



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2024**

SC 06.13.24 6 A

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 (7:03 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Absent
Ms. Diaz	Absent	Dr. Story	Present remotely & then in person @ 7:47 pm
Ms. Ferguson	Present in person	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
Attorney Rosa	Present in person		

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

Mayor Barrett invited Girls Scouts Troop 67111 to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Mr. Peter Yannakoreaus began public comment and due to the inappropriate nature of his statements, the mayor requested a recess.

The meeting resumed at 7:13 pm.

Introduction of Walnut Square Principal Jennifer Rubera along with winners of Peace Poetry Contest.

Ms. Rubera thanked the committee for its invitation to the meeting this evening and introduced Marissa who would translate tonight's remarks/readings. She announced that 32 published poems with 8 students receiving special recognition. Ms. Rubera extended special appreciation to Mrs. Russo, Mrs. O'Leary, Mrs. Sanchez who motivated and engaged students in writing their poetry.

The following young student poets (*) read their poems: [Bella](#), [Laura Lise](#), [Aavya](#), [Kenny](#), [Joshua](#), [Lizzy](#), [Bella](#), [Charlotte](#), [Adeline](#), [Addie](#), [Stella](#), [Avery](#), [Shawn](#), [Liam](#), and [Nubia-Jhene](#). Below is a complete listing of the student-poets:

Grade 1

First place: [Nubia-Jhene Manderson](#)

Second place: [Logan Mackenzie](#)

Third place: [Bella Alvarez](#)

Honorable Mentions:

[Charlotte Mezquita](#), [Aavya Saini](#), [Kenny Romero Cela](#), [Lizzy Ambrose](#), [Joshua Piekos](#), [Avery Philips](#), [Emma Huma](#), [Elias Carroll](#), [Liam Cano Valladares](#), [Laurelys Reyes](#), [Rowan Woodham](#), [Charlotte Gilchrist](#), and [William Lingos](#)

Grade 2

1st: Shawn Abate "Peace is Cookies"

2nd: Bella Becotte "Flowers Bloom"

Honorable Mention:

Jairo Rodriguez, Vivienne Garcia, George Chandler, Braxton Cronin, Addyson MacDonald, Adeline Lawlor

Grade 3

1st: Adalynn Despres

2nd: Evan Kuenlen

3rd: Stella Yancy

Honorable Mention:

Jeremy McLaughlin-Minot, Jacob Kuenlen, Jaylen Pombar, Lani Burrill, and Hayley Lysik

Dr. Story introduced Girl Scouts Troop 67111 Bronze Award project presentation and donation request.

The girl scout members announced the development of a math board game that will provide choices in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division along with fun facts about Haverhill. The troop leader provided an overview of the layout of the game which was similar to monopoly and included fun facts and challenge squares. She asked for approval to donate the proceeds to the school district.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the donation by Girls Scout Troop 67111. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Attorney Rosa asked about the idea behind the board game.

Ms. Ferguson thanked the students for their presentation. She also asked if cookies were for sale. The girl scouts responded that they would return next year during the sales period.

Ms. Collins asked about the grade level.

The student responded that the game was for grades 1-4.

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

Ms. Collins	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Ms. Ferguson	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

Ms. Collins: Introduction of Ms. Victoria Kelley and Mr. Kevin Higginbottom to provide a comprehensive report on the CTE Program [May 2024 School Committee CTE Information Final \(2\).pdf](#).

Ms. Collins acknowledged her participation in the CTE program at its beginning.

Ms. Kelley and Mr. Higginbottom provided an overview of their presentation.

The following students (see listing below) described their internships, CTE experiences/opportunities along with their future career plans.

- Saidatu Yussif Gr-11 CTE Healthcare Occupations Student
- Hannaly Herrera Gr-11 CTE Healthcare Occupations Student
- Gianni Salcedo Gr-11 CTE Healthcare Occupations Student
- Leah Aquino Gr-9 CTE PLTW Biomedical Science Student
- Kailyn Aquino Gr-11 CTE PLTW Engineering/Manufacturing Student
- Isabel Whittaker Gr-9 CVTE Information Technology Student
- Disha Patel Gr-10 CVTE Information Technology Student
- Antonio Navarro Gr-11 CVTE Computer Science and Web Development Student

Mrs. Lalumiere complimented the students for their great presentation and demeanor in representing the high school.

