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**Haverhill Public Schools – School Committee
Hybrid Public Hearing on the FY26 Budget of May 22, 2025
@ 7:30 pm followed by Hybrid Regular Meeting Agenda
Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. City Council Chambers
City Hall, Room 202, 4 Summer Street, Haverhill MA 01830**

Governor Healey has extended pandemic-related authorizations thereby allowing remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through June 30, 2027.

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.

Hybrid Public Hearing on FY26 Budget.

Roll Call.

Mayor Barrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:30 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person (7:50 pm)	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello	Absent
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Dr. Story	Present in person (8:11 pm)
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.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote) on FY26 Budget. There was no remote or in person comment on the FY26 Budget.

The public hearing was closed on the FY26 Budget.

Hybrid Regular Meeting.

Introduction of Principal Brian Edmunds, Gateway Academy, to discuss the Student Leadership Team Food Insecurity Initiative.

Mr. Edmunds was honored to introduce the presentation that reflects what happens when students are given the tools and trust to lead. He noted that the presentation arose from the Youth Inspire Leadership Institute at Worcester State College where the students identified food insecurity as a personal and urgent issue in the community.

Mr. Edmunds introduced Ms. Danielle Gregoire, Gateway Academy ETF who guided the students in this project. She related that in January, eleven (11) students attended this workshop, which was a first for the school and

Massachusetts and was an innovative opportunity. Ms. Gregoire noted the action-based format to support the community and another student Jill would be sharing the work done by the students (Gateway Academy's Flavorful Journeys). She introduced one of the students, Micah (Senior) who shared the background of both the school's program and the project's goals which included creating an open-door food pantry at the school; raising awareness of food insecurity in the school and local community; and building stronger community ties by sharing and celebrating different cultures' food. He explained the goals which included: accessibility, awareness, community engagement and student empowerment. Micah commented that change started with them.

Another student Nina (Sophomore) spoke about one of the most creative and heartfelt parts of the project which was their cookbook "Flavorful Journeys" which was a celebration of cultures and stories that make Gateway a special place. She related that each recipe came from students, teachers, family, or friends in our communities and cost approximately \$5.00 with optional upgrades. Nina commented that each initial donation to the food pantry launch would include a copy of the cookbook. She reported that the hope was to build understanding of diversity within the school to shape a stronger, more caring Gateway community. Nina thanked the school committee for listening to their initiative and noted the students were committed to making a difference. She asked for any questions or comments.

Mayor Barrett commented on her purchase of a cookbook at the Garden Club event, therefore, she had an extra copy.

Ms. Gregoire noted the collaborative efforts with the cookbook.

The students and staff received a round of applause from the audience.

At the request of the superintendent, Mr. Edmunds reported that 39 Gateway students would graduate on June 5, 2025, which was the largest class to date.

Dr. Marotta thanked Mr. Edmunds and the staff on this tremendous accomplishment.

Mrs. Lalumiere asked how to make a donation to the food pantry.

Mr. Edmunds responded that until a permanent option had been worked out with the technology department, checks would be accepted for the food pantry (Gateway Academy).

Public Comment.

Ms. Lynn Sullivan, 248 Lover's Lane, Haverhill, MA, a parent and ESP representative for the Haverhill Education Association reminded everyone that the ESP unit has been without a contract for 691 days. She noted that the fact-finder would soon be delivering its decision. Ms. Sullivan remarked that there had been a threat of withholding retroactive pay. She requested that each member of the school committee make a commitment to honor the process of mediation and fact-finding which you employed as a tool to settle a fair contract for the ESP's by honoring his recommendation.

Ms. Sullivan asked Mayor Barrett will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not agree with them.

Mayor Barrett responded that the school committee does not comment on public comment.

Another ESP member asked Dr. Grannemann will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Dr. Grannemann responded that he was not commenting on public comment.

Ms. Susan Rostovsky, 322 North Avenue, Haverhill, MA, a Pentucket Lake ESP/librarian asked Mrs. Diaz will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Ms. Diaz replied with no comment.

Ms. Colleen Pelzer, a parent of three sons who rely on the efforts of ESP's asked Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Mayor Barrett related Mrs. Ryan-Ciardiello not present in person or remote.

Ms. Nicole Sanchez, 40 Rutherford Avenue, Haverhill, MA, a Walnut Square teacher and taxpayer, who had two children who attended the Haverhill Public Schools and benefitted from the work of ESPs, asked Mrs. Lalumiere will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like with them.

Mrs. Lalumiere answered we do not comment on public comment,

Ms. CJ Packer, 22 Hamilton Avenue, Haverhill, MA, an ESP at Pentucket Lake for 11 years asked Attorney Rosa will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Attorney Rosa does not comment on public comment.

Ms. Kara Percival, Main Street, West Newbury, MA, a paraprofessional at Pentucket Lake asked Ms. Sullivan will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Ms. Sullivan replied we do not comment on public comment.

Ms. Chris Callas, 11 Brewster Street, North Andover, MA, asked Attorney Magliocchetti will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Attorney Magliocchetti stated no on public comment.

Ms. Darcy Young, 22 Allen Street, Haverhill, MA, asked Ms. Collins, will you agree to honor the recommendations of the state appointed fact finder or will you ignore them if you do not like them.

Ms. Collins answered we do not comment on public comment.

Mr. Anthony Parolisi, 169 Summer Street, Haverhill, MA, remarked on the history of this unit and the last contract negotiations. Mr. Parolisi commented that the last settled agreement was the first step in the process of achieving a living wage. He stated that the school committee had weaponized the fact-finding process. Mr. Parolisi urged the committee members who ran on a platform to be different and honor their commitments. He expected the school committee to honor the fact-finder decision. Mr. Parolisi's question was for Dr. Story (who was not present) and expected that her answer would fall within the political managerial class instead of with the workers.

Acceptance and thank you to the River Run Spirit of Giving Committee for their \$754 donation to Cinderella's Closet.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to accept the donation from River Run Spirit of Giving Committee in the amount of \$754 and send a thank you letter. 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	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

8 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members abstained

Recognition of Haverhill Public Schools' Retirees along with a book presentation.

Superintendent Marotta recognized:

- Mr. John Mele, Assistant Principal at Consentino School (17 years), who chose "The Outsiders". He thanked his colleagues and each individual member of the school committee.
- Mr. Gregory Elliott, High School Spanish Teacher (27 years), related his book entitled, "The Autobiography of a Yogi". He noted that the late Mrs. Jean Ray had given him a chance. He would be a lifer and late entry into teaching lifestyle and he had a wonderful time.
- Mr. Charles Luongo, Math Teacher (7 years) had selected "Humble Pie". He believed that the career had helped him build relationships with students and give them confidence. Mr. Luongo related it was one of the hardest jobs being a math teacher and left everything behind (financially, personally, emotionally and physically).
- Ms. Lisa Ackerman, Media Specialist/Librarian (10 years) chose the book "Hot Dog". She stated that Bonnie Antkowiak had hired her and HPS was the best place to work in her opinion. Ms. Ackerman had a wonderful 10 years and closed with "peace, joy and happiness no matter where you are".

Superintendent Marotta read the list of retirees and extended appreciation to all:

- Jane Langlais – Bradford Elementary School Art Teacher – 33 years
- Jeanne Arango – ML Teacher – 3 years
- Antonietta Diskin – Italian Teacher – 18 years

- Carol Van Doren – Hunking School Special Education Teacher – 14 years
- Mary Kehoe – Nettle School Special Education Teacher – 4.5 years
- John Valaskatgis – Nettle School Math Teacher – 15 years
- Marylee Murray – Pentucket Lake Special Education Teacher – 14 years
- Kathleen Flanagan – Pentucket Lake Elementary Teacher – 16 years
- Susan Lahiff – Tilton School Literacy Interventionist – 22 years

Recognition of ESP to Teacher Pipeline graduates from Merrimack College.

Dr. Marotta outlined the program and its benefits for both the district and the staff member.

