



Haverhill Public Schools - School Committee
Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2025

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 (7:05 pm) and requested a roll call vote:

Ms. Collins	Present in person	Mrs. Ryan-Ciardello	Absent
Ms. Diaz	Present in person	Dr. Story	Present in person
Ms. Ferguson	Absent	Ms. Sullivan	Present in person
Dr. Grannemann	Present in person	Attorney Rosa	Present in person
Mrs. Lalumiere	Present in person	Mayor Barrett	Present in person
Attorney Magliocchetti	Present in person		

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Student Advisory Council Report: David Martinez.

Mayor Barrett announced that there would be no report this evening.

Mayor Barrett took the following item out of the agenda order entitled, Attorney Rosa: Presentation: Ms. Aime Aloisi and Haverhill High School History Club's participation in the Massachusetts National History Day regional competition.

Ms. Aloisi, High School Social Studies teacher, provided an overview of the regional competition. She outlined the following details of the event:

- Students who participate and produce a project that adheres to the NHD requirements can receive a half credit toward their graduation requirement.
- Additionally, participation in NHD stands out on college applications as well as academic resumes.

Ms. Aloisi introduced the following students who provided a brief synopsis of their projects:

Graydon England (9): *"Bound by the Ring: The Lack of Rights and Unfair Responsibilities of 1950s and 1960s Housewives"*

Graydon won Outstanding Project for Gender Studies in Massachusetts

Isabella Aloisi (11): *"The Pen as a Sword: The Impact of Journalists on the Belgian Congo Genocide"*

Isabella won Outstanding Project for New Massachusetts NHD School

Miles Stapel (present tonight) and Gabriel Buerger (not in attendance) (11): *"On the Sympathies and Apathies of Nuremberg"*

(Not present) - Edward Feoli (11): *"Rights and Responsibilities: Industrial Families Asundered by Society's All Shaking Thunder"*

Attorney Magliocchetti would miss the excellent work by students and complimented the students on their thought-provoking presentations and encouraged future student presentations.

Attorney Rosa thanked Ms. Aloisi and the students for their presentation tonight and encouraged students to participate in this program next year.

Ms. Aloisi would be recruiting students for the program next year and acknowledged the many benefits and opportunities for students.

Public Comment (in-person and remote).

Mr. Stephen Costa, 18 Lamoille Avenue, Haverhill, MA and a Hunking parent complained that the school committee for not holding a policy subcommittee meeting that was requested back on December 5, 2024 when his daughter was hit by a car outside of Hunking School.

Superintendent Comments/Reports.

Superintendent's Report on Community Schools by United Way Consentino & Nettle Staff.

Dr. Marotta invited staff members and united way representatives to provide a first-year update on the community school strategies program at Nettle and Consentino School.

Mrs. Dianne Connolly, Director of Title I and Community Outreach introduced Ms. Sarah Link, United Way Mass Bay, Ms. Renee Omolade, United Way Mass Bay, Ms. Jennifer Cabrera-Vicente, Consentino School – Community School Coordinator, Dr. Richard Poor, Consentino School Principal, Ms. Nimcy Guerra, Nettle School – Community School Coordinator, and Mrs. Eileen Doherty, Nettle School Principal who each provided brief commentaries of the work being done at each of the schools including the many community partners.

Ms. Link reported on the next steps such as, seeking additional resources to maintain/sustain the positions in Haverhill's middle schools. She added there was also involvement in a state-wide coalition (state policies and recommendations) to expand locally and state-wide in Massachusetts. Ms. Link related that one of the goals was to expand community partnerships. She stated that there was an annual conference at the end of the month in Minneapolis.

Ms. Omolade announced that David Martinez, high school student advisory council representative, would be representing Massachusetts at an upcoming conference as part of its national school ambassador.

Ms. Link noted the partnership with MTA and AFT.

Attorney Rosa inquired about the Consentino slide entitled "Student Voices" and what type of resources would be most beneficial such as tutoring.

Ms. Cabrera-Vicente responded that students (student council) members) would like an after-school peer-to-peer tutoring (sign-in or drop-in) program.

Attorney Rosa asked if tutoring from high school students would be a good option.

Ms. Cabrera-Vicente supported this suggestion and explained that it would not only build up relationships between middle schoolers and high school students, but possibly give the high school student volunteers

additional credit for this work.

Ms. Collins asked about the data points.

Ms. Cabrera-Vicente replied that there were three (3) different surveys for staff, students and parents through Google forms including in-person survey interviews. She offered the positive interpersonal relationships that had been developed especially between her the students and parents. Ms. Cabrera-Vicente acknowledged the use of DESE data.

In response to Ms. Collins' funding inquiry, Ms. Link responded that there was currently multi-year funding from primary source with new funding just received this past week. She clarified that there was at least partial funding for the roles for three-years.

Ms. Guerra confirmed Nettle's usage of data similar to Consentino. She noted there was a reliance on student feedback in the development of the survey for students.

