



## **Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee**

### **Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 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.**

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

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present remotely
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Dr. Story	Present in person
Ms. Ferguson	Present in person (7:02 pm)	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Dr. Grannemann	Present in person	Attorney Magliocchetti	Absent
Mrs. Lalumiere	Present in person	Mayor Barrett	Present in person
Attorney Rosa	Present in person		

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

#### **Ms. Collins: Update on Government Civic Projects.**

Ms. Collins announced the importance of civic education through Representative Vargas' leadership. She was surprised to learn of the involvement of both middle school and high school students in action projects.

Ms. Meghan DeLong, District Social Studies/History Coach (K-12) provided an overview of the civic projects. She introduced the Hunking Middle School Grade 8 students Lily DiNitto, Brooke Nelson, Reina Kreyling, and Ashley McGrath to present on the project topic entitled "Creation of the Hunking Pure Preserve Team whose goal was to reduce plastic waste that goes into the environment, and streamline the recycling process at their school.

Ms. DeLong announced that the top 5 winners from each middle school showcase and the top 15 from HHS would advance to the city-wide showcase on May 20, 2024, at the City Hall Auditorium. She noted that the top 5 high school level projects and top 5 middle school level projects will advance to represent at the DESE Eastern Regional Showcase on May 28, 2024, at Bridgewater State.

Ms. Diaz reported that yesterday, the state legislature passed the bottle bill. She was encouraged by the civic involvement of these students.

Mrs. Lalumiere acknowledged the students' involvement with important topics.

Ms. Sullivan asked if there were specific concerns regarding plastic.

Brooke Nelson reported that plastic could never be removed from the environment and was hazardous to both humans and animals.

Ms. Collins complimented the students and looked forward to seeing the showcase on May 20, 2024.

**Recognition of Grace McIntyre of HHS for receiving the MASS Insight Partners in Excellence Award.**

Mr. Kevin Higginbottom, STEM Curriculum Supervisor introduced Mrs. Grace McIntyre, High School Science Dean, who had received the MASS Insight Partners in Excellence Award. He acknowledged her Haverhill teaching career (15 years along with serving as Dean for 6 years) including AP environmental science. Mr. Higginbottom stated that all 41 of her AP students last year participated in the AP exam (57% received a score of 3 or higher) and this year 71 students would be taking the exam. He offered student comments on Mrs. McIntyre especially her connection with them along with her thoughtful and caring attitude and exciting and engaging teaching style. Mr. Higginbottom noted that her colleagues saw Mrs. McIntyre as a calm, composed leader who models excellent teaching and leads by example.

Dr. Marotta thanked Mrs. McIntyre for her commitment to Haverhill and believed this honor lifted up all educators. She asked Mrs. McIntyre to speak about her Haverhill career.

Mrs. McIntyre stated that her goal was to connect with students in both academics and student life and enjoyed working with her colleagues at HHS.

**Ms. Collins: Introduction of David Martinez who was recently inducted into the Governor's Council.**

David related that Ms. Collins had encouraged him to submit an application and he had learned recently that he had been inducted into the Governor's Council. He commented on his interest in politics. David concluded by thanking Ms. Collins for being a mentor and friend.

**Student Advisory Council Report – Melanie Palacios.**

Ms. Emmerson Cerasuolo was representing Melanie Palacios, due to her unavailability. She noted that the student council was currently discussing AI usage. Emmerson announced that Trivia Night was being held tonight and that after spring break the following events would be held: Powder Puff Game and Spirit Week.

**Public Comment.**

Ms. Noelle Gregoire, 21 Sixteenth Avenue, Haverhill, MA, a graduate of Haverhill High and Northern Essex (Class of 2023) and current student at Bridgewater State (Class of 2025). She was a former early college student and offered her perspective on the program including its benefits for students especially high-needs and middle-income students. Ms. Gregoire concluded that it was extremely beneficially for students of all backgrounds and income levels.

**School Committee: Interview of Candidate for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee: Richard Early, Jr.**

Attorney Rosa noted that he would be making a motion to table this matter to the next meeting. He explained that initially the city solicitor had stated that the school committee could not appoint one of its members as a representative to the Whittier Tech school committee although that had been the practice for many years. Attorney Rosa reported that the city solicitor had requested a ruling

from the state ethics commission on whether a current Haverhill school committee member could also serve on the Whittier Tech school committee and this ruling was received earlier this week. He reported that a current Haverhill School Committee member was allowed to be appointed to the Whittier Tech school committee. Attorney Rosa commented that during the application timeframe and prior to the ruling, Ms. Gail Sullivan had expressed interest in the position. He stated in terms of fairness to both Mr. Early and Ms. Sullivan, the process should continue and at the next policy subcommittee meeting the policy should be solidified by the subcommittee and the committee understands the policy and also is cognizant of the candidates.

Attorney Rosa made a motion to table the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School – School Committee appointment until April 25, 2024. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

Mayor Barrett clarified that the process would not restart, but would be postponed until the next regular meeting. She apologized for the confusion regarding this matter.

The mayor requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

Motion passes

#### **Superintendent Comments/Reports.**

#### **SOA Submission and Vote per DESE [Student Opportunity Act Plan \(1\).pdf](#).**

Superintendent Marotta introduced Ms. Jennifer Peterson, the Supervisor of English Language Arts PreK-12 who provided an overview of the Student Opportunity Act Plan.

