



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of June 13, 2024 23

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		

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

Mayor Barrett introduced Luciano, a student who sang the National Anthem.

Mayor Barrett moved the following agenda up in the agenda order: Mrs. Lalumiere: Recognition of Unified Sports athletes and explanation of the program from Ms. Deborah Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services [Unified Sports 2023-2024.pdf](#).

Mrs. Lalumiere stressed the importance of these types of programs including the benefits to students.

Ms. Ibanez commended Matt Scanlon, Supervisor of Special Education to his efforts with the program over the past seven (7) years and Alyse Comeau, Supervisor of Special Education who was in her first year of involvement.

Ms. Ibanez, Ms. Comeau and Mr. Scanlon reviewed the presentation and noted the success and growth of the unified sports program since 2018. Mr. Scanlon acknowledged the assistance of Superintendent Marotta, Mr. O'Brien and others including coaches and well-established booster parents. He mentioned the recent banquet held at Sal's with 100 people in attendance.

- Jacob – basketball, track (shot-put) and went to the states and won awards in basketball;
- Luciano – basketball and track, long jump, running, and sang the national anthem;
- Aaron – gold medal for long jump;
- Josh – basketball and went to states for track

Mr. Scanlon noted that each athlete received a varsity letter. He spoke about the future plans at the middle school level such as bocce, and basketball which there was available grant money. Mr. Scanlon noted that "Best Buddies" would be started this year since the fees had been waived by the organization; identifying youth leaders; align unified physical education course with/SOMA and Unified Day Games.

Attorney Magliocchetti commended the students for speaking at tonight's meeting. He was impressed with the growth of the program and supported the inclusion of bocce at the middle school level.

Attorney Rosa thanked Lucio for singing the national anthem, Mr. Scanlon and parents for bringing the students to tonight's meeting. He urged the support of partners in expansion of the program.

Mr. Brian Prindle, parent of Jacob spoke about the growth of his son by participating in unified sports. He thanked the Haverhill community for its support.

Communications/Reports.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote).

Ms. Maria Santana, mother of grade 7 student at JG Whittier asked the school committee to intervene at the school, since there was discrimination, preferential treatment of students, and corruption. She mentioned the incidences of bullying, harassment and fighting. Ms. Santana spoke about the hostile environment within the school. She noted that the interim principal Kevin Higginbottom was not known by the students. Ms. Santana believed that the negative environment was being hidden by the school and did not trust the school leadership or the superintendent. She asked for immediate help and had filed a complaint with DESE against the school and demanded access to a quality education for her son and other children. Ms. Santana expressed her disappointment and upset with the current condition.

Ms. Allison Heartquist, Director of HP3 began by expressing her appreciation for having the opportunity to express her support for the renewal of Dr. Marotta's contract. She noted that over the past 6 years, under Dr. Marotta's visionary leadership, there was a significant improvement in the educational landscape. Ms. Heartquist speaking on behalf of HP3, a community partner with HPS, highlighted a few of the many reasons why Margaret Marotta deserved the community and school committee's continued support and trust. She explained that in the wake of the pandemic, Dr. Marotta showed exceptional leadership by often making decisions ahead of the other communities, restructuring classroom spaces, purchasing disinfecting equipment, and coming up with solutions, while always prioritizing the safety of the students, the teachers, and staff Ms. Heartquist added that Dr. Marotta quickly acknowledged the learning setbacks for students (in the aftermath of the pandemic) and implemented effective strategies. Ms. Heartquist related that under Dr. Marotta's stewardship, there was responsible fiscal management, including the successful navigation of the school district through economic downturns, most recently, trimming \$11 million from the budget with minimal impact on staffing. Additionally, Superintendent Marotta is an incredible community partner and understands the importance of fostering meaningful collaborations and initiatives that benefit our students and families. Ms. Heartquist concluded that Dr. Marotta's contract renewal was an strategic investment in our students' futures, by retaining a leader of her caliber, one with a steadfast vision and unwavering dedication to navigate the obstacles ahead and urged the committee to support her and renew her contract.

