



**Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee**  
**Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 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)	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Present (in-person)
Ms. Collins	Present (in-person)	Dr. Story	Present (remotely)
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.

**Public Comment.**

Mr. Barry Davis, 351 Center Street, Dorchester, MA, Haverhill Education Association President, who represents ESP's, teachers, clerical workers and security requested the school committee give consideration of one negotiating team for all four employee groups. He stated that the request was based on respect for the schedules of all the parties. Mr. Davis was open to discussion of various formats in order to resolve the contracts in a timely manner.

Stephanie (a parent), Blaisdell Street, Haverhill, MA informed the members that her children had been denied special education services, which was a legal requirement. She referenced her children and their needs, along with its emotional impact on the family. Stephanie referenced improper vetting of educational support personnel in the district, and stated that was speaking for all parents. She urged the school committee to address the denial of special education services along with overcrowding issues in the schools. Stephanie requested that these matters be addressed as soon as possible.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked the parent to leave her contact information so that someone would be able to reach out to her to address her concerns.

Mayor Barrett noted that the school committee did not usually comment during public comment, but she would allow responses at this time.

Ms. Rivera thanked the parent for advocating for her children.

**Student Advisory Council – Ms. Molly Jordan.**

Ms. Jordan reported that the second week of February would be Spirit Week, on Thursday, February 12, 2026, a survey will be sent out for Movie Night. She stated that there was an ongoing effort to get more diversity on the student council, noting that the GEMS Advisor had responded to their request for a meeting.

**Teacher of the Year Charlie Matthews, Gateway Academy.**

Mr. Downs provided Mr. Matthews background in coming to the Gateway Academy, namely, he was a former chef.

Mr. Matthews thanked the mayor and school committee along with the superintendent and principal for their support of the Farm to Table Program. He reviewed the presentation with the members.

Mayor Barrett commented that cooking/feeding your family was an important life skill. She asked about Serv Safe Certification for students.

Mr. Matthews responded that this certification was a goal of the school.

Mayor Barrett thanked Mr. Matthews and the staff at Gateway Academy.

Mrs. Basiliere remarked on the holistic approach along with integration of all disciplines in the students' studies. She remarked on her background as a former chef and currently a nurse. Mrs. Basiliere understood students' excitement in going to school at Gateway Academy.

**HHS Updated Graduation Requirements, curriculum, attendance, and program of studies 2027 with vote by school committee.**

Ms. Megan Arivella, Supervisor of School Counseling, K-12 offered an overview of the agenda item. She explained that there were program-specific supervisors in attendance to answer any questions. Ms. Arivella described some of the changes as listed in the attached document [Program of Studies HHS updates - 2026-2027 \(1\).pdf](#).

In response to several committee members' questions, (Mrs. Sapienza Donais - STEM offerings; Ms. Collins – credit requirement(s) and FAFSA; both Ms. Arivella and Mrs. Grace McIntyre, STEM Department Chair provided brief answers to each question

Mrs. Basiliere mentioned some of the great life skills courses at Gateway Academy, such as financial literacy.

Principal Michael Downs related that Ms. Victoria Liu, Associate Principal would address the implementation of Vision of a Graduate.

Ms. Liu provided a quick overview of the implementation.

Mr. Downs introduced himself to the committee. He stated that monthly random students met with the superintendent to offer feedback on their school experience. The principal referenced several factors that impacted



Ms. Collins asked for an explanation of the policy.

Dr. Story was supportive of having a process, and it might be beneficial for a policy review.

Ms. Guerrero asked for the reasons for the changes.

Dr. Grannemann replied it was to clarify the appointment policy. He noted that there was considerable time spent developing the policy.

Mayor Barrett urged a timely scheduling of the policy subcommittee review.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced that no sitting member of the school committee should be on the WRVTHS school committee according to the Ethics Commission.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to table the application period for the Whittier Tech School Committee position. Mr. Morrow seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	No	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mr. Brown	No	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	Yes
Ms. Collins	No	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	No	Dr. Grannemann	No
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Mayor Barrett	No
Ms. Rivera	Yes		

5 members voted in the affirmative

Motion fails

6 members voted in the negative

0 members

Dr. Grannemann suggested following the current policy.

Ms. Collins stated that the policy subcommittee could meet to discuss the policy.

Mr. Brown asked for a copy of the Ethics Commission decision.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to refer the matter to the policy subcommittee. Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	No
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Mayor Barrett	
Ms. Rivera	Yes		

10 members voted in the affirmative

Motion fails

1 member voted in the negative  
0 members

**Subcommittee Reports.** There were no reports.

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

**New Business.**

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20260123 totaling \$6,380,069.60, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sapienza Donais to approve Warrant Number EV20260123 totaling \$6,380,069.60, 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	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	Yes
Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Mayor Barrett	
Ms. Rivera	No		

10 members voted in the affirmative  
1 member voted in the negative  
0 members  
Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number JE20251212 September 2025 P-Card totaling \$631.76, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number JE20251212 September 2025 P-Card totaling \$631.76, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No
Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Mayor Barrett	
Ms. Rivera	Yes		

10 members voted in the affirmative  
1 member voted in the negative  
0 members  
Motion passes

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number JE20251212 October 2025 P-Card totaling \$946.24, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number JE20251212 October 2025 P-Card totaling \$946.24, as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Yes
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza Donais	No
Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Mayor Barrett	
Ms. Rivera	Yes		

10 members voted in the affirmative  
 1 member voted in the negative  
 0 members

Motion passes

**Items by Consensus.**

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Collins to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

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

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve use of facilities as indicated in the agenda material. Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

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

Motion passes

0 members

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to adjourn the meeting (8:16 pm). Mrs. Basiliere seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

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

11 members voted in the affirmative

Motion passes

0 members voted in the negative

0 members

Documents referenced in the meeting: [Gateway Academy Program](#); [Farm To Table .pdf](#); [Final HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 01.22.26 copy.pdf](#);