



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 13, 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-Ciardello	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. Aliza Ahmed, Student Council Treasurer representing David Martinez, Student Council President provided a report on high school activities such as the initiative entitled Monument Market renamed from Hillie Night. She noted it was one of the biggest initiatives which will be an inaugural marketplace event to showcase local vendors and creatives. Aliza reported that a dedicated committee had been formed to work diligently to ensure a great event with the hopes of meeting the target date of May 31, 2025. She concluded that the event would bring the community and students together and thanked the school committee for its continued support.

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

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

JGW Whittier Modular Classroom Completion. [../7th Grade Wing Presentation.pdf](#).

Principal Kevin Higginbottom provided a presentation on the newly installed modular classrooms. He reported that the additional space had assisted with decreasing the "temperature" at the school.

Attorney Magliocchetti thanked Mr. Higginbottom for the presentation. He was thrilled with the completion of the module and was anticipating a new school for the area of the city. Attorney Magliocchetti reported on the overcrowding situation at the school and was especially pleased with the educational spaces for both students and staff.

Mrs. Lalumiere was relieved to hear about the climate change that had resulted in a better school environment. She asked about the deployment of both administration and security.

Principal Higginbottom replied there was a team approach among administration and a rotation by the

security guard for both locations. He noted frequent adult foot traffic throughout the school day.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked about family reception.

Mr. Higginbottom answered that the Whittier families were receptive to the new modular classrooms.

Ms. Sullivan was pleased with the outcome, even though she was not a fan of the modular classroom. She had participated in a recent tour of the classrooms.

Ms. Collins had also visited the modular classrooms and was happy with the results.

Attorney Rosa stated that as a result of his tour, he had made note of a quiet classroom for teachers for collaboration and/or work. He remarked that the in-person view was better than the pictures.

Mayor Barrett was appreciative of the reestablishment of the library and it was a wonderful facility.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Ms. Collins: Report on Effective School Counseling Practices and Interventions by Ms. Jami Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling and Student Support Services and Ms. Meg Arivella, Director of School Counseling Grades K-12 [./2 13 25 School Committee Counseling Presentation.pptx \(1\).pdf](#).

Ms. Collins had requested a report on the physical and mental well-being of our students.

Ms. Dion and Ms. Arivella said that counseling staff were present tonight to offer some insight into the on-going practices and interventions currently underway at our schools.

The following counseling staff members provided brief remarks in conjunction with the presentation”

- Youth Wellness Coach at Haverhill High School Gina Albano addressed Project Amp and Jump Start {for middle school students currently taking place at Nettle School with Youth Wellness Coach Jacqueline Fougere}. She reviewed the iDecide program, a tier 2 intervention curriculum.
- Terri Carney, Middle School Counselor spoke about Winter Wellness Thursday, “Rox” (Ruling Our Experiences) and May being Mental Health Awareness Month.
- School Adjustment Counselor/MTSS Ambassador Sherry Russo at Walnut Square School talked about tiered supports.
- JG Whittier Middle School Counselors Elizabeth Daley and Allison George provided an overview of middle school activities.
- Samantha Horne, High School Guidance Counselor reviewed the high school activities such as student tip line and SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral for Treatment survey. She explained some of the efforts in post-secondary planning. Ms. Horne addressed FAFSA = Federal Application for Student Aid) and stressed the importance of completing the application. She highlighted the following:
 - Early College Event-March 13th 5PM at NECC
 - Partnership with NECC-On Campus FAFSA Help M-F 9-3:30PM-walk in(s) welcome!
 - Junior Parent Night-February 13th 6-7PM HHS Auditorium had been rescheduled to February 25, 2025
 - Senior Parent Night (more in-depth presentation)
 - Individual student FAFSA completion assistance from school counselors

Attorney Magliocchetti appreciated all the counseling staff efforts. He was concerned with vaping and the progression to Zyns, noting his family's personal experiences. Attorney Magliocchetti recommended a program to combat the prevalence of the usage including parent and student involvement. He was encouraged by the collaboration between Whittier Tech and Northern Essex Community College. Attorney Magliocchetti stressed both the academic and vocational opportunities at the high school. He wanted to encourage the promotion of these great options in our schools.

Attorney Rosa was hopeful that the FAFSA events would be well attended by both parents and students.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question on the student tip line, Ms. Horne replied that it was a reintroduction of the program and to create renewed awareness.

Attorney Rosa asked for additional information on the number of students who were accepted to the Whittier Tech Summer Program.

Mrs. Horne replied that information should be forthcoming soon (March 1st email). She added that three names were being put forward tomorrow to participate in the Explorer Program at Whittier Tech.

Ms. Diaz thanked the guidance staff for the presentation and asked if Gateway students were included in the data.

Ms. Arivella replied the program was included in all the surveys, however, because it was a special place with a small population, there was hope of obtaining a grant to provide teen mental health first aid at the school and there were potential projects in development. She emphasized the collaboration among staff.

Ms. Collins inquired about the 80% participation rate for the Project Amp and why there was not a higher participation rate.

Ms. Arivella answered there were multiple factors, attendance and sickness, but the 80% equaled 400 students with 100 students did not complete the survey over a two-week period.

Ms. Collins thanked the staff for the presentation and inquired about iDecide parental involvement and if parents had to consent to allow their child to participate in the program.

