whittier Tech along with any other updates.

Mayor Barrett announced the upcoming Whittier Building Committee on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 am once a month on Whittier running agenda item. She noted that Mr. Early will be in attendance at that meeting and she was planning on also being in attendance.

Attorney Magliocchetti agreed that Whittier Tech should be a standing item on the agenda.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Crossing Guards number of guards, locations, and hourly pay. Attorney Magliocchetti reported that the hourly pay rate was \$15/hour, lowest in the district. He suggested a review of the pay along with the information provided by Assistant Superintendent Pffferling on the number of guards along with their locations.

Attorney Magliocchetti made a motion to adjust the crossing guards' hourly rate to \$17/hour. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked about the total cost for a \$17/hour adjustment.

Assistant Superintendent Pffferling offered the following details: \$15,480 hours per year each { \$15,480 per year } for a total cost of just under \$31,000 per year for 18 crossing guards.

Ms. Diaz asked how many crossing guard locations.

Assistant Superintendent Pffferling would share the 18 locations with the committee.

Ms. Collins asked if action needed to be implemented as soon as possible since there were other employee groups currently in negotiations.

Attorney Magliocchetti responded that there were a small number of employees in this group and the lowest paid staff.

Mr. Pffferling reported that the city had removed a line item to fund crossing guards and believed this adjustment could be covered in our current budget. He clarified 19 personnel at 18 locations.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked the public to consider being a crossing guard which would be impactful, meaningful and tangible that would provide for student safety.

Mr. Pffferling noted the need for substitutes and asked for the public to consider getting on the substitute list and training will be provided by the district.

Attorney Magliocchetti proposed an amendment to his original motion \$17/hour effective February 5, 2024.

Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation regarding St. James Lease Extension [St. James Lease 01.25.24 Section.pdf Pages 1-10.pdf](#) and [St. James Lease 01.25.24 Section Pages 11-end.pdf](#).

Superintendent Marotta reported there was an initial three-year contract with a two-year renewal and the district recommends another two-year renewal with the same terms. She requested another extension since the district was using the space and there was overcrowding in the district.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve a two-year contract extension for the St. James School. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa questioned the timeliness of the renewal.

Dr. Marotta replied that the archdiocese was aware that the district was interested in a renewal and that it was an agenda item tonight.

Attorney Magliocchetti questioned whether the district could get out of the lease after one year.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling would have to have legal counsel review the contract in order to respond to the question. He related that the extension would be effective from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026.

Mayor Barrett suggested referral to a subcommittee.

Attorney Magliocchetti indicated that the finance subcommittee would take up this item.

The mayor suggested that although not immediately a time-sensitive topic, it should be kept in the forefront of discussions.

The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve financial transfers [01-24-24 Budget Transfer Request \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the financial transfers. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20240126 and EV20240126B totaling \$1,973,747.33 [Detailed Warrant EV20240126 and EV20240126B.pdf](#) [Combined Warrant EV20240126 and EV20240126B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20240126 and EV20240126B. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa questioned the payment to Dore+Whittier in the amount \$299,000 for the Consentino School Building Project and asked if it was a reimbursable expense from the city.

Mr. Pfifferling answered that the account number was 331 (city) and the invoices were processed through the school department for the city and would be submitted to the MSBA for reimbursement.

Mayor Barrett requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number 20240126A totaling \$6,012.61 [Warrant EV20240126A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number 20240126A. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

8 members voted in the affirmative
0 members voted in the negative
1 member abstained

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20240126 November P-Card totaling \$5,547.03 [November 23 P-Card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

Attorney Rosa suggested an explanation by the assistant superintendent for the purpose of the p-cards.

Mr. Pfifferling reported that the p-card (purchasing card) was a credit card with a Visa logo issued by the Bank of America that was used by both the city and schools. He noted that there were four (4) cards used in the district issued to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, assistant business manager and chief of teaching, learning and leading which requires a pin code and purchase order number at point of sale, the user will get an email in order to safeguard purchases. The assistant superintendent stated that this system allowed for purchases with vendors who do not accept purchase orders. In his opinion, this process was a better system than frequent employee reimbursement from personal credit cards.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number JE20240126 November P-Card. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling noted the additional safeguard of pre-use authorization from him for a purchase up to \$10,000 and from the superintendent for any purchase over that amount. He reported that the superintendent had never had to sign one of those requests and related the safeguards at the upper management level.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20240126B December P-Card totaling \$1,115.66 [December 23 P-Card.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number JE20240126B December P-Card. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [Surplus 01.25.24 \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

Ms. Collins asked for an explanation of this item.

Superintendent Marotta replied that publicly purchased unusable items cannot be

disposed of without approval from the school committee.

Mr. Pfifferling added that the school committee approved disposal and the administration either disposed of in a dumpster or put on the state's website to see if other entities needed these items. The assistant superintendent commented that Haverhill received many items from other districts, such as furniture.

Dr. Marotta indicated tonight's item was not usable equipment.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 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 January 11, 2024, [Final & Approved Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 01.11.24.docx](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2024. Mrs. Lalumiere seconded the motion.

The mayor asked for a voice vote and all stated their approval.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Use of Facilities [UOF 01.25.24.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the use of facilities. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion.

The mayor asked for a voice vote and all stated their approval.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Field Trip(s) [FT 01.25.24.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the field trip(s). Ms. Diaz seconded the motion.

The mayor asked for a voice vote and all stated their approval.

The mayor stated that the school committee will go into executive session to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the administrators' group {Haverhill Public Schools' Administrative and Supervisory Group}, maintenance employees {represented by the SEIU}, and non-unit employees, along with the review and approval of the executive session minutes of January 11, 2024 (to remain confidential) 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.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to go into executive session as outlined by the mayor.
Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

The school committee members left the council chambers to go into executive session at 8:35 pm in the City Hall, Room 206.