Additionally, Leah Aquino spoke about the biomedical science component of the program including a forensic video produced by her team that received the Freshman PLTW Rookie Award.

Ms. Kelley acknowledged the contributions of Emmanuela Raymond, Grade 12 Computer Science who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. She noted among her accomplishments were: accepted at WPI for computer science, Women in Technology Coordinator, National Center for Women in Information Technology Computing High School Award and participated in internships at HPS IT Cyber Warrior.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

High School Administration Updates for SY24-25.

Superintendent Marotta recognized the Junior ROTC along with 1st Sgt David W. Grinstead, Sr. USMC (Ret) and Senior Marine Instructor. She asked several cadets to provide a report on their individual and team achievements. The cadets who were in attendance were: 1st Lt Janine Alcivar, 1st Sgt Riley Romano, 1st Sgt Monica Castro-Rocha and Sgt Jonalys Diaz (trophies, medals, etc.) and experiences in JROTC, especially their leadership skills. community service and summer plans including attendance at several camps and training hikes.

Public Comment (In-person).

Mr. Barry Davis, 200 Market Street, Lowell, MA HEA President on behalf of the HEA Board of Directors thanked Mr. Pfifferling for his service in Haverhill and stated that his leaving the district was to the school community. He expressed the concerns of the board to hold an exit interview with Mr. Pfifferling to ascertain his reasons for leaving the district.

Mr. Timothy Betty, Hunking Principal, spoke about his positive experiences at Whittier Middle School. He related that there were difficulties during his tenure at the school as both assistant principal and principal. Mr. Betty commented on his personal and professional growth during the past two years as a result of the change in school. He commented on his mistakes at Whittier School and at no time did the staff indicate a no confidence vote. Mr. Betty stated that the current administrative team Mr. Condon and Ms. Koch had been chosen by a panel that included teachers. He felt that there was unfairness in the manner in which Mr. Condon and Ms. Koch had been treated by the staff. Mr. Betty related that Superintendent Marotta had listened to all stakeholders and her leadership team. He asked for staff reflection and to remember the reasons for entering this profession.

Mrs. Eileen Doherty, Nettle Principal offered supportive comments regarding Dr. Marotta's leadership. She acknowledged her vision and planning and valued the philosophic alignment that she shared with the superintendent.

Mrs. Paula Rodriguez, Golden Hill Principal, commented on her investment in the Haverhill Public Schools. She appreciated the support of all staff members at the school. Mrs. Rodriguez thanked Dr. Marotta for her guidance during her tenure as principal.

Dr. Richard Poor, Consentino School Principal, reflected back eight years ago and the right decisions made by Dr. Marotta including lower class size and returning of ELL students to their home districts.

Dr. Diane Siebold, Bradford Elementary School, spoke about her varied career and her retirement in a few weeks after 40 years. She commented that Dr. Marotta had leadership, vision, and adaptability. Dr. Siebold acknowledged the superintendent's integrity, expertise and personal skills.

Mrs. Jennifer Rubera, Walnut Square Principal commented on the challenges during the pandemic. She reported that Dr. Marotta had recognized her talents to become a school leader. Mrs. Rubera thanked the superintendent for her support.

Recognition of retirees along with a book donation to their school's library in their honor.

Superintendent Marotta commented that the tradition of a book donation by retirees to their school's libraries had started last year and was continuing this year.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kilday chose "The Noisy Paint Box" which offered a different point of view from the artist's viewpoint and offered the following dedication "boys and girls, enjoy all the images you see when you listen to the music, enjoy, Mrs. Kilday, Art teacher. She expressed her appreciation to the art and music educators and the spectacular contributions. Ms. Kilday stressed the importance of funding the arts in school budgets.

Mr. George Nigro chose Gray's Anatomy with the following dedication: PE teacher 1996-2024 "people are pretty good, sometimes behaviors aren't. But these can be changed. Hopefully for the better." George A. Nigro.

Superintendent Marotta recognized the following retirees who were not present at tonight's meeting:

- Janet Scanlan - Pre-K Teacher at the Moody School, 29 years of service
- Lynne Murray - Pre-K Teacher at the Moody School, 23 years of service
- Bernadette Roy - Pre-K Teacher at the Moody School, 16 years of service
- Kim Gilmore - Pre-K Teacher at the Moody School, 34 years of service
- Lisa Begley - Health/Wellness Teacher at Haverhill High School, 31 years of service
- Deborah Tolman - Kindergarten Teacher at Silver Hill, 13 years of service
- Judy Ryan - Special Education Teacher at Haverhill High School, 27 years of service
- Gaynor Kohn - Grade 8 Teacher at the Consentino Middle School, 11 years of service
- Lisa Bongo - Pre-K Teacher at the Moody School, 16 years of service

Discipline Discussion [Discipline presentation SC 05.23.24.pdf](#)

Dr. Marotta introduced Attorney Justin Gomes, from the law firm Stoneman, Chandler and Miller who provided the legal overview.

Mrs. Tracy Fuller, 96 Beachwood Drive, Haverhill, MA, Executive Director of the Haverhill YMCA who spoke on the PASS (Positive Alternatives to School Suspension) model. She stated that Haverhill's program was the only PASS program designated for middle school students. Mrs. Fuller noted the opt-in option by both students and parents. She commented on the partnership aspect of the program with HPS providing transportation and food.

Mr. Doug Russell, Director of Technology, Mrs. Eileen Doherty, Nettle School Principal and Ms. Maureen

Irons, Safe and Supportive Schools Liaison reviewed the data on discipline.

Mrs. Doherty noted that at Nettle all referrals were written and recorded for data collection purposes.

Ms. Irons clarified that the Gateway School included all areas including PASS Program, Referrals and Discipline Incidents. She pointed out that there were 17,000 total referrals with 80% of the top referral codes which included truancy from class, refusal to follow directions, defiant and disrespectful, disruption/misconduct and tardiness.

In response to Dr. Story's question on repeat students, Ms. Fuller answered 10%.

Dr. Story asked about the high school referral numbers.

Mr. Russell noted that 7,000-8,000 referrals were at the high school.

Dr. Story asked about the amount of time spent on discipline.

Mrs. Doherty commented on the restorative justice circles at her school.

Dr. Story requested more data from the high school, especially the referrals by teacher and the number of students.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked about Nettle's data and the reasoning behind the increased number of incidences.

Mrs. Doherty believed it was important to record the incidents and found the information was valuable to the school team.

Ms. Collins asked about recording requirements and enrollment criteria for the PASS Program.

Mrs. Fuller reiterated that both students and parents agreed to participate in all aspects of the program.

Ms. Collins asked about the capacity of the program.

Mrs. Fuller answered the cap was at 12 students, with average attendance in the program of 2 days.

Ms. Collins asked if demographics were recorded in the data collection.

Mr. Russell replied that demographics were part of the data records.

Mrs. Doherty gave an example of a behavior concern and how it was handled at Nettle.

Dr. Marotta highlighted the ongoing conversations with the HEA and there were team meetings. She indicated that the goal was to standardize the process in the schools. The superintendent noted that professional development training would occur this summer to try to move towards standardization.

Attorney Rosa asked of the 7,000-8,000 high school referrals how many students were included in this number. Mr. Russell would have to follow up at a later date.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for clarification regarding the removal of students from the classroom for part of the class.

Attorney Gomes answered that more than half-day removal was considered by DESE as a suspension.

Attorney Magliocchetti asked about higher than normal incidents during a class.

Mrs. Doherty commented on the mental health aspect of some of the behaviors.

In response to Attorney Magliocchetti's question on the reset room, Dr. Marotta replied that there were variations of the reset room in the school buildings.