Attorney Magliocchetti remarked on the impactful information presented tonight and noted it sent a serious message to the community. He stated that the community could not support the systems without state or federal assistance that was needed to do this social-community work (i.e., food and housing navigation assistance). Attorney Magliocchetti commented that this program was part of the solution. He along with Dr. Grannemann had been invited to the State House to advocate for increased state funding and he would be bringing the presentation with him to demonstrate the immense need in Haverhill. Attorney Magliocchetti concluded with an expression of thanks for the work being done in these two schools.

Ms. Guerra was hopeful that the program could be expanded to all schools. She noted the donations had been received with an estimated total of \$32,000.

Ms. Omolade reported that today a conservation had been held with Representative Payano regarding community schools.

Mrs. Connolly stated that Haverhill was leading the way at the state and national level on these efforts and thanked the school committee for its support of the community schools' initiative.

Superintendent's Presentation of the FY26 Budget.

Superintendent Marotta invited interim school business manager Greg Labrecque and assistant business manager Kathleen Smith to join her at the podium during her budget presentation to the school committee and community.

Dr. Marotta acknowledged the careful and strategic planning on the part of district leadership and the school committee in the use of ESSER funds since these funds were of a temporary nature. She commented that today, there was very little non-essential spending remaining and there was another lean budget facing us in the years ahead. Dr. Marotta stated that the priorities remain with children and classrooms and there were no teacher cuts in the proposed budget. The superintendent explained the difference between level-funded, level-service, and increased service budgets. Dr. Marotta reported on the many adjustments to the budget that were required to achieve a balanced budget. She related that the budget freeze prior to last December had resulted in some carryover monies. The superintendent emphasized the district's efforts to hire teachers at Masters 3 or lower to accomplish cost savings in teachers' salaries. Dr. Marotta walked through the many commitments to support prioritizing student

success efforts.

In conclusion, Dr. Marotta was concerned with future budget funding and thanked both Mr. Labrecque and Mrs. Smith for their extensive work in the budget preparation. She announced that the budget documents would be posted on the website tomorrow and that the public hearing would be held on May 22, 2025 which will include a vote. The superintendent stated that the budget would be presented to the City Council on June 4, 2025.

A motion was made by Attorney Rosa to approve the posting of the FY26 Budget. Attorney Magliocchetti seconded the motion. The mayor requested a roll call vote with the following results:

Ms. Collins	Yes	Dr. Story	Yes
Ms. Diaz	Yes	Ms. Sullivan	Yes
Dr. Grannemann	Yes	Attorney Rosa	Yes
Mrs. Lalumiere	Yes	Mayor Barrett	Yes
Attorney Magliocchetti	Yes		

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

Motion passes

The school committee thanked the superintendent and her team for the extensive work on the FY26 budget.

Attorney Rosa requested that the public hearing start at 7:30 pm on May 22, 2025 due to Night of Stars. There was no objection to the time change.

School Committee Reports/Communications.

Attorney Rosa: Haverhill Public Schools Wellness Committee Annual Update – Nancy Thompson and Meghan Correll.

Attorney Rosa acknowledged Ms. Nancy Thompson, Supervisor of Health and Nursing Services and Ms. Meghan Correll, District Coach Wellness/Health to provide the Wellness Committee Annual Update.

Both Ms. Thompson and Ms. Correll reviewed their presentation with the committee.

Attorney Rosa clarified that the pool/fitness was available for drop-ins (no organized activity) for two days but was open more than two days a week. He asked about efforts to help students understand food at the cafeteria.

Ms. Correll responded it was one of the items that would be explored next year.

The vice chair encouraged student involvement in order to get their perspective. He commented that student food decisions were based on the shortness of the line.

Ms. Collins: Brief Analysis of the data from the Grade 9-12 SURF Survey (administered in December, 2024) and Introduction of Ms. Jami Dion, Director of Guidance, Counseling, and Student Support Services and Ms. Megan Arivella, Supervisor of School Counseling K-12 along with Anthony Janetti, Training Manager

for the Center of Addiction at Massachusetts General Hospital to provide an overview along with a discussion of the implementation of iDecide (an alternative to suspension and substance use prevention).

Ms. Collins explained that based on the results there needed to be additional support for students. She thanked all the presenters.

Ms. Dion and Ms. Arivella offered a brief overview of the presentations.

Ms. Claire Elling, MGH Project Manager, Mr. Anthony Janetti, iDecide Project Manager and Ms. Gina Albano, Youth Wellness Coach.

Ms. Elling offered data on substance use. She offered the following statement: “There can be no doubt that schools have a duty to use all effective means needed to maintain a safe and disciplined learning environment. Beyond the simple responsibility to keep children safe, teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn in a climate marked by chaos and disruption. About this there is no controversy. Disagreements have arisen, however, over the methods used to achieve that aim. [...] Although it seems intuitive that removing disruptive students from school will make schools better places for those students who remain, or that severe punishment will improve the behavior of the punished student or of those who witness that punishment, the available evidence consistently flies in the face of these beliefs.”

