



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 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 (7:02 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Mrs. Basiliere	Present (in-person)	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Present (in-person)
Mr. Brown	Present (in-person)	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.

Superintendent's Reports/Communications.

Introduction of Mr. John Craven, District History/Social Studies Coach, K-12 along with Consentino School Grade 5 students and a representative from Buttonwoods Museum for a reading of student letters based on American Revolution lessons developed by the district and museum. The following students read their letters to the committee: Georgia Swain; Lianah De Los Santos; Ioannis Lambropoulos; April Morales Lima And Brooke Leonard.

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Molly Jordan.

Ms. Jordan announced a Coffee House which will be held next Thursday, March 19, 2026 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm in the HHS library. She reported that a meeting had been held with school committee member Yonnie Collins about several council initiatives, noting further discussions were in the planning stages.

Public Comment (in-person and remote).

Mr. Michael Veves, 6 Cliffe Avenue, Haverhill, MA, spoke regarding substitute pay and his substitute experience in Haverhill He urged equitable application of substitute pay in the district.

Superintendent's Comments/Reports: Introduction of Brittany Safy and Karina Larson representing Haverhill Community Playground to present a plan for a new playground at Golden Hill School (see plan in packet).

Dr. Marotta introduced two parents who had been working on a new playground. The superintendent was excited about the possibility of the completion of this project.

Both Ms. Safy and Ms. Larson reviewed their presentation with the committee.

Ms. Collins inquired how to volunteer to assist with the project.

Ms. Larson responded the information was on the website dedicated to the project at www.haverhillcommunityplay.com

Mrs. Sapienza Donais appreciated the extensive work and inquired about the life cycle for repairs (budget).

Ms. Larson responded that the materials selected would allow for sustainability and would be included in the fundraising efforts.

Dr. Grannemann asked what steps were needed to make this playground a reality.

Ms. Safy replied on the hierarchy of the project and designation of labor. She noted the quick build timeline and the extensive experience of the company and model.

Ms. Larson noted the crew lead and her own personal experience (15 years of construction experience).

Dr. Grannemann asked if there was enough funding (fallback position).

Ms. Safy responded that the project would be fully-funded before beginning the project. She added that there would be alternative plans.

Ms. Guerrero inquired about the long-term viability of the playground.

Dr. Marotta commented on a recent meeting with the goal of sustainability, self-sustaining and maintenance free playground.

Mr. Brown complimented the parents on their efforts and asked about the greatest need for volunteers.

Ms. Safy replied general knowledge of construction skills/abilities would be helpful for this project.

Ms. Larson offered the comprehensive nature of a volunteer crew with all abilities, such as child care and food.

Mrs. Basiliere thanked both Ms. Safy and Ms. Larson for their efforts and asked for a timeline estimate.

Ms. Safy answered that the project needed to be fully funded and approved by the end of next week.

Dr. Grannemann asked for the necessary approvals that were needed by the school committee. He asked for a summary.

Mr. Main outlined some key points. He would be seeking approval this evening.

Dr. Marotta described a plan to verify and ensure that the project meets the requirements of the City Solicitor and stated that there would be an additional vote for acceptance of the playground by school committee and city council.

A motion was made by Dr. Grannemann to give the superintendent authorization to proceed with the Golden Hill Playground Project as described. Mr. Brown 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 Motion passes
 0 members voted in the negative
 0 members abstained

Both Ms. Safy and Ms. Larson expressed appreciation to the school committee for the approval.

Superintendent’s Comments/Reports: Career Technical Education (CTE) 2027 Programming.

Ms. Victoria Kelley, Supervisor of Career Technical Education K-12/Dean of Business and Technology provided an update on the Career Technical Education 2027 Programming. She reviewed a slide presentation with the committee.

Dr. Grannemann asked about the program structure, i.e., four-year program.

Ms. Kelley replied that it was a four-year program with options for completion and certification either within 3-4 years.

Mrs. Basiliere inquired about certification opportunities.

Ms. Kelley provided some options such as internship programs either during summer or school breaks. She noted there were internal alternatives for students. Ms. Kelley emphasized the work with the mayor’s office and council on aging which was grant funded to work with 100 elderly citizens on chrome books.

Mayor Barrett commented on technology insecurity among older citizens.

Ms. Kelley clarified there would be work on different types of technology such as phones.

Ms. Guerrero noted the success of the program and any expansion efforts.

Ms. Kelley answered full four-year programs for the seven (7) disciplines. She added that a high quality curriculum was an important emphasis of CTE programming.

Mayor Barrett explained that the two courses that were discontinued at Whittier Tech had been established at the high school.

Superintendent’s Comments/Reports: Superintendent’s Recommendation for acceptance of a donation from Haverhill High School Class of 2005 to the HHS Marching Band in the amount of \$770.28.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to accept a donation from Haverhill High School Class of 2005 to the HHS Marching Band in the amount of \$770.28. 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

Motion passes

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Request for Administrative and Maintenance/Custodial Staffing Report (Past 5 Years).

Mrs. Sapienza Donais related this item had been included on the agenda to provide as a tool in budget development. She emphasized the importance of achieving a living wage for ESP and retaining quality teachers.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Documentation Requested for Newly Elected School Committee Members During Onboarding.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced the packet of information provided to new school committee members including an employment packet. She questioned the need for an employment package to be completed by the members.

Ms. Collins asked for the interest in this agenda item.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais replied that the committee members did not need to complete an application.

Ms. Collins asked if other communities did not feel out an application.

Dr. Marotta did not know if the practice had changed and would ask the HR Director to consult with the city HR Director to find out what procedures were in effect for city council members.

Subcommittee Reports.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais: Policy Subcommittee Recommendation for approval of revised Policy BDFB – Appointments to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee, for a **third reading**, which includes an action item (vote), approval, or rejection.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated it was the final copy from the committee.

Mrs. Basiliere asked about 4 (iii) with the words “majority of a quorum”.

Dr. Grannemann suggested the new policy be implemented until July 1, 2026 (friendly amendment).

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to delete the phrase “majority of a quorum” from the policy along with an implementation date of July 1, 2026. Mr. Morrow 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 Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve Policy BDFB – Appointments to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee. 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 Motion passes
0 members voted in the negative
0 members abstained

Dr. Grannemann: Upcoming FY27 Budget Workshop on Thursday, March 19, 2027 at 6:00 pm in the Hunking School Library, along with additional budget/finance subcommittee meetings and FY27 budget workshop dates.

School Committee Community Announcements. There were no announcements.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20260313 totaling \$2,192,704.98, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number EV20260313 totaling \$2,192,704.98, 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 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 February 26, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The mayor asked for a voice vote with all in favor of approval.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Sapienza Donais seconded the motion. The mayor requested a voice vote, all were in favor of approval.

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’ and ESP negotiations 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 may return to an open session to publicly approve any votes taken relative to any business discussed in executive session, if necessary.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to go into executive session (8:38 pm), pursuant to (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2) and (3), to discuss matters related to the teachers’ and ESP negotiations 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 may return to an open session to publicly approve any votes taken relative to any business discussed in executive session, if necessary. Mr. Brown 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

Motion passes

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 03.12.26.pdf](#); [03.12.26 Haverhill Community Playground Project Overview.pdf](#); [Long Term Care Guide.pdf](#); [PBD Community-Built Playgrounds Step-By-Step Guide 2022.pdf](#); [Playground Turf Surfacing Proposal \(1\).pdf](#); [HHS CTE Application and Enrollment Update \(1\).pdf](#)