Dr. Story asked Attorney Magliocchetti to shadow a high school assistant principal. She recommended the school committee review in conjunction with the school safety committee to observe any trends. Dr. Story offered the many communications types exhibited by students and resulting in academic concerns, learning disability, outside personal issues and the goal was never to exclude students from the classroom. She emphasized the need for a student support coordinator position and noted that mental health issues were a real thing.

Ms. Irons clarified that the student support coordinator position was still included in the budget.

Dr. Story emphasized the vital need for the student support coordinator position and noted that mental health issues were a real thing. She emphasized the collaborative aspect of the discipline effort and thanked the staff for the presentation and should be revisited at a future meeting.

Recommendation for Approval of Food Service Management Contract (DESE) [FSMC Contract.docx.pdf](#).

Mr. Pfifferling reported that the financial schedule (pricing addendums) had been distributed this evening as approved by DESE. He reviewed the fees with the committee including the annual administrative and management costs totaling approximately \$200,000/year. The assistant superintendent noted that Whitsons guaranteed \$1,897,600 return of profit/per year, which would be returned to the program for investments in equipment (stoves, ovens, refrigeration) etc.

Attorney Rosa asked the difference in administrative fee and management fee.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that the administrative fee included food service director and overhead for the program and the management fee was strictly the profit.

Regarding the difference in cost for this contract, Mr. Pfifferling related that this contract was a slightly higher cost for the district.

Attorney Rosa inquired about the operating expenses and what the funds could be used for in the district.

Mr. Pfifferling related that only 3 months of operating expenses could be held by the district. He commented on the increased level of monies and reimbursements coming into the program.

In response to Attorney Rosa's inquiry on the length of the contract, Mr. Pfifferling related that it was a one-year contract with (2) one-year renewals.

Attorney Magliocchetti clarified that there was another bidder and there was competition for the contract. He asked about improvement in food offerings.

The assistant superintendent responded that there certainly could be improvements in the food options while staying within the contract. He described the changes in this contract from the previous one.

In reference to Attorney Rosa’s inquiry on approved expenditures, Mr. Pfifferling noted that there had been equipment replacement throughout the district.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the Food Service Management Contract as presented by the Assistant Superintendent. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

It was clarified that the [HHS Cafe Refrigeration.pdf](#) would be discussed under the FY25 budget agenda item.

Posting of an Interim Business Manager.

Dr. Marotta informed the committee that there would be a posting for an interim position while a search is being conducted for Mr. Pfifferling’s replacement.

Approval of the Superintendent’s FY25 Budget.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked if there were eight special education teachers at a particular school would she see that exact number in another school.

Dr. Marotta agreed with that statement in theory, however, there were program movement and staffing reallocation.

Superintendent Marotta asked for an amendment to the budget which was the addition of an assistant principal position to the Whittier School based on the current needs. She indicated that the position would be a grant-funded position (Title I). Dr. Marotta noted there might be a reassessment in the future.

The committee supported the superintendent’s recommendation and a vote was not a requirement.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the FY25 Budget as presented by the Superintendent including the additional assistant principal position at Whittier School. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion.

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

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

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

After a brief dialogue, the cafeteria refrigeration item would be represented at a future meeting.

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

Motion passes

Policy Recommendation: to approve revised Policy ADF – School Wellness Policy [05.09.24 2024 Wellness Policy for sub committee Draft 2 \(2\).docx.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve revised Policy ADF – School Wellness Policy. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV2024030524, and EV20240524B, totaling \$1,466,381.33, [Detailed Warrant EV20240524 and EV20240524B \(1\).pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number EV2024030524, and EV20240524B, totaling \$1,466,381.33. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20240524A totaling \$9,829.24, [Detailed Warrant EV20240524A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve Warrant Number EV20240524A totaling \$9,829.24. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

7 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 May 9, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 05.09.24.pdf](#) and the FY25 Public Hearing Minutes of May 20, 2024, [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Public Hearing FY25 Budget Minutes 05.20.24.pdf](#) and approval of use of facilities [UOF 05.23.24.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	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Attorney Rosa	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (10:25 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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