



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 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 (remotely @ 7:40 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.

Public Comment (In-person & Remote). There was no public comment at this meeting.

Student Advisory Council Report – Ms. Molly Jordan.

Ms. Jordan reported that her absence from the last meeting was due to her attendance at the high school Movie Night (“10 Things I Hate About You”). She stated that there would be an upcoming Coffee House. Ms. Jordan noted that a policy had been submitted to the high school administration for their consideration and there is an upcoming meeting with Yonnie Collins on March 10, 2026 with the entire student council.

Superintendent’s Reports/Communications.
Grades K-8 Literacy Update.

The literacy update was presented by the following district educational leaders: Timothy Betty, Hunking Principal, Dinorah Peralta, Bradford Elementary Principal, Paula Rodriguez, Golden Hill Principal, and Eileen Doherty, Consentino School Principal.

Ms. Collins asked about the students' assessment number.

Mrs. Doherty responded that grades 10 and 11 are not included in this number.

In regards to Ms. Collins' question on growth, Mrs. Doherty replied that there was 100% growth (students who were three or more grade levels below) in any particular grade.

Ms. Peterson answered Ms. Collins regarding Letterland implementation which had been increased to grade 3 this year.

Mr. Betty offered that there was anecdotal data included in the information.

Ms. Peterson stated that there were other assessments used by the district.

Mrs. Doherty noted the many ways the schools were assisted by agencies and others.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais appreciated the information that was provided tonight, especially the usage of coaches in the schools. She asked if there were sufficient coaches' staffing.

Mr. Betty replied the schools were fortunate to have both ELA and Math coaches.

Superintendent Marotta stated the emphasis had been at Grades K-8.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais inquired how effective (hours in schedule) Wit & Wisdom implementation had been in the district and was there any feedback.

Ms. Peterson acknowledged the shift to a knowledge-based curriculum. She added students were very excited about the program.

Dr. Grannemann asked about evaluation efforts, especially PRISM I and Landscape Analysis.

Ms. Peterson offered her opinion on the evaluation results. She indicated that the PRISM I grant totaled \$1M and the high school grant was \$500,000.

Mr. Morrow appreciated the detailed report and asked if there was any anecdotal or data regarding Ignite.

Ms. Peterson responded that grant funds had been used in specific ways/time On your mark tutoring grades 3, 4, and 5.

Mr. Morrow asked when the availability of the next benchmark for iReady.

Ms. Peterson replied in the Spring.

Dr. Story emphasized the need for more coaches in every building. She asked about the partnering efforts with

parents.

Ms. Peterson replied reports are sent home.

Mrs. Antkowiak elaborated that students with higher scores at the high school level were not reassessed and reports are not sent to parents.

In reference to Dr. Story's question on high school interventionists, Mrs. Antkowiak noted that conversations are ongoing with Principal Downs regarding improvements.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Dr. Story: Haverhill Education Foundation Board Members Jenny Arndt and Kalyn Ryll to discuss the return of Kids Fest in May 2026.

Dr. Story offered that her children attended Kids Fest in the past and noted her then five-year-old daughter commented it was the best day of her life.

Ms. Jenny Arndt and Ms. Kalyn Ryll, were co-chairs of Kids Fest. She provided history on the Haverhill Education Foundation (established in 1990). Ms. Arndt reported on HEF activities such as mini-grants, and scholarships. She stated that the Kids Fest had started by the late Laurie Chase in 1990 and continued to be a very successful event for many years. Ms. Arndt was hopeful that it would be a positive community experience.

Ms. Kalynn Ryll will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 12:30 pm-4:30 pm at Haverhill High School. She thanked the school committee for approving the use of facilities at the last meeting. Ms. Ryll offered that the location would allow for easier parking and a MEVA bus route drop off near the high school. She provided a quick overview of the many activities and participants for the Kids fest Event.

Ms. Arndt asked if HEF paid for security the participants would have access to the Art Show. She stressed the importance of the learning aspect of the event. Ms. Arndt mentioned two lesser-known Haverhill notable citizens.

Ms. Ryll informed the committee and public regular updates would be posted on HEF's website.

Ms. Collins: Information about the upcoming Young Women's Leadership Conference.

Ms. Collins related that she had attended last year's conference.

Ms. Eridania Nieves, GEMS (**G**irls **E**mpowered **M**eans **S**uccess) introduced the upcoming conference with a short video.

Ms. Leydi Diaz Breton, co-advisor for GEMS emphasized the free event to be held on April 10, 2026, from 9:00 am-2:00 pm at Haverhill High School for middle school and high school students along with Lawrence students. She noted that transportation, snacks and lunch would be provided along with learning about financial literacy,

career awareness and student engagement.

Mayor Barrett stated it was a great event last year.

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 **second reading**, which includes it as a discussion item, reading of the proposed policy or policies; response from superintendent; report from policy subcommittee; and committee discussion and directions for any redrafting.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced the revised policy and noted that the policy subcommittee had met this week. She reviewed the policy noting some revisions.

Dr. Grannemann, referencing section 2, suggested that all applicants go through the same process, and was opposed to a different process for sitting representatives. He recommended the addition of the words “all” and “appointment and reappointment” to create an equitable process.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais replied that the current WRVTHS representative and school committee members did not need to go through additional steps.

Dr. Grannemann stated that it was important that all applicants have the same requirements.

A motion was made by Dr. Grannemann to add the word “all” in section 2 (i) and eliminate section 2 (iii).

Ms. Collins asked if the three letters of reference were a requirement or a suggestion.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais noted this section had received extensive consideration by the subcommittee and the only requirement was the letter of interest.

Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

Mrs. Basiliere asked how the representatives reported to the Haverhill School Committee and wondered if language needed to be added to the policy.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais referenced that the school committee would need to be invited by a majority of the quorum of the Haverhill School Committee.

Dr. Story mentioned that the word “as requested” could be replaced in the policy.

Mrs. Basiliere noted there was confusion on how the representatives would get on the school committee agenda.

Mayor Barrett questioned whether a single member could invite the representatives to a meeting at any time, without a vote of the full committee.

Mrs. Sapienza Donais related it did not preclude the representative from attending additional meetings, but wanted to ensure regular reports to Haverhill.

Mayor Barrett suggested revising the language, by striking a “majority of a quorum”.

Mrs. Basiliere asked that the majority of a quorum of the Haverhill School Committee be removed from this section.

Mayor Barrett suggested removal of the word “quorum”.

The mayor requested a roll call vote on the motion in reference to 2 (i) and the elimination of 2 (iii).

Mrs. Basiliere	Yes	Ms. Rivera	No
Mr. Brown	Yes	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	No
Ms. Collins	Yes	Mrs. Sapienza-Donais	No
Ms. Guerrero	Yes	Dr. Story	No
Mr. Morrow	No	Dr. Grannemann	Yes
		Mayor Barrett	Yes
6 members voted in the affirmative		Motion passes	
5 members voted in the negative			
0 members abstained			

Ms. Guerrero offered there were many issues related to Whittier Tech and the quorum section should be eliminated from the policy.

Mrs. Basiliere made a motion to eliminate the wording “the majority of a quorum”. Dr. Grannemann seconded the motion.

Ms. Collins suggested adjusting to two (2) separate sentences. She related that this language to include “by chair and vice chair or by Haverhill School Committee and would also allow individual members to extend an invitation to a meeting.

Dr. Grannemann recommended biannually as requested by the school committee and as requested by the school committee without adding chair and vice chair. He was recommending simplicity.

Mayor Barrett believed the original motion allowed for the Haverhill representatives with clarity on attending at least biannually a Haverhill School Committee meeting with the possibility of attending other meetings.

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

Ms. Guerrero asked for a recommendation to match the Haverhill school committee’s term.

Mayor Barrett would take this idea to the RAC (Regional Agreement Committee) committee.

Mr. Morrow asked if Haverhill representatives have a different term.

The mayor would ask for the change, but requested a vote.

A motion was made by Ms. Guerrero to recommend to the Regional Agreement Committee that the terms of the Whittier Tech School Committee match the term of Haverhill School Committee. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion.

Mr. Morrow asked a clarifying question regarding terms for all other members of WRVTHS board members in other communities who had the same term.

Mayor Barrett replied there could be two-year terms for all representatives.

Dr. Story advised against the proposal of a two-year term, (the representatives terms were staggered and did not turnover at the same time) and that experience and longevity were important factors in creating stronger boards. She stressed the importance of having limited turnover in governmental bodies and was in favor of maintaining the current practice. Dr. Story was strongly opposed to any change.

Ms. Guerrero stated that their board should reflect the body.

In response to Ms. Collins’ question, the mayor stated it was asking for the change.

Dr. Story added that Haverhill currently is the chair on the WRVTHS board, and jeopardized the leadership role that Haverhill currently holds on this board. She emphasized the regional nature of the school board.

Dr. Grannemann did not agree with our involvement in their governance procedures.

Ms. Rivera withdrew her second to the motion; the motion died for lack of a second.

School Committee Community Announcements.

Dr. Grannemann noted that the application period for WRVTHS was ongoing and urged submission of letters of interest.

New Business.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of Warrant Number EV20260217 totaling \$3,336,599.85, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve Warrant Number EV20260217 totaling \$3,336,599.85, 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
 Motion passes

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
 Motion passes

Items by Consensus.

Superintendent’s Recommendation for approval of the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2026, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Mr. Morrow to approve the Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of February

12, 2026, 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

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. By voice vote all voted in the affirmative.

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’ 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 (8:45 pm), pursuant to (M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(2) and (3), to discuss matters related to the teachers’ 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. 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 Motion passes
 0 members voted in the negative
 0 members abstained

Documents referenced in the meeting: [HSC Portfolio Meeting Binder 02.26.26.pdf](#); [School Committee 2 26 26.pdf](#)