



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
FY26 Budget Workshop Minutes of April 17, 2025  
Hunking School Library  
480 South Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01835**

**1. Call to Order - Roll Call.**

Mayor Barrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order (6:39 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

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

**2. Presentation, review, and discussion of proposed fiscal year 2026 budget.**

**The school committee may be taken one or more votes regarding the proposed budget.**

Superintendent Marotta reviewed the Budget Workshop II SY25-26 Presentation with the school committee. She noted that the custodial positions (5) and maintenance mechanic positions (2) had been added back into the budget due to cleanliness issues in the schools. Dr. Marotta acknowledged the extensive work by both the interim business manager, assistant business manager and mayor on the utility bills to reduce costs. The superintendent noted the current funding gap currently was \$764,086 having been reduced from \$2.6M.

In response to Ms. Collins question on the reduction in the funding gap was the result of extensive work to bridge this gap.

Mayor Barrett announced that WHAV was audio recording tonight's workshop; this is to comply with the MA wiretap statute.

Mrs. Connelly acknowledged the enormous amount of work to maintain staffing and programs.

Mayor Barrett noted other communities were cutting by millions of dollars, i.e., Brockton \$22M.

Superintendent Marotta stated that the school department was working on getting to the 2.5% increase recommended by the mayor. She commented that federal grants appeared to be safe for fiscal year 2026, however, it was predicted that the situation will be different in fiscal year 2027.

Regarding salary preparation, Dr. Marotta reported that the ESP contract had expired and the district was awaiting the fact finder decision; additionally, teacher, security specialists and custodial contracts will need to be negotiated soon.

Dr. Grannemann offered that the assistant principal at Hunking could not be funded and in other categories there were several fluctuations.

Superintendent Marotta commented on prioritizing student success amidst budget challenges. She highlighted the following:

- Expand Greenleaf Academy to Address Elementary Level Social-Emotional Needs;
- Optimizing Space Utilization for Early Childhood Education;
- Enhancing Academic Support at Haverhill High School;
- HHS Academic Enhancements and Staffing Proposals.

In response to Attorney Rosa's question on tuition (out-of-district and in-district), Ms. Ibanez says that out-of-district tuition payment would stop as soon as the student returns to Haverhill. Dr. Marotta commented that since there are wait lists for OD placements, this expansion would help the district by both returning our own students and recruiting new students from other communities.

Ms. Ibanez updated the committee on the DESE application process. She noted that since Greenleaf Academy was an established program, the process would be easier with an opening in the fall.

The superintendent did not expect extensive renovations.

Dr. Marotta reviewed the high school enhancements and staffing proposals, including targeted reading program, new ELA curriculum, department chair structure and summer guidance support.

Dr. Grannemann asked for an update once the high school changes had been implemented next year.

Dr. Marotta reviewed the unmet funding requests. She noted that Mr. Betty would also like another assistant principal.

There was discussion on the budget calendar, with a clarification that the public hearing be held on May 22, 2025 as the only item on the agenda.

Ms. Collins asked for explanation of the dysregulation of students and the district's intent to assist with this matter.

Mr. Betty was excited about this new option that would help students and extending resources to students especially the youngest students.

Ms. Collins acknowledged the challenges and was enthusiastic about the new programming.

Ms. Ibanez was hopeful that there would be a decrease in sending students to the emergency room.

Attorney Rosa commented that the new programming had not been finalized as this time.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to adjourn the budget workshop (7:49 pm). Dr. Grannemann seconded the motion. All present voted yes.