



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 23, 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, 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 (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Present remotely
Ms. Diaz	Present remotely	Dr. Story	Present remotely @ 7:13 pm
Ms. Ferguson	Absent	Ms. Sullivan	Absent
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.

Public Comment (in-person & remote).

David Martinez, High School Student Council Representative apologized to the committee for being absent from school committee meetings. Mr. Martinez gave a brief overview of recent events. He shared personal concerns regarding recent ICE raids authorized by the new presidential administration.

Item moved by for consideration: Use of Facilities 01.23.25

Mayor Barrett comments from her along with a moment of silence.

Attorney Magliocchetti expressed condolences to the Ottaviani family; only one "Coach O" along with being a ranked runner; he impacted so many students and there was no one like him; he was everywhere in the community. God Bless.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve the use of facilities [UOF 01.23.25.pdf](#), 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	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

8 members voted in the affirmative

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Motion passes

Mr. Kevin Comeau on behalf of his family thanked the school committee for its support during the family's time of grief.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Vacation Academies.

Superintendent Marotta reported that these academies were held during February and April vacations and there were still some openings. She encouraged parents to sign up their students.

School Committee Scholarship Applications 2025.

Superintendent Marotta requested a postponement until the next meeting since there were ongoing conversations with the city treasurer regarding available scholarships and funds.

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

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

8 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Dr. Marotta addressed David's comments, and reassured the public about these activities. She stated that under no circumstances would any agency be allowed to speak with a student without a parent/guardian. The superintendent was in the process of sending out a communication regarding this matter and additionally, the attorney general would be offering guidance. Dr. Marotta reassured families that their children were safe within our schools.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: School Committee Subcommittee Assignments for 2025.

Attorney Rosa commented that the assignments had been distributed to the members and superintendent. He noted that Mrs. McGillicuddy, School Committee Secretary will be posting the assignments to our website.

Mrs. Lalumiere: Introduction of Ms. Deborah Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services to provide an update on achievement of students who receive SPED services along with a report on the work being done with the Access for All group. [Special Education Graduation Rates .pdf](#) and [1 23 Access For ALL SC presentation.pdf](#).

Mrs. Lalumiere noted that in September as part of the MCAS report, data showed that students with disabilities and ML students did not do as well as their statewide counterparts. She stated this data raised several questions for all of us such as, is there appropriate programming and accommodations in place for these students, correct supports and training for teachers, enough staff and is there proper communication

regarding high expectations. Mrs. Lalumiere explained that this was her reasoning for the agenda item by obtaining additional information from Ms. Ibanez and Ms. Perez.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged that besides Ms. Ibanez there would be other school representatives (teachers and coaches) to provide insight. The superintendent acknowledged that each year, the data was examined multiple ways, but this year an “access for all” leadership team was formed to better communicate across curriculum areas (meets weekly) with the goal of working together to create a sense of culture and belonging (academic excellence for our entire school community).

Ms. Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services reviewed the Special Education Graduation Rates’ Information. The following staff members provided their input on the data:

- Ms. Sherry Russo, School Adjustment Counselor at Walnut Square School representing Victoria Hernandez, Student Success Coordinator (MTSS: Multi-tiered System of Support in Action);
- Ms. Karen Herbaugh, Hunking School Elementary Reading Interventionist;
- Ms. Dinorah Peralta, Principal of Bradford Elementary (Data Walls: Data Analysis in Action)
- Ms. Jennifer Peterson, ELA Curriculum Supervisor (Early Literacy: Screening; Early Literacy: Dyslexia Institute; High Quality Instructional Practices: Walkthrough Tool;
- Ms. Nicoleta Filimon: EL/SWD Work Group: In Action;
- Ms. Nicole Kelly, Hunking School Teacher/Special Education Academic Support Grade 8 (Walk to WIN “What I Need”).

Superintendent Marotta noted the district had made a conscious effort to remove students from MCAS Alts.

Attorney Rosa asked about the impact of students on MCAS Alts in terms of graduation rates.