Ms. Dion answered that parents have the right to opt out of the program.

Ms. Arivella noted that this program was an alternative to suspension with the identification of at-risk students, through student support teams, however, the focus at this time was at the high school (4 modules/75 minutes each module) and it was in the beginning stages.

Ms. Collins asked about Rox and Access for All Students. She referenced the lack of respect shown by boys to girls (76%). She asked about potential programming for boys.

It was agreed that there needed to be an exploration of a male component.

Ms. Collins inquired about FAFSA, and that some students were not aware of the option for college attendance and was hoping for increased awareness of opportunities. She proposed during one-to-one counselor meetings, a mock walk-through of the FAFSA application could be beneficial for students. Ms.

Collins thanked the counseling staff for the presentation and was looking forward to the results.

Ms. Dion looked forward to reporting on the results at a future meeting.

Attorney Magliocchetti left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Ms. Sullivan: Attendance [../Attendance Data 02.13.pdf](#)

Ms. Sullivan thanked Dr. Marotta for preparing an attendance report.

Dr. Marotta began a review of the information. She referenced the impact of illness, professional development days, post-vacation days and delayed openings on lower attendance numbers. She remarked that there were many parents who were afraid to send their children to school and the district had implemented efforts to reassure families that schools are a safe place. The superintendent noted that conversations had been held among staff. Dr. Marotta stated that the numbers were an anomaly this year.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked the superintendent for an explanation.

Superintendent Marotta responded that children were afraid that immigration officials would come to the school. She commented that the goal was to help families regarding this very sensitive manner and it was a tough balance.

Mrs. Lalumiere commented that it was a sad situation, because school should be a safe environment.

Attorney Rosa asked about chronically absent designation (red line).

The superintendent was not pleased with the formatting. She acknowledged the incredible amount of outreach in reference to improving attendance based on the immigration fears and illnesses.

In terms of the 8305 number, it included Grades PreK-12.

Dr. Story was alarmed with the high school attendance rates. She noted the delayed starts due to testing since a minority of students took the tests and it impacted the whole school.

Dr. Marotta answered that this process had occurred prior to COVID and the high school staff implied that it was important to ensure all the needs of the test takers. She could review the practice.

Dr. Story commented that the high school MCAS testing results were the lowest in the district.

The superintendent agreed to explore the issue.

Ms. Collins inquired about exploring the time change at the high school (later start time).

Dr. Marotta stated it could be discussed in negotiations. She commented that in theory a later start for the high school could be examined for implementation.

Attorney Rosa noted it was a complicated issue, and could impact sports.

The superintendent reported it would impact all schools in the district.

Ms. Collins stated that Lawrence was a competitor and sports schedules had been resolved for this district.

Ms. Sullivan offered that it was a complicated issue (impacting athletics) and was not aware of large urban districts that had successfully implemented a later high school start time.

Mrs. Lalumiere clarified that in Lawrence there was a large number of walkers and there was limited impact on bus schedules.

Subcommittee Report.

Dr. Grannemann: Budget and Finance Subcommittee Update.

Dr. Grannemann noted that there had been two budget & finance subcommittee meetings since the last school committee meeting. He stated the subcommittee was monitoring this year's budget and also there was development of quarterly financial reports. Dr. Grannemann reported that the set of financial categories would be used in this year's budget to maintain the current curriculum. He commented that there were uncertain funding amounts from the US Department of Education and there were many challenges for FY2026.

Old Business.

School Committee Scholarship Application for 2025 (tabled at the 01.23.25 meeting).

Superintendent Marotta recommended that the item remain on the table.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250214 and EV202502144B totaling \$2,190,152.75, [../Warrant EV20250214 and EV20250214B.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250214 and EV202502144B totaling \$2,190,152.75, as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250214A totaling \$8,724.40, [../Warrant EV20250214A.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250214A totaling \$8,724.40, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20250128 October 2024 P-Card totaling \$967.85, [./October 24 P-Card.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number JE20250128 October 2024 P-Card totaling \$967.85, 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes		

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20250128B November P-Card totaling \$3,932.12, [./November 24 P-Card.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number JE20250128B November P-Card totaling \$3,932.12, as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number JE20250128 December P-Card totaling \$2,071.89, [./December 24 P-Card.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number JE20250128 December P-Card totaling \$2,071.89, as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Diaz seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes		
9 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances as indicated in the agenda material [../Surplus 02.13.25 .pdf](#).

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances as indicated in the agenda material. Ms. Diaz seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	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 January 23, 2025, [../Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 01.23.25 \(1\).pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2025. Ms. Diaz seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes		
9 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 02.13.25.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 Rosa seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes		
9 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	

0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Executive Session (City Hall, Room 206)/Adjournment: The School Committee will go into executive session, pursuant to **(M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2) and (3))**, to discuss matters related to the teachers' contract, including side letters with the teachers and ESPs relative to the Haverhill High School "long block," if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. After concluding the closed session, the public body will return to an open session to take official action on the matters discussed in private.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa (8:51 pm) to go into executive session, pursuant to **(M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2) and (3))**, to discuss matters related to the teachers' contract, including side letters with the teachers and ESPs relative to the Haverhill High School "long block," if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. After concluding the closed session, the public body will return to an open session to take official action on the matters discussed in private. Dr. Grannemann seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes