



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee  
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026**

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.

**Roll Call.**

Mayor Barrett, Chairperson called the meeting to order (7:00 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Basiliere	Present (in-person)	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present (in-person)
Mr. Brown	Present (remote @ 7:06 pm)	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present (in-person)
Ms. Collins	Present (in-person)	Dr. Story	Present (in-person)
Ms. Guerrero	Present (in-person)	Dr. Grannemann	Present (in-person)
Mr. Morrow	Present (in-person)	Mayor Barrett	Present (in-person)
Ms. Rivera	Present (in-person)		

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**Ms. Collins: Student Motivation and Call to Action.**

Ms. Christina Sirignano, a World History II / AP Research / American & World History Through Film Teacher introduced one of her students, Sophia Lee who would be describing a research project.

Ms. Sophia Lee provided a brief overview of her project and asked for the assistance of the school committee in reaching out to both public and private schools to obtain data. She thanked the school committee for their time.

Ms. Rivera expressed her support of Ms. Lee's project.

Mayor Barrett would reach out to her contact at Brooks School.

**Public Comment (In-person & Remote).**

Ms. Rivera introduced two representatives from UTEC and the possibility of collaboration with the school system on a vision lab.

Mr. Jose Rivera, UTEC, Director of Outreach/Street Workers and Mr. Cameron DiGenova, Haverhill Site Coordinator introduced themselves and provided an overview of the existing opportunities and the possibility of working with the Haverhill Public Schools including a potential vision lab for ages 13-17.

**Student Advisory Council Report – Mr. Khoi Nguyen Le.**

Khoi Nguyen Le, Student Council Vice President reported on the recent successful Coffee House with 20 performers (\$200 profit which was a source of revenue for the student council). He announced Spirit Week activities which would be held in April. Khoi related that the student council was working on the following issues: policy for e-payment, school traffic issues and encouraging club engagement. He added that the student leaders were hoping to provide support to all clubs including multi-cultural ones, since the BIPOC clubs have closed due to limited student involvement. Khoi mentioned the negative reputation of Haverhill High School and was hoping to have a dedicated website for school communications with better organization along with bulletin boards at elementary and middle schools. He related that the events are also open to the general public and these changes would facilitate better communication across the district and community.

**Selection of a Haverhill Representative for the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee (candidate statements, Q&A, vote of the school committee).**

Mayor Barrett announced the withdrawal of Kat Everett due to family matters. She acknowledged Mrs. Amanda Basiliere, current school committee member, was interested in the position.

Mrs. Amanda Basiliere, 386 Middle Road, Haverhill, MA, requested appointment to the Whittier Tech School Committee. She emphasized the many challenges and important decisions to be made in the years ahead that would have the potential for reshaping vocational education, specifically the rewriting of the regional agreement, the change to the admissions process and renovating or rebuilding of the school to a potential first-of-its-kind partnership with Northern Essex. Mrs. Basiliere noted that the representative would need to have the ability to listen, communicate and collaborate with a diverse group of stakeholders all with different thoughts and ideas. She highlighted her adeptness at working collaboratively with an interdisciplinary team to develop strategies that will yield the best outcomes with the resources at hand. Mrs. Basiliere was excited to support coming generations of tradespeople along with students and adult learners to a wide variety of vocational training, career paths and opportunities. She offered her background as a member of a proud family of tradesmen including chefs, electricians, nurses, carpenters, teachers and small business owners. Mrs. Basiliere's own experience was working side by side with co-op students. She noted that her own son attended the night school at Whittier Tech for his electrical license. Mrs. Basiliere detailed her unique background as a former vocational student, parent and employer which offered several perspectives to view situations. She commented on the long-standing tradition of appointing a member of the Haverhill School Committee. Mrs. Basiliere believed that the appointment of a school committee would be beneficial for both committees. She was hoping to strengthen the relationship between the HHS and Whittier Tech and would be honored to make a positive impact on students. Mrs. Basiliere noted there would be many possible collaborations between Haverhill High School and Whittier Tech to benefit students. In conclusion, she would be honored to have the opportunity to make a positive impact on students at Whittier Tech.