Dr. Marotta answered that if the student received a diploma, it would be counted towards graduation rates and if the student did not receive a diploma, it would count against the total number of graduates.

In response to Ms. Diaz’s question on students on 504’s classification, Ms. Ibanez replied that these students were included in the disability category.

The superintendent recognized Ms. Russo as “teacher of the year”.

In response to Ms. Filimon’s commentary, Attorney Rosa asked about the percentage of ELL students who comprised a new subset who had limited/interrupted education.

Ms. Filimon replied that there were currently 17 high school students including one who was also on an IEP and another one on a 504 plan.

Attorney Rosa asked about the identification process.

Ms. Filimon answered that the students would be identified across the district in accordance with DESE guidelines and was an ongoing process.

Attorney Rosa inquired whether there was a correlation with low-income associated with this new subset.

Ms. Heidi Perez, ELE Curriculum Supervisor explained that many students had stepped out of education to support their families in their home country and another factor was the long journey of immigration. She added frequent moves and lack of comprehensive education in home countries.

Ms. Heidi Perez, ELE Curriculum Supervisor addressed the ML Family Engagement part of the presentation. She announced the reestablishment of the ELPAC (parent group), and the RISE program expansion to the middle schools. Ms. Perez noted that Access testing was ongoing at the present time at our schools. She was highly complementary of the Wit & Wisdom program for multilingual learners.

Ms. Ibanez spoke about Special Education in Action, Inclusive Practices 2024-2025 in Action, Ongoing Strategic Partnerships highlighting IEP training module, Spanish class for ESP (4 PDP days), a new group entitled inclusive teaching practices whose membership included special education administrators, building administrators, and ML department representatives for the creation of professional development. Ms. Ibanez explained that every year DESE conducts an audit of special education for compliance. She outlined the four (4) categories: meets requirements, needs assistance, needs intervention and needs substantial intervention. Ms. Ibanez was proud that during the past few years, Haverhill had received the designation of meets requirements (highest level).

Dr. Marotta acknowledged the hard work of Ms. Ibanez's team on these many compliance matters. She especially noted the highest-level designation along with the 75% of students in inclusion.

Ms. Ibanez announced the upcoming integrated school monitoring process as part of a state review. She reported the last review had resulted in only one corrective action.

Attorney Rosa noted that in the past there had been as many as 20+ corrective actions.

Ms. Ibanez concluded that the department was always striving to do better for our students. She reviewed the ongoing strategic partnerships.

Ms. Nicole Kelly, Hunking School Teacher/Special Education Academic Support Grade 8 summarized the successful (Walk to WIN "What I Need"). She specified that all students moved together within the school.

Attorney Rosa thanked Mrs. Lalumiere for putting this topic on the agenda. He related that many parents of students with disabilities (i.e., autism) did not want their child to receive a diploma since they would not be able to participate in an age 18-22 program or adult day program.

Ms. Ibanez noted it was a hard choice for parents to make for their students. She stated there was guidance coming from DESE regarding this topic in the next few months.

Superintendent Marotta responded it was a complex dilemma.

Attorney Rosa asked about if there was any data regarding students meeting/or exceeding expectations had better attendance rates. The vice chair was interested in the reasons for achievement gaps. Attorney Rosa inquired about whether students in inclusion classrooms performed better in school.

Ms. Ibanez responded yes, because of exposure to the general education program.

Attorney Rosa highlighted the difference with Haverhill students with disabilities versus the State; and if characteristics such as low-income and multiple factors impacted the data.

Ms. Ibanez would look into the data.

Superintendent Marotta related the limited number of out-of-district students (90), because of the offerings within Haverhill.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked about internal data and if these figures were included in our calculations.

The superintendent replied, yes and noted Haverhill's number of neediest children, however, that was not the whole issue (piece of a complicated puzzle). She noted that 80 Haverhill students went to out-of-district placements.

Mrs. Lalumiere appreciated the extensive work done to assemble tonight's presentations. She suggested more frequent conversations on sub-groups and their progress. She asked the superintendent about staffing and supporting students in other areas.