Mr. Robert Fuller, a community member, long-time educator (28 years) in Manchester NH and union member, in another district spoke in support of Superintendent Marotta's contract renewal. He was impressed with her leadership, ability and focus to face unique trials and exemplary leadership during challenging times. Mr. Fuller stated that the district has benefitted from consistent and stable leadership over the past six (6) years and noted that the average tenure of a superintendent in Massachusetts and New Hampshire was 2½ years. He commented that it would be a mistake for superintendent to leave because of politics. Mr. Fuller strongly urged the school committee to renew Dr. Marotta's contract and retain an exemplary leader.

Student Advisory Council Report – Melanie Palacios.

Melanie announced this was her last meeting. She introduced new president David Martinez and vice president Trey Lynch.

David and Trey presented an early college proposal which hopefully will be implemented in 2027. He outlined some key points.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Recognition of school committee scholarship recipients including presentation of checks. Mayor Barrett and Vice Chair Magliocchetti presented the scholarship checks to the student attendees and acknowledged all recipients which included: **Roldolfo Baltodano Reyes, Allison Becker, Courtney Brousseau, Abigail Burrill, Julia Camasso, Jack Colantuoni, Aidan Corcoran, Brenna Corcoran, Felicya DeCicco, Olivia DeCicco, Mikayla DeFrank, Cooper Dellea, Emily Fermin, Alexander Gomes, Emily Gosselin, Paige Gosselin, Grace Grauwiler, Noelle Gregoire, Lucas Harvey, Mason Holmes, Katherine Galvin, Shayla Igoe, Jack Kelleher, Patrick Kelleher, Christina Khalil, Nicholas Leung, Russell Leung, Franklin Longenecker, Kaleigh Longenecker, Daniel McGlashan, Maggie Morse, Cassidy O'Keefe, Melanie Palacios, Abigail Pernilla-Roche, David Politis, Carli Quinlan Emmanuela Raymond, Hannah Russo, Mia Smith, Colin Snyder, Charlene Tchouanmou, Abigail Towler, Justin Tran, Ava Votto, Ajmain Zahid, and Adam Zujewski.**

HHS Revised Schedule including SY25 updates from Principal Michael Downs.

Mr. Downs presented a proposed schedule and the reasoning behind the recommendation. He acknowledged the contributions of Ms. Dion and Ms. Lu for their contributions.

Mayor Barrett appreciated the schedule review and the suggested improvements.

Mrs. Lalumiere thanked Principal Downs for the assessment of the schedule.

Maintenance Report from Mr. Stephen Dorrance, Director of Facilities (as requested by the finance subcommittee) [Project Funding Update powerpoint for SC \(1\).pdf](#).

Attorney Magliocchetti related that a finance subcommittee was held last week as part of transition planning for the assistant superintendent.

Mr. Dorrance asked if there were any projects that needed further clarification.

Mr. Grannemann asked about the impact of the Consentino School Building Project on his other work.

Mr. Dorrance explained that 10 hours per week was devoted to the project excluding the two-hour project meetings. He noted that the project had come in \$13M under budget and this money had been put into contingency. Mr. Dorrance noted that there were unexpected occurrences such as, an asbestos pipe in the middle of the field at Consentino.

Attorney Rosa asked about the cost of the Silver Hill roof and its cost to the city.

Mr. Dorrance responded the cost would be \$1.2M with 30% funded by community.

In response to Ms. Collins question on the JG Whittier modules, Mr. Dorrance answered that the modules would cost \$3.2M.

Ms. Collins asked about other facilities issues at the building.

The facilities director replied that several \$100,000's of dollars was spent on improvements within the school. He stated that the gym floor had heaves that might be a result of a bleeding heat pipe.