Ms. Collins asked about navigating the relationship between Haverhill and the other communities.

Mrs. Basiliere replied that all communities had an equal voice and the school board needed to work collaboratively to support equally all students.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about any concerns regarding changes in the Regional Agreement.

Mrs. Basiliere stressed the importance of equal support and opportunities to the school from all the communities along with the potential for positive and negative impacts.

Mayor Barrett acknowledged the presence of Mr. Brown (remotely) at the meeting.

A motion was made by Dr. Grannemann to appoint Amanda Basiliere as the Haverhill representative to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

Mayor Barrett clarified that the vote should be by saying the name of the person who you will be casting a vote.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais was disappointed that there was only one applicant. She commented that the significant time spent on revising the policy created a perception that there was already a selected candidate. Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked for more transparency next time in the selection process and decision making.

The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Amanda Basiliere	Ms. Rivera	Amanda Basiliere
Mr. Brown	Amanda Basiliere	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Amanda Basiliere
Ms. Collins	Amanda Basiliere	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Present
Ms. Guerrero	Amanda Basiliere	Dr. Story	Amanda Basiliere
Mr. Morrow	Amanda Basiliere	Dr. Grannemann	Amanda Basiliere
		Mayor Barrett	Amanda Basiliere

10 members voted for Amanda Basiliere  
 0 members voted in the negative  
 0 members abstained  
 1 member voted present

Mayor Barrett announced Mrs. Basiliere’s appointment and thanked her for applying for the position. There was congratulatory applause of Mrs. Basiliere’s appointment.

**Superintendent’s Reports/Communications.**

**Proposed School Calendar Options for SY2026-2027 & City Clerk's Office Request for No School 9/1/2026 State Primary Election.**

Superintendent Marotta stated that the calendar was being presented this evening (two options) with a vote scheduled for the next meeting to allow for review. She introduced representatives from the city clerk’s office to speak about the first day (primary state/federal election day).

Ms. Rose Leonard Flynn, Assistant City Clerk, 110 Pilgrim Road, Haverhill, MA, referenced the city clerk’s letter outlining the reasons behind asking for a no school day on September 1, 2026 due to federal elections and safety concerns. She respectfully requested a no school day for September 1, 2026. Mrs. Leonard Flynn acknowledged Mr. Paul Balukonis, a former school resource officer who was well versed with the elections in the schools.

In response to the mayor's question, Ms. Leonard Flynn responded that Paul is currently the official election administrator in the city clerk's office.

Mr. Balukonis, referencing his late colleague Maureen Ferris, stated the worst thing was for the first day of school to overlap with elections and strongly endorsed the city clerk's recommendation.

Mayor Barrett agreed with the recommendation.

Regarding Ms. Rivera's question, it was noted that the school year would be extended by one day if the September election day was an approved no school day.

Mr. Balukonis offered his past experiences regarding elections and the first day of schools. He thanked the schools for the excellent collaborative relationship.

Dr. Marotta detailed the two options for the school calendar for 2026-2027 with a traditional start and a second one with a professional development day with a Wednesday start time. She noted that the calendars would be posted and also distributed to the union.

#### **Superintendent's Report on FY27 Budget Survey.**

Mr. Clancy Main, Chief Financial Officer provided a summary of the budget survey. He commented that the survey was a great tool for the district in accessing the community's priorities.

In addition, Mr. Main provided a brief budget update in order to close the budget gap.

In reference to Ms. Collins' inquiry on the budget timeline, Mr. Main answered that the past practice of the committee would again be followed this year.

Dr. Story was not surprised by the survey results specifically the importance of teacher compensation. She noted that it was important that in setting the budget and negotiating contracts that the school committee represent those priorities as identified by the community. Dr. Story believed it was the duty and obligation of the school committee.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented on the significance of educator compensation, and this included ESP salaries along with teachers' salaries. She commented that the community was concerned with turnover in staffing.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged the difficult decisions over the next few months that would need to be made by the committee in regards to the budget, noting the competing needs and fixed amount of funds. The superintendent stressed the work being done by the leadership team to limit the impact of less funding.