Dr. Marotta answered that there had been an increase in ML students which would result in increased need for staff members. She stated that there were increased day programs (tuition in students from other communities) that would allow for additional personnel.

Mrs. Lalumiere: Golden Hill Food Drive.

Mrs. Lalumiere commented on the on-going food drive to reinvigorate a small food pantry. She explained the school was hoping to send home the first delivery prior to February school break. Mrs. Lalumiere asked the community for donations and there was an Amazon Wish List (link would be sent to the school committee and would share on social media).

Subcommittee Reports.

Attorney Rosa: The Policy Subcommittee recommends the School Committee adopt two updated athletic concussion policies (file: JJIF and FILE: JJIF-R), [Athletic Concussion Policy JJIF.pdf](#); [Concussion Policy Protocols \[01-2025\] File JJIF-R.pdf](#); which are included with the agenda material (**a vote on the policies is expected**).

Attorney Rosa stated that at a recent policy subcommittee meeting this topic had been discussed among the members. He outlined that Dr. Maddox, Ms. Thompson, Mr. O'Brien had reviewed the policies and the policy subcommittee was seeking approval.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve concussion policy JJIF 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	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

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

Motion passes

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve concussion policy JJIF-R 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	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

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

Motion passes

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Athletic Director was acknowledged by the mayor. He thanked the school committee for its support of the Ottaviani family request. He commented that the district had been at the forefront of this issue and there was collaboration on a regular basis. Mr. O'Brien acknowledged the excellent concussion team.

Old Business.

Dr. Grannemann: Resume consideration of budget priorities list, which is included with the agenda material (**tabled at the 01.09.25 meeting; a vote is expected**) [Preliminary List of Budget Priorities HPS FY 2026 Dr. Story.pdf](#); [FY26 Preliminary List of Budget Priorities HPS edits from Attorney Rosa.pdf](#).

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to remove the budget priorities list 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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

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

Motion passes

Dr. Grannemann related that the draft had been distributed to members with three (3) responses. He began by noting comments from Ms. Collins related to students which would be discussed at a later date. Dr. Grannemann spoke about one of the budget priorities: academic leadership specifically lack of an assistant superintendent and low on administration costs. He related that it was not cost effective to "stretch" the superintendent in this manner. Dr. Grannemann reviewed the next priority entitled "strengthening capabilities for ongoing evaluation of instructional methods, with the hope of increasing statistical resources. He stated that the budget priorities provided guidance to the superintendent. Dr. Grannemann had distributed the consolidated revised document to the school committee members present at tonight's meeting.

A motion was made to adopt the revised budget priorities with the recommended edits. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion.

In response to Mrs. Lalumiere's questions on the purpose of the priorities, Dr. Grannemann replied that it was a step in the budget process and was not a comprehensive limited list.

Dr. Story thanked Dr. Grannemann for his work. She pointed out that student outcomes included the student learning experience for all kids at all levels. Dr. Story stressed the importance of the social/emotional components for student learning. She suggested an exploration of world languages and focusing on professional development. Dr. Story believed that this document was a good framework. School committee member Story was looking for more definition in the portrait of a graduate (goal).

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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250124 and EV20250124B totaling \$6,370,305.33, [Warrant EV20250124 and EV20250124B.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number EV20250124 and EV20250124B totaling \$6,370,305.33. Mrs. Lalumiere 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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	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 EV20250124A totaling \$11,359.76, [Warrant EV20250124A.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lalumiere to approve Warrant Number EV20250124A totaling \$11,359.76. Attorney Rosa 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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstain		
8 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			
1 member abstained			

Superintendent's Recommendation to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances [Jan 2025 Recycle request 01.23.25.pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to declare items surplus and dispose of in accordance with city ordinances 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	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	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 9, 2025, [Final & Approved Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 01.09.25 \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#), as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2025, as indicated in the agenda material. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting (8:44 pm). 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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		
9 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 (8:44 pm). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello 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	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		
9 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
0 members voted in the negative			

0 members abstained