Attorney Magliocchetti questioned the status of air conditioning projects (Silver Hill, Golden Hill and Pentucket Lake).

Mr. Dorrance replied that there were no bidders for project and it had been bid two times. He hoped that the city bidder who had been prequalified might be able to assist with these projects. The facilities director reported that the circuits have been run at Tilton School and NGrid has been holding up the projects at each of our schools.

Ms. Sullivan asked about the cybercafé improvements.

Mr. Dorrance stated that the improvements included a door, along with 30 ft. stainless steel counter replacement. He commented that storage room would be refinished and replacement of the refrigeration.

In response to Ms. Sullivan's question on the module security, Mr. Dorrance answered the swipe cards, cameras, and district security measures should satisfy any safety concerns.

Dr. Grannemann asked about any potential loss of state or federal funds.

Mr. Pfifferling responded that the money needed to be committed for the project.

Mr. Dorrance reported that the equipment will be stored and the project installed next year.

Mr. Dorrance offered a different perspective on Dr. Marotta by noting that in private industry, she would be considered a chief executive officer. He noted that the superintendent made really profound, tough operational decisions, and with this territory comes dislike by certain people. Mr. Dorrance stated he had worked for two superintendents in his career, and from his frame of reference was that Dr. Marotta was a brilliant and wonderful person, who never stopped working for the district.

Mr. Downs submitted cell phone policy to the superintendent which was similar to Lowell and Chicopee for the safety of the community.

Attorney Rosa asked if this policy should be referred to the policy subcommittee.

Finance Update (Red/Green Report) by Assistant Superintendent Michael Pfifferling [Red Green June 1, 2024.pdf](#).

Mr. Pfifferling provided an overview of the report which was two-weeks old. He added Mrs. Smith was ensuring that there were funds available to end the fiscal year.

Attorney Rosa asked if the assistant superintendent was confident that the district was in good shape.

Mr. Pfifferling noted that there could be unplanned expenditures such as graduation expenses. He related that there was \$500,000 left in the budget as of two weeks ago.

Mayor Barrett extended congratulations to Mr. Pfifferling.

Mr. Pfifferling thanked the committee (past and present) along with HPS staff for its support and friendship.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Magliocchetti: Superintendent's Evaluation Update and Timeline [evaluating-superintendents.pdf](#) and [MM Evidence Final Edit .docx \(1\).pdf](#).

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that evaluations were being compiled and there would be a meeting next week between himself and the mayor. He indicated that the evaluation would be on either the next agenda or the July meeting. The vice chair was hopeful that the goals would be developed soon, since it

was an important for the district. Attorney Magliocchetti stated that the strategic planning subcommittee would be meeting to develop those goals.

Ms. Sullivan added that a meeting would be held on her birthday next week.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20240607, totaling \$941,293.38, [Warrant EV20240607.pdf](#) and [Detailed Warrant EV20240607.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20240607, totaling \$941,293.38. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. 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

Superintendent’s Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20240607A, totaling \$2,767.73, [Detailed Warrant EV20240607A.pdf](#) and [Warrant EV20240607A.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20240607A, totaling \$2,767.73. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. 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	Abstain
		Mayor Barrett	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 EV20240614, totaling \$2,848,242.53, [Warrant EV20240614.pdf](#) and [Detailed Warrant EV20240614.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20240614, totaling \$2,848,242.53. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. 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
 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 May 23, 2024 [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 05.23.24.pdf](#), and the Special Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 30, 2024 [Final Edit for Approval Special Hybrid Meeting 05.30.24.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve he Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2024 and the Special Hybrid Meeting Minutes of May 30, 2024 as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. 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

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of use of facilities [UOF 06.13.24.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Lalumiere seconded the motion. 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

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to go into executive session @ 8:42 pm (City Hall, Room 206) to discuss negotiation strategies regarding the superintendent’s contract, along with a review and approval of the executive session minutes of May 9, 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. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. 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
 Motion passes

0 members abstained