



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 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 (7:00 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 (remote)
Ms. Collins	Absent	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.

Public Comment.

Ms. Michelle Braga, 104 Turnpike Road, Chelmsford, MA, Special Education Teacher at Moody Pre-school, stated that an email had been sent to all school committee members, extending an invitation to the school committee to attend an upcoming Merrimack Valley Public Education Legislative Forum on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm at the Amvets. She thanked Ms. Collins and Dr. Story for their response to the invitation and encouraged the other members to attend the forum, to engage in meaningful discussion.

Ms. Andrea Watson, Haverhill resident, expressed concern regarding the upcoming budget for Gateway Cities and the loss of children with families. She emailed the superintendent and chief finance officer about level funding across the board. Ms. Watson mentioned eligibility through DPS and DPH and the recent case of four (4) children had been dropped for coverage for not making progress. She advised the committee to be mindful of these types of cuts in Gateway Communities.

Student Advisory Council – Ms. Molly Jordan. There will be no report due to a high school event sponsored by the student council.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Dr. Grannemann: Haverhill Public Schools Immunization Update from Nancy Thompson, RN, Director of Health and Nursing Services and Dr. John Maddox, District Physician.

Ms. Thompson reviewed HPS Vaccination Update.

Dr. Grannemann asked about parental cooperation and communication efforts/barriers.

Ms. Thompson responded there was a team effort and follow-up at all schools.

In response to Dr. Grannemann's question on communication barriers with parents, Ms. Thompson answered that there was a staff member in the registration office who along with school nurses provided follow-up with parents and emphasized the team effort.

Mrs. Basiliere inquired about educational provisions if a student had to be excluded for 8-21 days due to exposure and lack of immunization.

Ms. Thompson commented that at this time this occurrence had not happened in our schools, but the best case would be if the parent allowed for vaccination. She mentioned that the district was mindful of accommodations for students and parents.

Regarding Dr. Grannemann's question, Ms. Thompson noted that there would be a referral to the public health nurse and there were also health clinics.

Ms. Guerrero asked about religious exemption.

Dr. Maddox stated the schools were in good shape. He reported that once the vaccination rates dropped below 92% there was an increased vulnerability in illness (pathogens) such as measles. Dr. Maddox stated that the state had deferred decision-making/authority on enforcement on lack of vaccination with no medical or religious exemption for all school districts, since many families were opposed to vaccines.

Ms. Rivera inquired about the plan (i.e., exposure to chicken pox).

Ms. Thompson answered that during the 8–21-day exclusion period, there was outreach to parents and at this time there had been no occurrence of this situation in the district.

Mr. Rossi, Chief of Student Learning and Leading, reported that after 10-days tutoring would commence for the student.

Mr. Brown asked about outreach efforts for the free clinics.

Ms. Thompson replied that the public health nurse sent out notices and then it was disseminated to the school system (first from the registration nurse).

Mayor Barrett informed the members that there had been a recent free flu clinic which no one had been in attendance. She mentioned that the public health nurse was available in cases when an individual could not get to see the personal care physician. The mayor urged awareness of the numbers.

Dr. Grannemann: Update on State Chapter 70 Aid for FY 2027 with Chief Financial Officer Clancy Main.

Mr. Main stated that in regards to Chapter 70 (complex funding formula), the funding was only increasing by

2.34%. He was shocked and surprised by the significant decrease. Mr. Main noted the difficulties facing Merrimack Valley communities.

Dr. Grannemann related that the past six (6) years, the district had been on an upward funding trend, with the peak occurring last year. He stated there was a drop in enrollment and the beginning of a downward trend. Dr. Grannemann explained that the student opportunity act was expiring along with reduction in Medicaid.

Mr. Morrow outlined that the enrollment decrease had been quite public and asked what had really impacted the funding reduction.

Mr. Main related that the reimbursement was approximately \$11,000 per student. He noted it felt bad but it could be worse.

Dr. Story: Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School-Introduction of Associate Superintendent/Principal Chris Laganas and Whittier Tech Representatives Dick Early and Scott Wood to provide a program and facilities update.

Mr. Chris Laganas, Principal/Assistant Superintendent acknowledged the attendance of Mr. Scott Wood, Chairperson of WRVTHS School Board, Mr. Dick Early, Haverhill Representative-WRVTHS School Board and Ms. Kara Kosmes, Business Manager.

Mr. Laganas presented a Haverhill Update including a building project update.

Mr. Wood outlined the formation of two committees: 1) school building project committee and a regional agreement amendment committee (RAAC). He noted that the recommendations from the RAAC would be sent to the full WRVTHS committee and if approved would be sent to each of the representative communities.

Mr. Laganas reviewed the summary of key timeframes of the school building project. He proceeded to display the entitlement/competitive grants received by Whittier Tech. Mr. Laganas summarized the career technical areas at the school including the very successful early college program (200 students enrolled in program).

Mr. Laganas continued with the presentation displaying the numerous athletic programs, clubs, and activities. He reported on Haverhill student total enrollment and by CTE area. Principal Laganas noted the many Haverhill Co-Op employers and placements. He reviewed a slide showing enrollment/admissions 2025-2026, the admissions update and the application/lottery timeline for fall admissions. Mr. Laganas commented that the WRVTHS school committee had voted to use an unweighted lottery, which means every student with a completed on-time application will have an equal chance of being selected for enrollment. Additionally, he showed the application/lottery timeline for fall admissions.