Mrs. Antkowiak provided clarification on the piloting of Wit and Wisdom in schools and the additional costs.

Mrs. Lalumiere stated there had been a lot of research involved in finding the best program for literacy:

Mrs. Antkowiak highlighted the cost of full Implementation FY25:

K-2 Adoption (Teacher resources & materials)	\$260,588
3-5 Adoption (Teacher resources & materials)	\$138,218
PD plan for Great Minds	\$ 22,310
Total	\$421,117

Ongoing implementation: HPS will be using the \$50,000 that we received from the TAG Grant for Tilton and Nettle to continue with the pilot and implementation at Tilton School.

In response to Mrs. Lalumiere's question on the type of program, Ms. Peterson answered that it was not a foundational program.

Dr. Grannemann was encouraged by the data compilation for selection of this program.

Attorney Rosa asked a clarifying question for full implementation including disposables.

Ms. Peterson commented that there would be purchases needed each year for disposables.

Attorney Rosa asked if there could be some professional development time within our own district activities.

Ms. Peterson replied that was definitely the plan.

Ms. Sullivan believed finding the right program was essential for this important subject. She stressed the importance of literacy.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Student Opportunity Plan and to make this plan a priority for the Haverhill Public Schools. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

#### **HPS School Choice Vote for SY 24-25 per DESE.**

Superintendent Marotta reported that it was time for the annual school choice vote.

Ms. Collins asked if the district was at capacity.

There was discussion regarding the cap definition.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to not accept school choice for the school year 2024-2025. Dr. Story seconded the motion.

Superintendent Marotta commented that the schools were at capacity and the priority was educating Haverhill students.

The mayor requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

10 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

#### **Financial Report (Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling).**

Mr. Pfifferling reported an updated financial report had been distributed this evening. He highlighted at this time there was \$5,278,576 available funding until the end of the fiscal year.

Attorney Rosa asked if there were any concerns.

Mr. Pfifferling answered that transportation was always a concern.

Dr. Marotta added that the spending freeze implemented on February 1, 2024 had been beneficial to ensure a balance for the end of fiscal year.

Mr. Pfifferling commented that any educational needs were reviewed and approved for the classroom.

Ms. Sullivan expressed concern with the early college program and the expenditures.

The superintendent noted that additional early college grant funds had been received today.

Ms. Sullivan asked who was actually paying for the early college program.

Mr. Pfifferling replied that it depended on the program.

Ms. Sullivan expressed the significance of this program and celebrated this financial opportunity for students and parents. She asked that there had to be additional communication regarding the enormous benefits.

Mrs. Lalumiere noticed the athletic deficit.

The assistant superintendent clarified that the transfers from the revolving account had not occurred to date.

**Update on Food Service Management Company RFP (Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling).**

Mr. Pfifferling provided an update on the RFP. He stated that two bids had been received from Whitsons (current company) and Chartwells. Mr. Pfifferling stated that a nine-person panel had been established to review the applicants. He noted that 45-minute interviews had been held with both companies scoring in the highly advantageous category which meant – highest guaranteed profit to the district. The assistant superintendent explained that the district was waiting for DESE to certify the results. He noted that the matter would be brought to the school committee at the next meeting with DESE drafting the contract.

**School Committee Reports/Communications.**

Mayor Barrett: Discuss response to open meeting law complaints by Allis Sears and Tom Duggan and to authorize the City Solicitor to send proposed response [OML Memo and Draft Responses 04.08.24 \(003\) \(1\).pdf](#).

The mayor stated there had been two complaints regarding committee actions taken at the March 14, 2024, school committee meeting. She noted that one complaint regarding technology had been addressed at the last meeting and tonight action was needed to respond to the other complaint.

Attorney Rosa explained corrective action had been taken on March 28, 2024, to rectify the matter by specifying the policies.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to authorize Attorney Mead (City Solicitor) to respond to the complaints. Mrs. Lalumiere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

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

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

Motion passes

### **Subcommittee Reports.**

Policy Subcommittee: Revote of agenda items from the March 14, 2024, meeting to address possible open meeting law issue. Item Policy BDFB Appointments to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School – School Committee to be added to the agenda of the April 11, 2024, for re-discussion and vote.

Attorney Rosa had communicated with the city solicitor on this matter and there were several options to resolve the issue, revote, amend or rescind the policy. He suggested that the policy be rescinded and an amended policy come back to the committee at a future date.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to rescind Policy BDFB Appointments to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School – School Committee and return to the committee with an amended policy at a future date. Dr. Story seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote and the results were the following:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	No
Ms. Ferguson	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

Motion passes

### **New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV2024030412, and EV20240412B, totaling \$1,839,171.58, [Warrant EV20240412 and EV20240412B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV2024030412, and EV20240412B, totaling \$1,839,171.58. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number 20240412A totaling \$4,445.57, [Warrant EV20240412A \(1\).pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number 20240412A totaling \$4,445.57. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

### Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 03.28.24.pdf](#) and Remote Special Meeting of April 8, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval Remote Special Meeting Minutes 04.08.24.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2024, and the Remote Special Meeting of April 8, 2024. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting (8:30 pm). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes