



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2024**

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

Vice Chair Magliocchetti 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.

Attorney Magliocchetti, Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Absent
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Dr. Story	Present in person
Ms. Ferguson	Absent	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Dr. Grannemann	Present in person	Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person
Mrs. Lalumiere	Present in person	Mayor Barrett	Present in person 7:50 pm
Attorney Rosa	Present in person		

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the school committee and members of the public.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote) another student and other student spoke in opposition to the high school schedule change.

Ms. Anna Sabella, High School English Teacher, spoke about the waterfall schedule. She noted concerns about attendance in the A Block and lack of with physical space in the building for collaboration and meetings. Ms. Sabella complimented Mr. Downs and Ms. Lu for their positive actions in improving the high school and encouraged participation in the process.

Student Advisory Council Report – Melanie Palacios.

Ms. Palacios explained that the Early College Proposal has been delayed until the next meeting because further revision and in the policy arena, there would be policies developed for AI and cell phone usage. Ms. Palacios announced the following activities such as, Monday, May 20, 2024, (Decision Day) where students would wear college merchandise; the upcoming coffee house, along with other senior activities.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

introduction of Dr. Susan Hatfield, Supervisor Prek-12 Fine Arts and Music regarding the City-wide Art Showcase.

Dr. Hatfield acknowledged the following student accomplishments in the following order:

- High School Senior Students Niko Henry and Laura Paris who were recognized by their teacher Mr. John Travlos for winning a 2023-2024 Scholastic Art and Writing Award Gold Key.

Here is the list of students and their teachers who presented their artwork:

Mr. John Travlos, Haverhill High School

Senior Students - Ceramics & Glass Pieces: Niko Henry, Laura Paris, Gabrielle Mayhew, Jason Geronimo and Thaislayne DaSilva.

Mr. Peter Morse, Haverhill High School

Senior Students - Photography II: Kaylee Quirk and Dean Reinoso (they/them).

Mrs. Allison Lenihan, Consentino

Ms. Lenihan shared the art pieces from the Middle School Visual Art Program: Jadalyse DeJesus, 7th grade (ceramics), Kiera Wilson, 7th grade (paint), and Ayva Rowyn, 6th grade (water color, balloon), however the students were not in attendance.

Tilton Elementary School teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Kilday introduced grade 4 student Mariam Salib Awad, who arrived in the district not able to speak English. Mariam showed her artwork that was used in the Haverhill Public Schools Annual Citywide Arts Show 2024 postcard invitation and was surprised she had been recognized for her artistic talents. She distributed invitations to the committee.

Introduction of Ms. Megan Arivella, District Coach of Health & Wellness to provide an update on Wellness Committee Work including Wellness Club activities, Wellness Policy and Strides to Wellness [Strides to Wellness-SC meeting May 9, 2024 \(2\).pdf](#); [05.09.24 2024 Wellness Policy for sub committee Draft 2 \(2\).docx.pdf](#).

Two students spoke about their participation in the Strides to Wellness program and the benefits.

Attorney Rosa stated the Wellness Policy would be placed on the next agenda for approval and that the policy had received a positive endorsement from the policy subcommittee.

Ms. Diaz asked about parent involvement.

Ms. Arivella reported that information was distributed to grade 5 families with the hope to expand to grade 6 next year.

Student Mental Health Check Pilot [Pulse Presentation 05.09.24.pdf](#).

Ms. Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services spoke about piloting the Linewize Pulse Program (60-second weekly multiple-choice questionnaire check-in tool) which would start next Tuesday.

Ms. Arivella provided a counselor perspective commenting on it being an awesome tool and noted the component of sharing gratitude with a message to that person.

Ms. Ibanez reported that parents were sent a letter to provide an opt-out option (Gateway, Tilton and High School).

Mrs. Lalumiere asked the length of the pilot and the next steps if it was a successful pilot.

Ms. Ibanez answered that the pilot would continue until the end of the school year.

Ms. Collins asked if the program had been piloted in other districts and what was the honesty of student responses.

Ms. Arivella replied it became part of the student’s routine.

Dr. Marotta added that this was a new product.

Ms. Ibanez stated that the questions were randomized each week.

Approval of School Calendar for 2024-2025 [Proposed School Calendar 2024-2025.pdf](#).

In response to Vice Chair Magliocchetti’s question on any changes, Dr. Marotta replied that the school committee meetings had been added to the calendar.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the proposed school calendar for 2024-2025. Mrs. Lalumiere seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent’s Recommended FY25 Budget Presentation [FY25 Budget Presentation MP.pdf](#).

Both Superintendent Marotta and Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reviewed the budget presentation with the school committee.

Mayor Barrett arrived at 7:50 pm.

Assistant Superintendent Pfifferling reported that enrollment continued to grow in Haverhill. He emphasized the increase in pre-k enrollments.

Dr. Marotta referenced the receipt of the CBD grant for \$1M that lead to the increased enrollment at the pre-k level.

Mr. Pfifferling related that he and Attorney Rosa had been reviewing required net school spending and the fact of not meeting the requirements in the past fiscal years. He commented that as the state has increased its contribution, there is an expectation that the city would also increase its amount.

Superintendent Marotta highlighted the school year budget successes for the following years: 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 (Covid Era), and 2022-2023 with special notations for facilities work in our older buildings.