Ms. Deborah Ibanez, Executive Director of Student Support Services congratulated the first cohort of Merrimack College fellows, who started the program back in 2023 (grant-funded).

Ms. Perez, thanked Mrs. Bonnie Antkowiak, Ms. Jennifer Silva, Curriculum Executive Assistant and Human Resources Director Sandra McArthur.

Dean Deborah Margolis, Merrimack College expressed her pride with the program and stated that Haverhill was a great partner with amazing visionaries running Haverhill's schools.

Ms. Perez and Ms. Ibanez acknowledged the ML and Special Education fellows offered a brief description of their journey and new position in the district:

- Sunita Das Chopra - ML teacher at Tilton.
- Teresa Rogers, ESL – Nettle School ML for grades 5 & 6
- Special Education Fellows
- Marie Pauline Piandee - fundamentals classroom teacher (sub-separate) at Pentucket Lake School
- Finnegan Bevilacqua – finishing practicum year at Hunking School
- Mary Cloutier – Integrated classroom teacher
- Hunter Tuck – Standing special education TLC teacher in grades K-2
- Tiffany Ramos – Special Education teacher Academic Support at JG Whittier
- Joseni Batista – hopeful in securing a position next year in Haverhill

Vote on School Choice for SY 2025-2026.

Dr. Marotta recommended not accepting any students for school year 2025-2026.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to not accept school choice students for SY 2025-2026. Attorney Magliocchetti 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

9 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Hybrid Regular Meeting – New Business.

Discussion on FY26 Budget by School Committee including a vote on the final FY26 budget.

Superintendent Marotta introduced Mr. Clancy Main, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Main noted that work was being done on closing out FY2025 and opening FY2026.

Attorney Rosa asked if there were any changes.

Superintendent Marotta reported that there were no substantial changes to the FY26 Budget.

Dr. Grannemann complimented the superintendent and her team for the preparation and process for this budget. He stated that the budget is highly dependent on state and city funding. Dr. Grannemann thanked the taxpayers for their commitment to funding the budget.

Dr. Marotta there had been strategic planning which prevented layoffs and major cuts to the budget. She related that the district had been careful with spending and was pleased with the financial picture. The superintendent explained that in the years going forward stay lean and alert since student opportunity act funding would be ending after the next fiscal year and it was not a rosy picture.

Attorney Rosa last year's cut was \$11M in level service budget along with \$2M this year. He commended Dr. Marotta and her financial team for their hard work.

The mayor commented that other communities were having a difficult time and a lot was dependent on what happens at the federal and state levels. She highlighted it was remarkable that there had been no layoffs. Mayor Barrett emphasized the focus on children and classrooms in budget development.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the FY26 Budget. Ms. Sullivan 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	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 EV20250523 totaling \$7,568,643.43 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250523 totaling \$7,568,643.43 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstained		

8 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250523B totaling \$6,707.00, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250523B totaling \$6,707.00, 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	Abstained		

8 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

1 member abstained

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number JE20250512 - January P-Card totaling \$515.62 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20250512 - January P-Card totaling \$515.62 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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 for approval of Warrant Number JE20250512B - February 2025 P-Card totaling \$1,329.24, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20250512B - February 2025 P-Card

totaling \$1,329.24, 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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 for approval of Warrant Number JE20250512C - March 2025 P-Card totaling \$4,427.91 as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Attorney Magliocchetti to approve Warrant Number JE20250512C - March 2025 P-Card totaling \$4,427.91 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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

Hybrid Regular Meeting - Items by Consensus.

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025, 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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 for approval of professional education conference/workshop request(s) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve professional education conference/workshop request(s) 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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 for approval of field trip request(s) as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve the field trip request(s) 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	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	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 (8:34 pm) to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Sullivan 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
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Hybrid Public Hearing on FY26 Budget followed by Hybrid Regular Meeting 05.22.25 \(1\).pdf](#); [Presentation Gateway Food Insecurity Initiative.pdf](#); [2025 Retirees.pdf](#);