Mr. Janetti reported that iDECIDE was funded by a Cooperative Agreement to MGH from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Office of Youth & Young Adult Services’ federal award by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He explained that iDECIDE (Drug Education Curriculum: Intervention, Diversion, and Empowerment), is a tier-2, early indicated substance use intervention for middle and high school students, that restoratively approaches supporting behavior change through empowering youth with psychoeducation and a structured format to reflect and reconsider their decision-making around their own substance use.

Ms. Albano offered some updates on implementation at the high school. She noted that some of the student feedback were: “it helped with peer pressure”; “help with not being judged by peers or teachers”, “decreased my substance use this week since I understand my trigger”. Ms. Albano stated that there were many positive outcomes from the program and was hoping to implement the program as an alternative to suspension options.

In response to Attorney Rosa’s question on grade level involvement, Ms. Albano answered grade 9 along with grades 9-11 next week. She was hoping to expand in the future to middle schools.

Attorney Rosa asked about participation rates and Ms. Elling replied 40%. The vice chair also asked about trusted adults at the high school.

Attorney Rosa inquired if substance use led to behavior issues.

Ms. Elling responded that could be the case since there were individual variations.

In terms of close connection (trusted adult) question, the data showed the highest rates in friends’ category (about 60%); parent/adult outside of school (57.5%) and teacher/adult in school (25.6%). Ms. Elling noted it was a reliable trend.

Ms. Collins: Introduction of Ms. Maria Geoffroy, Gr. 7, School Adjustment Counselor at Consentino School to discuss implementation of the Thrive Program.

Ms. Miranda Pinette, a student intern in student counseling noted that 25 students were involved in the newly created Thrive Program with most students being multilingual having recently arrived in the United States, with primary language either Spanish or Haitian Creole. She stated that the students were learning English during the day.

Ms. Cabrera-Vicente Consentino School – Community School Coordinator and the co-facilitator of Thrive Club reviewed the components focusing on the goals and highlighting connections to agencies.

Ms. Geoffroy commented on the significant impacts on social/emotional well-being among students:

- It has helped me understand a lot of things I couldn't understand before;
- It's a place where we can de-stress and a place where we can talk, I like it a lot “;
- The best part is that the teachers, listen to us and are able to give us advice;
- She provided poignant stories that were shared by students highlighting the building of community between the students.

Ms. Cabrera-Vicente explained the club was offered during lunch and recess.

In reference to the mayor's question on the ratio of boys/girls, Ms. Cabrera-Vicente answered yes. She explained that efforts were being undertaken to have more student involvement in their school.

Ms. Geoffroy offered plans for the club's expansion next year.

Ms. Collins commented that Ms. Geoffroy's enthusiasm was contagious and was amazed by the student-parent engagement. She thanked everyone.

Annual Citywide Art Show 2025 Opening Reception

Superintendent Marotta introduced Ms. Susan Hatfield, Curriculum Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts who invited the school committee to the annual citywide art show 2025 opening reception on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Haverhill High School (postcards were distributed to the committee). She explained that the postcard was the work of a fourth-grade student Ilyiah Alon.

Subcommittee Reports.

Dr. Grannemann: Budget and Finance Subcommittee Update.

Dr. Grannemann related that tonight's budget presentation by the superintendent, and her staff was a culmination of a yearlong endeavor. He noted that the budget/finance subcommittee had met on a regular basis and going forward there would be a public hearing followed by presentation of the approved budget to the city council. Dr. Grannemann indicated that budget work for FY27 would commence at the beginning of the new school year.

New Business.

Superintendent's Recommendation to approve Warrant Number EV20250509 totaling \$1,669,306.87, as indicated in the agenda material.

A motion was made by Ms. Sullivan to approve Warrant Number EV20250509 totaling \$1,669,306.87, as indicated in the agenda material. Dr. Story seconded the motion. The

Documents referenced in the meeting: [Updated 05.07.25 Final Version for Posting Hybrid Regular Meeting Agenda 05.08.25 \(1\).pdf](#); [Haverhill High School National History Day.pdf](#); [HPS School Committee Community Schools Presentation 5.8.25.pdf](#); [FY26 Budget 5.7.25 \(1\).pdf](#); [3. SY 25-26SC Budget Presentation Final Budget.pptx \(2\).pdf](#); [Wellness Committee 2024 2025.pdf](#); [Haverhill High School Fall24.pdf](#); [/Users/bmcgillicuddy/Library/CloudStorage/GoogleDrive-beverly.mcgillicuddy@haverhill-ps.org/My Drive/Haverhill Presentation 5.8.25 \[\[NEW\]\] \(1\).pdf](#); [Thrive presentation.pdf](#); [DetailedWarrant EV20250509.pdf](#); [Combined Warrant EV20250509.pdf](#); [Final Edit for Approval Hybrid Regular Meeting Minutes 04.10.25 \(1\) \(1\).pdf](#); [Final Version for Approval FY26 Budget Workshop II Minutes 04.17.25.pdf](#); [Final Version for Approval Remote Regular Meeting Minutes 04.24.25 .pdf](#); [UOF 05.08.25.pdf](#)