



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2025

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, Eagle Tribune 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 (7:04 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present remotely
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Dr. Story	Present in person
Ms. Ferguson	Absent	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Dr. Grannemann	Present in person	Attorney Rosa	Present in person
Mrs. Lalumiere	Present in person	Mayor Barrett	Present in person
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person		

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Student Advisory Council Report – David Martinez.

Mr. Martinez provided the following update on student council efforts to organize events that would bring students together and focus on building school spirit. He announced the following events:

- March 20, 2025 - Coffee House at the High School;
- Planning has begun for the Annual Powder Puff Game currently scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2025;
- Senior Coffee House will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, which is between the senior trip and Night of Stars to maximize student engagement. David related that the goal is to ensure success for each event.

David thanked the committee for its continued support.

Ms. Diaz asked about a potential meeting between Ms. Collins and herself.

Mr. Martinez would speak with the advisors, and student council with the hopes of scheduling a mutually convenient virtual and/or in-person meeting. He will provide updates to both Ms. Collins and Ms. Diaz

Public Comment (in-person & remote). There was no one present (remotely) for public comment.

Ms. Jenny Arndt and Kalynn Monroe from Haverhill Education Foundation have been charged in bringing back Kids Fest. She noted the venue at HHS instead of downtown Haverhill. Ms. Arndt was trying to get more high school student involvement; this morning the HEF Board postponed the event (due to not meeting the fundraising goals). Both Ms. Arndt and Ms. Monroe thanked the high school and Mr. O'Brien for their accommodations.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Eighth Grade Anne Frank Exhibit Training with Ted Kempinski.

Superintendent Marotta acknowledged Mr. Kempinski for the great work that he had been spearheading these endeavors.

Mr. Kempinski thanked the superintendent and the school committee. He was honored to be a teacher in Haverhill for 26 years. Kempinski acknowledged the superintendent and school committee's support of his previous educational trip to Poland. He related that there was an Anne Frank Touring Exhibit, Haverhill was the first school with the adapted curriculum where 8th grade students are trained to be as Dorset(s) in our middle schools. Mr. Kempinski played a video from Channel 5 on the program. He stressed that the students will remember this experience and that Haverhill High was leading the state and nation with these programs. Mr. Kempinski stated that all ninth graders watched the Auschwitz Life Guided Tour with our school being the only one in New England who has this student-led instructional program. He commented it was essential in today's society to have this type of program to deal with indifference. Kempinski had been given the honor named "council of memory" by Auschwitz and he was the only school teacher given that designation. He thanked the superintendent for supporting his request along with Meg DeLong, John Craven and other members of the team who made sacrifices to provide transformative education. Mr. Kempinski was honored to be the teacher to assist students to learn about these types of programs. In conclusion, he was available to any committee members to discuss some of the work being done on this subject.

Ms. Collins thanked Mr. Kempinski for his presentation and stressed the importance so that history did not repeat itself. She believed this work was very important at this time and was pleased with the peer-to-peer development (transferable skills. Ms. Collins thanked Mr. Kempinski for his leadership.

Mrs. Lalumiere acknowledged that Mr. Kempinski's work brought honor to Haverhill and asked what were takeaways from students.

Mr. Kempinski responded that one takeaway was not to take things at face value, think and be critical (put phone down and stop watching Tik Tok). He noted that racism was still a burden that our society still grapples with today i.e., indifference).

Attorney Magliocchetti stressed the important work being done by Mr. Kempinski. He provided a personal story of own maternal grandparents who lived in Northern Italy during WWII) and how they hid a Jewish family for a few weeks. He noted another real-life family experience and referenced his father who attended seminary in Southern Italy where they also hide Jewish people). Attorney Magliocchetti noted the importance of the Anne Frank piece by relating to a teenage girl who wrote in a diary telling her own story. He was hopeful that it would increase awareness of antisemitism and hatred in our world and thanked Mr. Kempinski. Attorney Magliocchetti stated that these lessons would definitely impact students.

Attorney Rosa commended Mr. Kempinski for going above and beyond with these educational efforts. He noted the profound impact of his attendance at the tour of Auschwitz at Harbor Place. He stated that the students were both thoughtful and insightful in their answers. Attorney Rosa related that the students were very connected to the topic.

Mayor Barrett extended thanks to the superintendent and former school committee for its support of Mr. Kempinski's professional opportunity and was hopeful that these types of programs would produce more emphatic, connected students and adults.

JG Whittier MSBA Enrollment Certification.

Superintendent Marotta stated that the district would be moving forward with the JG Whittier School Building Project with receipt of enrollment certification and that the city has committed up to \$1.2M to complete a feasibility study for either a renovation, expansion or tear down/rebuild the school building. She noted that there were three different school configurations:

- 1) 745 students including an expansion of the current enrollment which currently was approximately 500 students plus 46 grade 4 students attending Pentucket Lake;
- 2) 1045 student enrollment combining Tilton and JG Whittier, with JG Whittier having Grades 4-8, this would require adjusting lines and zoning) incorporate Tilton on a Pentucket Lake/JG Whittier Campus with Pentucket Lake becoming Grades K-4;
- 3) 1325 student enrollment incorporating Tilton with Pentucket Lake now grades K-3 and JG Whittier Grades 3-8 (280 seats which could allow for PreK at Pentucket Lake) – need space for 350 PreK with a growing enrollment.