#### **Announcement of School Committee Scholarships' Application & Deadline.**

The superintendent related that the scholarship deadline was Friday, April 24, 2026 at 3:00 pm with three scholarships (Nicholas J. Johnson Fund, Milhendler and Brindis) being offered for high school and college students. She indicated that the scholarship information (guidelines and brief application) would be

published tomorrow on school committee and high school websites. Dr. Marotta encouraged all high school and alumni (currently enrolled in colleges/universities) to submit an application.

**School Committee Reports/Communications.**

**Ms. Collins: Discussion on Mobile Health Clinic RFP.**

Ms. Collins related that one of the community liaisons, Jennifer Cabrera Vicente had recognized a need and brought it to our attention. She acknowledged the work of Mr. Main in developing the request for proposals.

Mr. Main stated that the mobile health clinic would be at no cost to the school district or city. He referred to the RFP document (based on Lowell's template) that was contained in the meeting materials. Mr. Main was hopeful that there would be some bidders.

Dr. Grannemann asked about the financial details.

Dr. Marotta replied that the mobile health clinic would bill the insurance or provider to offer in-kind services.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked about hours of operation.

Mr. Main answered that it was outside of school hours.

Ms. Collins inquired if there would be options for accessibility during school hours.

Dr. Marotta recommended having operation hours outside of school hours in the beginning of the relationship.

Mrs. Basiliere recommended a follow-up plan based on the visit. She urged partnering with a local provider for additional care.

**Subcommittee Reports.**

**Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Policy Subcommittee Update.**

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that the subcommittee had met this week on amendments to technology policies and that the policies would be placed on the next agenda for a first reading.

**Dr. Grannemann: Budget/Finance Subcommittee Update.**

Dr. Grannemann announced upcoming budget workshops for the full school committee with the next workshop on April 16, 2026. He noted that the plan was to vote on the budget at a school committee meeting on May 28, 2026 during a school committee meeting with a public hearing. Dr. Grannemann was hopeful that a budget/finance subcommittee meeting could be held during the week of May 11, 2026 for a detailed review of the proposed FY27 budget by the subcommittee.

**Ms. Collins: Diversity, Health & Safety Subcommittee Update.**

Ms. Collins reported that at the first meeting of the year there was an activities update for the new subcommittee especially focusing on collaborations with students and community members, i.e., UTEC along with the Golden Hill playground proposal.

**School Committee Community Announcements.** There were no announcements.

**New Business.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20260327 totaling \$4,184,545.50, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number EV20260327 totaling \$4,184,545.50, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	Yes

11 members voted in the affirmative  
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.

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

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

**Items by Consensus.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026, and FY27 Budget Workshop Minutes of March 19, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Dr. Grannemann to table the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026, and FY27 Budget Workshop Minutes of March 19, 2026. Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes

Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

**Executive Session (City Hall, Room 206)/Adjournment.**

The School Committee will adjourn to Superintendent’s Conference Room (City Hall, Room 206) to discuss scheduling of school committee, subcommittee, and negotiating team meetings

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 negotiation strategies with the Haverhill Education Association (teachers, educational support personnel, school secretaries and professional security specialists), the Massachusetts Nurses’ Association (school nurses), and SEIU Local 888 (school maintenance employees), if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to go into executive session, pursuant to (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2) and (3), to discuss matters related to negotiation strategies with the Haverhill Education Association (teachers, educational support personnel, school secretaries and professional security specialists), the Massachusetts Nurses’ Association (school nurses), and SEIU Local 888 (school maintenance employees), if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardillo	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 03.26.26.pdf](#); [03.25.26 \(Option 1 & 2\) HPS 2026-2027 Calendar.docx.pdf](#); [Budget Survey and Update.pptx.pdf](#); [Mobil Health Unit .pptx \(1\).pdf](#)