

## Hanover Public Schools

**Matthew Ferron**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



**Keith Guyette**  
*Director of Student Services*

**Deborah St. Ives**  
*Assistant Superintendent  
for Curriculum & Instruction*

**Thomas Raab, Ed.D.**  
*Assistant Superintendent  
for Business & Finance*

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### **Hanover School Committee: Hanover Public Schools: Mascot Public Hearing Wednesday, July 29, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

#### **Scheduled Guest Speakers**

**Shawna Newcomb** – Science Teacher at HMS, Member of Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe.

**Melissa (Harding) Ferretti**, Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Inc., Chairlady / President  
Born in Wareham, the daughter of Bernard Marsden Harding (Herring Pond Wampanoag), raised in Cedarville/South Plymouth by Verna M Harding (Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribal Elder). Melissa attended Plymouth Carver School system most of her life and graduated at Pembroke Academy, New Hampshire. She attended Cape Cod Community College and studied Information Technology. She is a happily married Mother of two wonderful sons and a proud Grandmother of three. Her professional career began in early 1998 in a position at the Town of Mashpee, Town Clerk's office. She then worked for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe as the Executive Administrative Assistant for a few years. In 2003 Melissa went on to become a Commonwealth of Massachusetts licensed Real Estate Sales Associate and Notary Public -- she still holds these designations today and is currently affiliated with Jack Conway & Company. She is the former Vice President of Operations for Select Staffing of MA, a position she held for over 6 years. Currently alongside her real estate work she does freelance research, consulting, and back office/bookkeeping. Melissa is proudly on her second term as the elected Chairwoman of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe located in Plymouth MA. She volunteers much of her time to better [serve?] her tribal community. In her dedicated role as Chairwoman she has worked tirelessly on the many initiatives and challenges that Indigenous communities face on an everyday basis. Some has dedicated her leadership to a number of issues that are crucial to the future of her Tribe, including protection of sacred sites and ancestral burial grounds, tribal archival research, documentation and digitization of tribal historical documents, advocacy for tribal rights and self-determination, mental health, substance use, and addiction and prevention. Under her leadership, the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe has achieved the return of a tribal burial ground and 6-acre parcel of their historical reservation land, which originally included 3,000 acres in Plymouth Country. Tribal Chairwoman Ferretti is passionate about educating the non-Native public about the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe and its rich, well documented history. In Spring 2020, she co-taught an undergraduate course focused on Indigenous Women's Leadership and Tribal Nation Self Determination alongside Dr. Amy Den Ouden of the Women's and Gender Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston. In addition, Tribal Chairwoman. Ferretti currently serves on several committees that are engaged in social justice and educational initiatives.

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**Elizabeth Solomon** is an enrolled member and officer of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag. Ms. Solomon speaks frequently about local indigenous issues and has a long-standing commitment to human rights, diversity, inclusion, and community building that she brings to both her paid and volunteer work. Ms. Solomon currently works as the Director of Administration in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and has three decades of public health experience working in in both university and community-based settings. She also serves on multiple advisory and management boards including those for the Boston Harbor Islands National Park and the Digital Archive of Native American Petitions in Massachusetts. Ms. Solomon recently completed a master's degree in museum studies at the Harvard Extension School. She has begun working with native communities and others that are currently underrepresented in museum exhibits and public history programs to assist them with bringing their voices and stories to the forefront.

**Faries Gray** is the Sagamore (War Chief) of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag. In addition to being the Sagamore, Faries is also one of the three traditional leaders of the Massachusetts Tribe. For the past 20 years Faries has spent an unimaginable amount of time researching the history of his tribe. Working with conservation groups, historic societies, schools and representatives so they may better understand the history of the Massachusetts Tribe. Presently Faries works for the Narragansett Indian Tribe Historic Office as a Ceremonial Field Specialist.

**Brittney Walley**, Nipmuc, Nipmuc tribal anti-mascot representative

**Rhonda Anderson**, Rhonda is Iñupiaq - Athabaskan, her Native enrollment village is Kaktovik AK, and she lives in Colrain MA. Rhonda is most importantly a Mother, as well a classically trained Herbalist, and Silversmith. She is the Western Massachusetts Commissioner on Indian Affairs, and Rhonda has sat on several panels and roundtables to discuss how to implement the Hyde Amendment within all Indian Health Service (IHS) institutions across the United States, how to better educate Native students in Massachusetts, and issues regarding Native teen drug and alcohol use, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, and Native American Women's reproductive rights. Her activism ranges from removal of mascots, Water Protector, Indigenous identity, and protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from extractive industry. Rhonda is a founding member of Ohketeau Council and the Native Youth Empowerment Foundation, and a representative of Native Movement.

**Jamie Morrison**, Eastern Band Cherokee descendant, MA Mascot Coalition Steering Committee, Graduate of Winchester High School Home of the "Sachems"

**Laurel Davis-Delano** is a professor of sociology who studies representations of Native Americans, including Native American mascots, and she works with other scholars who do the same.

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## **Other Staff and Community members requesting time to speak:**

**Andrew McLean:** HTA Representative and Science teacher at HHS

**Sarah Kelser:** HPS Anti-Bias team representative

**Jim and Matt Pierotti** – HPS parent and student

**Christopher Landolfi** – HHS Football coach, HPS parent

**Caroline Jackson** – HPS Student

**Mackenzie Shula** – HPS Student

**Michelle Sylvester** – HPS Student