Dr. Marotta reported that there would be a bid process (yearlong study with comprehensive data) in order to provide some options/guidance for the school district.

Attorney Rosa asked about grade differences between the 1045 and 1325 options.

Dr. Marotta was just sharing the information.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: Update on the Haverhill Public Schools' Statements of Interest for the Massachusetts School Building Authority's Accelerated Repair Program.

Attorney Rosa noted that the deadline was fast approaching and wanted to get a sense of any ideas. He related that the projects could be spread over a number of years and asked for the superintendent's input.

Dr. Marotta reported that roof replacement was not considered by MSBA until the 30-year mark. She suggested that Golden Hill (roof) and Bartlett (windows and doors) be contemplated for replacement.

Attorney Rosa clarified conversion to heat pumps instead of boiler replacement.

Attorney Magliocchetti suggested that Mr. Dorrance attend the next meeting to provide an overview on buildings.

Mrs. Lalumiere: Transportation Update [SC Transportation 2 27 25 \(1\).pdf](#).

Mrs. Lalumiere had wanted an update on transportation operations.

Superintendent Marotta stated that the swipe on and swipe off is an incredibly important piece of safe transportation. She acknowledged the difficulties in getting students to use this system and our numbers are consistent with other districts. Dr. Marotta was hopeful that this system would become a successful one and was not willing to give up on increasing participation.

Ms. Elizabeth Cannata, Director of Transportation reviewed the presentation including the coverage report and emails that are sent to parents.

Dr. Marotta noted that there had been meetings with NRT to address the disruptions.

Ms. Cannata acknowledged the late notification from NRT that did not allow for parental communications.

Ms. Cannata reviewed the year-to-date estimate excluding NRT buses (DCF, HMLS (homeless living outside Haverhill attending HPS); MLS not attending HPS (homeless) living in Haverhill (do not attend HPS); Sped in District; and Sped Out of District.

Mrs. Lalumiere hoped for training on the swipe system (driver's responsibility).

Ms. Cannata reported that the swipe card was not in the student's possession.

Mrs. Lalumiere stated that NRT communication had improved this year, but there was the potential to not arrive at school on time.

Dr. Marotta answered that there is a charge for doubling up (discounts). She noted there clearly was not the staff to cover the routes (monopoly on bus transportation).

Attorney Magliocchetti asked for clarification on the "no" designation.

Ms. Cannata answered it was a different bus (replacement for many reasons). She clarified doubling up was a driver shortage issue.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated that there was a monopoly in bus transportation and there possibly needed to be bigger fines. Attorney Magliocchetti referenced the \$3.4M expense for out of district transportation. He related it was a really significant state-wide problem and there was difficulty for planning purposes.

Superintendent Marotta commented that the situation fluctuated every day.

Ms. Sullivan asked about data (staff attendance).

The superintendent replied that our staff's attendance was tracked but not NRT's staff.

Attorney Rosa clarified the estimated cost was for the year.

Ms. Cannata acknowledged the typographical error with the month (February not January).

Attorney Rosa thanked Ms. Cannata for the presentation and Mrs. Lalumiere for the agenda item.

Dr. Story asked for the cost of the swipe system. She stated there had been a lot of work done to incentivize the process.

Superintendent Marotta noted there was a card replacement cost.

Mrs. Lalumiere apologized for not including the swipe on and off system in her agenda request.

Subcommittee Reports.

Dr. Grannemann: Budget and Finance Subcommittee Update.

Dr. Grannemann reported that at the last subcommittee meeting there had been a discussion of a possible transportation audit along with a review of assumptions (inflation), functional areas including lack of an assistant superintendent along with frequent personnel changes in the Business Department. He noted that there was a budget workshop for the full school committee next Thursday.

Old Business.

School Committee Scholarship Application for 2025 (tabled at the 01.23.25 meeting) [School Committee Application 2025 \(2\).pdf](#).

Dr. Marotta recommended that this time be removed from the table.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to remove the School Committee Scholarship Application for 2025 from the table. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

10 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

The superintendent related that there were two (2) scholarship funds available to award scholarships which are: Nicholas C. Johnson Scholarship Fund for students studying retail business (2 scholarships in the amount of \$500) and the Samuel and Bessie Milhender College Scholarship Fund, which has just over \$60,000 to award to students including previous graduates of Haverhill High School. She noted that the student(s) must maintain a credible academic standing and is awarded based on need. Dr. Marotta stated that last year, the awards were divided by all applicants (46 students each received \$1,600). The superintendent stated that the scholarship would be advertised on the high school and district website and in the guidance office and social media. She related that applications should be received by April 15th.

In regards to the Marvin, Beatrice and Paul Brindis Scholarship, Dr. Marotta reported that it would not be available this year since due to market conditions it did not have sufficient balance to award scholarships.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250228 and EV20250228B totaling \$1,231,091.81, [Warrant EV20250228 and EV20250228B.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250228 and EV20250228B totaling \$1,231,091.81. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes

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

10 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 February 13, 2025, [Final Edit For Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 02 13 25.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2025. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

10 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of use of facilities [UOF 02.27.25.pdf](#) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

10 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (8:07 pm). Ms. Sullivan seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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