In terms of the admissions policy, the mayor asked for the number of slots available for older students, Mr. Laganas replied the figures were not available tonight, but he would forward the information to her.

Mr. Laganas reported on the CVTE exploratory program for community seniors along with adult education

updates. He concluded with career technical initiative (CTI) updates along with Haverhill community service.

In reference to Dr. Story's inquiry on whether communities could decide to pursue withdrawal from the Regional Agreement, Mr. Laganas replied yes.

In terms of Dr. Story's question on timeline for completion, Mr. Laganas answered before the feasibility.

Mayor Barrett noted that there were aspects that could not be resolved at the committee level, and would need to be referred to the legislature.

Dr. Story inquired about the plan for students who do not meet expectations.

Mr. Laganas stated that there had been several enrollment procedures, but there was resiliency at Whittier Tech.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked who picked the building committee membership and how many were from Haverhill.

Mr. Wood answered that there were nine (9) Haverhill residents on the 21-member committee.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais asked if there could be additions to the building committee.

Mr. Wood replied yes.

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 first reading, as an information item.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted the recent meeting with a review of the policy, the subcommittee made several recommendations. She had received information in the past 24-hours, that the preference for school committee members had been deleted at the April 11, 2024 school committee meeting, although the online version of the policy still contained this section. Mrs. Sapienza Donais believed that section was still part of the policy. She noted that the subcommittee had proposed eliminating the preference for a school committee member 3 (i), 4 (ii) changing reporting to bi-annually and 5 (i) re-appointment of incumbent without a letter of intent.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais requested a suspension of rules to approve the policy.

In response to the mayor's question, about the reading, Dr. Grannemann answered that there were three readings of proposed policies, and tonight was the first reading of this policy. He questioned if a suspension of the rules was a procedural correct one.

Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

Mayor Barrett would not support the suspension and advised following the committee’s procedure for policy approval.

Dr. Grannemann agreed with the mayor’s opinion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais commented that in the past there had been suspension of the rules for approvals.

Mayor Barrett clarified that if the vote to suspend the rules did not pass, the committee would continue with the first reading.

As a result of Ms. Rivera’s question on the procedure, the mayor clarified the procedure and stated that the motion was to suspend the rules to vote on the policy, thus eliminating the first, second and third readings of the policy.

She requested a roll call vote on the suspension of the rules with the following results:

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

4 members voted in the affirmative
6 members voted in the negative
0 members

Motion fails

Mrs. Sapienza Donais made a motion to proceed with the second reading on 3 (i), 4 (ii) and item 5.

Mayor Barrett commented that she had questions and acknowledged Dr. Grannemann.

Dr. Grannemann indicated that the first reading was for the purpose of reading the policy and understanding the content along with asking clarifying questions.

Mayor Barrett explained that the motion failed to suspend the rules and approve the policy.

The committee proceeded with the first reading of Policy BDFB – Appointments to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee, as an informational item.

Mrs. Basiliere questioned 5 (i), equality for all candidates in the process. She inquired whether the current appointee could be appointed outside of the application window.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that was not incorrect, eliminate the letter of intent but follow the same process.

Mrs. Basiliere did not believe it was clear in the policy and was open to interpretation (sitting member) asked that it be clarified in writing about the process for a sitting member.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated the intent was to eliminate the letter of intent. She that the subcommittee

could review this section

Ms. Guerrero asked about the terms being different from the Haverhill School Committee.

Mayor Barrett responded that the charter designates three-year terms for school committee members.

Dr. Grannemann concurred that 5 (i) was unclear and needed to have equitable language for all applicants.

Mayor Barrett asked about 3 (i) and if this section was in the policy manual.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais stated that the online policy had not been updated as of this date. She suggested a vote on the elimination.

Dr. Grannemann suggested it could be updated online (administratively) so that the change could reflect the vote in 2024.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais suggested voting on 3 (i) and 4 (ii). Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello seconded the motion.

There does not need to be a vote since this is a first reading.

Dr. Grannemann stated that any changes could be included in the second reading, if there is a policy subcommittee scheduled before the next meeting.

Mrs. Basiliere commented that there had been corrections made to the policy and if there was accurate language for the policy that was in the packet.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais responded that the latest policy was the correct one.

School Committee Community Announcements. There were no community announcements at this meeting.

Dr. Grannemann: Notice of open application period for a Haverhill appointment to the School Committee of the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical District. Applications will be accepted February 11, 2026 through March 11, 2026.

Dr. Grannemann referenced the press release for the application period for this position and reported that the committee was operating under existing policy. He noted that there would be acceptance of applications until March 11, 2026 with an interview/vote on March 26, 2026.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20260213 totaling \$1,939,895.20, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number EV20260213 totaling \$1,939,895.20, 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. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Ms. Rivera	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material. Dr. Grannemann 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. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Ms. Rivera	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

10 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 the 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. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
Ms. Rivera	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes

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

Motion passes

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to adjourn the meeting (8:29 pm). 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. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Mr. Morrow	Yes	Dr. Grannemann	Yes

Ms. Rivera	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
	10 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes
	0 members voted in the negative		
	0 members		

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 02.12.26.pdf](#); [SC Slides.pdf](#); [WT Presentation @ Haverhill SC 2-12-26.pdf](#)