Mr. Pfifferling reviewed the slides regarding preparing for budget reductions. He acknowledged the city’s contribution and the federal ESSER III funding (\$2M). The assistant superintendent noted the 2024-2025 level service budget drivers: contractual services, tuitions, transportation and unsettled/expiring labor agreements. Mr. Pfifferling examined the green cuts (minimizing the impact in the classroom and to students), and the yellow cuts that were lessened by an additional \$800,000.

Superintendent Marotta clarified that there were currently only 1.6 actual layoffs since extensive work had been done with positions in other schools/departments.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked for clarification on the cuts.

In response to the security cuts, Mrs. Lalumiere supported that if there were any additional funding that a conversation be held regarding this area.

Both the superintendent and assistant superintendent commended the human resources department on its work in finding other positions for staff who were impacted by cuts in their current area.

The assistant superintendent reported on the positive outcome from the early budget freeze. He also commented on the beneficial working relationships with school committee and city officials along with transparency and planning for the ending of the increased federal ESSER funding.

Dr. Marotta described the other funding sources such as, title grants and was appreciative of these funds.

Mr. Pfifferling reviewed the remaining items on the budget calendar: 5/10/24: post the FY25 recommended budget on the website; 5/20/24: public hearing on the recommended FY25 budget; 5/23: vote on FY25 recommended budget and 5/30/24: present FY25 recommended budget to the city council.

Attorney Rosa commended the Dr. Marotta, Mr. Pfifferling, Mrs. Smith, building administrators

Ms. Sullivan expressed appreciation on the long-term collaborative, transparent process on the budget preparation. She thanked them for doing such as good job.

Attorney Magliocchetti noted the numerous meetings on budget preparation and thanked the leadership team for reducing the impact of the budget cuts. He believed there was a glimmer of hope.

Dr. Grannemann was hopeful that a budget amendment would be approved for Haverhill and other gateway communities and would provide relief.

Attorney Magliocchetti extended gratitude to Dr. Grannemann.

Mayor Barrett noted the difficult task and the expedited timeframe. She acknowledged the professionalism of both the school and city side staff. The mayor extended her appreciation.

Superintendent Marotta acknowledged the efforts of principals and their staff in the budget development.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Ms. Collins: Culture and Climate of John Greenleaf Whittier.

Ms. Collins spoke about openness and transparency and referenced MASC guidelines regarding collaboration. She believed an update on the culture and climate. Ms. Collins asked for Dr. Marotta's input.

The superintendent informed the committee that Mr. Kevin Higginbottom would assume the interim principal position at the school. Mr. Matthew Condon would take on responsibilities at the high school.

Dr. Story asked for a pulse of progress from now until the end of the school year. She noted the alarming concerns by both parents and staff. Dr. Story was concerned with many areas and wanted to ensure that there was proper follow-up (reporting out) with the implemented changes.

Dr. Marotta would report back to the committee. She believed that stability would be returned to the school.

Dr. Story requested discipline data particularly middle school and high school information.

Mrs. Lalumiere believed it was an important topic on the agenda and wished that changes had occurred earlier in the year.

Ms. Sullivan: New England Historical Society.

Ms. Sullivan stated there was a home in Haverhill where there were 10-floors of materials. She commented this treasured asset in our city. Ms. Sullivan met with the educational point person and believed there was potential for a great partnership. She noted that Tilton School students would be visiting the Spence Pierce 18th century living program in Newbury, MA.

Attorney Magliocchetti commented on the extensive investment (\$200M).

Mayor Barrett noted the remarkable asset to the city and the many artifacts.

Ms. Sullivan: Consentino School Building Project Update.

Ms. Sullivan reported that construction was beginning and the project was on schedule. She would continue to provide regular updates.

Ms. Sullivan: Seussical the Musical.

Ms. Sullivan commented on the brave and talented students in the production. She added her 6-year-old granddaughter enjoyed the performances. Ms. Sullivan was impressed with the talents of the new teachers who were producers.

Attorney Magliocchetti referenced the 30th anniversary of the Pentucket Players.

Subcommittee Reports.

Diversity Subcommittee: Update on initial meeting which was held remotely on April 30, 2024 and Review and Discussion of Policy JBB [JBB \(1\).pdf](#).

Attorney Rosa stated that this policy would be placed on the next agenda for approval.

Attorney Magliocchetti spoke about building a collaboration with other partners to foster increased diversity within our schools and in the community.

Ms. Collins supported the adoption of the policy to guide our decision-making.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV2024030510, and EV20240510B, totaling \$1,477,060.64, [Warrants EV20240510 and EV20240510B.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV2024030510, and

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	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 JE20240510 March 2024 P-Card totaling \$2,937.52 [March P-Card 2024.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number JE20240510 March 2024 P-Card totaling \$2,937.52. Mayor Barrett seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 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 April 25, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 04.25.24 \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#) and the FY25 Budget Workshop Minutes of May 2, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval FY25 Budget Workshop Minutes 05.02.24.docx.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mayor Barrett to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024, and the FY25 Budget Workshop Minutes of May 2, 2024. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent’s Recommendation for Approval of use of facilities [UOF 05.09.24.pdf](#) and field trip(s) request [FT Greece 25-26.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the use of facilities and field trip(s) request. Mayor Barrett seconded the motion. The vice chair requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes

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

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

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to go into executive session (9:02 pm) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the superintendent’s contract; to receive an update on negotiations with the ESP unit (HEA), along with review and approval of the executive session minutes of March 28, 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. Mayor Barrett seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes