



HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

In-Person Meeting

Buker Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

Thursday, August 19, 2021

6:30 PM - 9:05 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson

Michelle Bailey (arrival at approximately 7:20 PM)

Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary

Jennifer Carr, Secretary

Michelle Horgan

David Polito

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations

Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal/ incoming District Superintendent

Craig Genuardo, Athletic Director

Community Members noted below (in-person and via Zoom)

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance, with the exception of School Committee member Anna Siedzik, rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Land Acknowledgement

School Committee member Ms. Campbell reads the *Land Acknowledgement*, as detailed in the [Exhibit](#) [Exhibit](#).

4. Citizen's Comments

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify himself or herself by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. After Citizen's Comments, the chat feature will be turned off. If members want to be recognized, they can use the raise hand feature.

In-Person Meeting, Zoom Link below is for Public Comment Only:
<https://zoom.us/j/95337551060?pwd=QS9JSHVIUFh6N2NhcooWS9GVTZTUTo9>

Ms. Allara explains that this evening's School Committee meeting is being held in-person at the Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose room, and is being live streamed and recorded by HWCAM. The Zoom meeting (details provided above) will end after the citizen's comment portion of the meeting has been completed, however the meeting will continue to be live streamed both through HWCAM's [website](#) and [Youtube](#) channel. Ms. Allara thanks the community for their continued feedback, particularly the emails the School Committee has received over the last week.

Peter Schibly, 188 Main Street, Wenham (in-person): Mr. Schibly is a community member and parent of four (4) students in the district. He offers a comment about the proposed masking policy appearing on this evening's agenda. Citing health concerns, risks associated with student learning, inconsistency in guidelines, and evidence pointing to declining COVID cases in Essex County, Mr. Schibly voices his frustration with the proposed policy and the perceived threat to student freedom and well-being. He asks the School Committee to vote against the universal masking mandate, and instead allow families the choice in whether or not to wear masks.

Following a number of reminders regarding the 3-minute time limit for all citizen's comments, there is tension and some argument regarding community members' participation in meetings. Ms. Allara explains that all citizen's comments - regardless of the topic discussed - are strictly limited to 3-minutes. This ensures all community members who wish to speak are afforded that opportunity. Ms. Allara asks those present (in-person and Zoom) to respect the time limit.

Yvonne Mimo, Hamilton resident (in-person): Ms. Mimo has had three (3) grandchildren in the school district. She appears this evening to comment on the proposed masking policy that appears later in the agenda this evening. Ms. Mimo believes that the proposed masking policy is a direct threat to the liberty of students and has severe negative consequences in student learning outcomes. Referring to a wide range of information she has gathered, Ms. Mimo passionately explains why she believes the masking mandate is a form of child abuse. She also questions the legality of such a policy. She asks that the School Committee vote against the mask policy as presented.

Ms. Allara explains that the School Committee holds their business meetings in public, and citizen's comments are welcomed/encouraged during meetings. However, unless there is a Public Hearing/ Public Meeting scheduled specifically for the purpose of a dialogue with the community about a specific issue, the School Committee does not typically engage in a dialogue or offer responses to public comments.

Unidentified Hamilton - Wenham resident (in-person): This community member appears in-person to voice his concerns about the district's proposed mask policy. He is a university professor who has studied virology and has an interest in holistic health. He believes that the proposed mask policy is an unnecessary and unfounded burden on students and families. He explains that masks are ineffective because of the size of the COVID virus. Pointing to information about transmission rates and mask usage, he is very much opposed to his (and any) child wearing masks, and believes that policies like the one presented this evening spread unnecessary fear. He urges the School Committee to vote against the policy.

Allison Jenkins, 75 Plum Street, Hamilton (Zoom): Ms. Jenkins is a parent in the district, and appears via Zoom to voice her concerns surrounding Superintendent candidate Eric Tracy. Ms. Jenkins explains that she is concerned with Mr. Tracy holding the position of Superintendent based on her negative experience when her daughter was attending High School. Mr. Tracy adamantly refused any alternative arrangements Ms. Jenkins suggested in place of her daughter's suspension from school. She is concerned about Mr.

Tracy's intimidating behavior, his willingness to commit HIPAA violations, and his inconsistency in following district policy. (Ms. Jenkin's comment is cut short when the Zoom connection is interrupted).

Caitlin Calonge, [future] Wenham resident (Zoom): Ms. Calonge and her family are planning to move to Wenham this September. Last year, she homeschooled her three (3) children but planned for her children to attend Hamilton - Wenham schools in-person for the upcoming school year. However, should the School Committee approve the masking policy as presented in the agenda, she will not be willing to send her children to the schools. She points to the ineffective nature of face masks, and expresses her frustration with the lack of choice and threat to freedom that such a policy entails. Ms. Calonge reiterates that an *optional* mask policy would more fully support all families, and thus be more inclusive. She is willing to pull her children from school, and she is aware of many other families in the area who are willing to do so as well. She asks the School Committee to vote against the policy.

Agnes Vorbrodt, Hamilton - Wenham resident (Zoom): Ms. Vorbrodt is a parent to three (3) children in the district and appears via Zoom to voice her support for the proposed masking policy. She points to a variety of data, including the limited ventilation in the school buildings, current science from the CDC, and ineffectiveness of "selective masking". She has experience in the field and believes that the proposed masking policy ensures the safety of all students and staff in the district. She also points out the negative consequences and damage that could be caused with the peer pressure and social implications inherent in optional masking. Ms. Vorbrodt notes that children under 12 who are unable to receive the vaccine are particularly vulnerable, and the masking policy as presented is necessary in order to offer the most protection possible. She supports the policy and asks the School Committee to vote in favor this evening.

Victoria Harriss, Hamilton - Wenham resident (Zoom): Ms. Harriss offers a comment regarding her concern about the masking policy. She points to statistics, specifically the risk/benefit analysis around public health and developing natural immunity in children. Highlighting the inconsistencies from the CDC and other guiding agencies, Ms. Harriss reiterates her frustration and asks that the School Committee vote against the mandatory masking policy.

Ms. Allara ends public comment at approximately 7:07 PM.

5. New Business

A. Anticipated Vote on Interim Superintendent

Ms. Allara provides a quick summary of the Superintendent search and interview process: three (3) candidates were chosen to move forward in the process; two (2) candidates withdrew; and Mr. Eric Tracy was interviewed by the School Committee last night, 08/18/2021.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINT ERIC TRACY AS INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS IN THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, SUBJECT TO THE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION OF A CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TO THE CANDIDATES AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SIGNED BY BOTH PARTIES OR THEIR DESIGNEES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

Discussion: Mr. Polito points out that the motion on the floor does not appoint Mr. Tracy as an Interim Superintendent, rather it appoints him as District Superintendent on an *interim basis*. There is further clarification offered regarding this detail, and Ms. Allara explains that the language of the motion was developed in close consultation with the MASC.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of six (6) members present.

B. Vote COVID Mitigation Strategies for Opening School

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the 08/13/2021 memorandum, *Masking Considerations and Recommendations* ([exhibit](#)), including changes to COVID mitigation strategies; testing approaches; physical distancing; transmission data; etc. She asks the School Committee to vote to approve the district's recommended *Face Coverings, Policy EBCFA* ([exhibit](#), found on page 5), to become effective on 8/23/21.

Superintendent Banios reviews additional details and considerations regarding the adoption of this policy. Based on rapidly changing data and the fluidity of guidance from various agencies, Ms. Banios believes the School Committee should also approve a motion allowing the Superintendent the ability/ authority to temporarily act outside of this policy if there is an unanticipated, significant change in mask guidance at the state or federal level, or should COVID transmission or conditions rapidly change.

Michelle Bailey enters the meeting at approximately 7:20 PM.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT THE FACE COVERINGS POLICY AS PRESENTED IN THE MEETING AGENDA [EXHIBIT](#), EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 23 2021, WITH PLANS FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO REVISIT THIS POLICY ON A REGULAR BASIS.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Further discussion surrounding vaccine policies; state guidance; decision making process and data available for those decisions; frequency in revisiting policy; vaccination and other mitigating strategies; etc. Ms. Horgan requests that the School Committee revisit this policy at each future meeting.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE GRANT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO TEMPORARY ACT OUTSIDE OF THE FACE COVERINGS POLICY IF THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT UNANTICIPATED CHANGE IN STATE OR FEDERAL MASK GUIDANCE OR COVID CONDITIONS.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik hesitates to defer the School Committee's authority to the Superintendent, however, she will vote in favor given that the language of the motion specifies that authority is granted only when there are "significant and unanticipated changes". There is further discussion about revisiting decisions of the Superintendent in these situations, with the School Committee agreeing to address this at every School Committee meeting (as per suggestion of Ms. Horgan).

MOTION PASSES through majority (6:1) vote of seven (7) members present

C. Vote Revised 21-22 School Committee Meeting Schedule

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the *Revised 21-22 School Committee Meeting Schedule*, [exhibit](#), which reflects the addition of the 02/10/2022 meeting. This meeting was added based on the anticipated Town Meeting date occurring the first Saturday in April, and the need to address budget issues before that time.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE REVISED 21-22 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Discussion: The document will be corrected to reflect the years of 2021-2022.

MOTION PASSES through majority (6:1) vote of seven (7) members present.

D. Vote 21-22 Handbooks

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Tracy, HWRHS Principal, reviews the changes made to the *Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School Student Handbook* (shown in red font throughout the [exhibit](#)). The revisions to the *Handbook* have been made based on last year's feedback as well as feedback from the District's legal counsel. The final document will need to be cleaned up before the *Handbook* is published and made available to students and families.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL 2021-2022 HANDBOOK AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Allara asks that the School Committee first discuss issues surrounding procedure and clarity and next engage in a longer conversation about the contents of the handbook. Issues of clarity and procedure include:

- Graduation requirement (p. 12) *semester of either Engineering Technology or Fine/Applied Arts*);
- Definition of plagiarism (p. 24), and consistency throughout the Handbook;
- Mr. Tracy explains the procedure in developing the Student Handbook: administration works closely with the School Council to revise and present the Student Handbook. The School Committee is then tasked with aligning the Handbook with the District's policies;
- Definition and specific details regarding gambling (p. 33);

There is a lengthy discussion regarding the contents of the *Student Handbook*, including the following:

- Zero Tolerance Policy - *First Violation of Illegal Drug Possession, Use, Impairment, or "Under the Influence"* (p. 26);
 - Mr. Tracy and Ms. Banios explain the district's past approach to disciplinary actions. There is discussion surrounding the language required in this policy, as per advice of District's legal counsel;
- Graduation requirement - Social Studies: Ms. Bailey points out that the High School requires students to take very specific courses, but there are only three (3) specific courses that count towards graduation.
 - Mr. Tracy explains that these graduation requirements come from the Massachusetts State Curriculum, and this leaves the district without choice in the matter;
- The Table of Contents is inaccurate/inconsistent;
 - Mr. Tracy explains that the Table of Contents will be formatted once all revisions are made;
- Inconsistency in defining "protected classes";
 - Mr. Tracy and Ms. Banios offer explanations regarding the inconsistent definitions of "protected classes". The District's Attorney will review the *Student Handbook* this spring to ensure there is maintained compliance with State regulations, some of which require particular language to be included;
- There are concerns about the gendering of graduation gowns, with a suggestion that the blue/white gown color be alternated based on the student's last name in order to prevent exclusion of gender non-conforming students;
- Definition of bullying with particular attention to cyber bullying and the use of technology, and circumstances that arose last year with regard to this.

There is discussion regarding the procedural elements in approving the *Student Handbook*, specifically with regards to the revisions requested and ability of School Committee members to offer feedback throughout the process (before voting to accept it). Superintendent Banios explains that the School Council would ultimately need to accept and approve of these changes, whereas the School Committee is tasked with aligning the Handbook to district policies. Superintendent Banios asks School Committee members to send a list of suggested changes, as discussed, to Mr. Tracy. Mr. Tracy will then provide the list to the School Council for their consideration.

There is further discussion regarding the School Committee's responsibility and purview.

Ms. Siedzik is uncomfortable with approving the *Student Handbook* given that there are so many unresolved issues. Last year, Ms. Siedzik voiced many of her concerns about the document, and these concerns have been left unaddressed in the version presented this evening. She expresses her frustration that tonight has been the first opportunity for the School Committee to deliberate on this matter. She believes there needs to be additional opportunities for the School Committee to review and provide feedback.

Superintendent Banios reiterates the role of the School Committee in this process.

I MOVE TO END DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER AND VOTE.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

MOTION FAILS (2:5) through vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO ADD LANGUAGE THAT IT IS APPROVED AS PRESENTED SUBJECT TO FURTHER REVISION BY THE SCHOOL COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND SECONDARY REVIEW BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING THEREAFTER.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding the revision process; language in motion to amend; scheduling of follow-up meetings; etc. There is discussion regarding the procedure proposed earlier in providing Mr. Tracy with a list of the School Committee's concerns to provide to the School Council.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSES through majority (5:2) vote of seven (7) members present.

Further discussion regarding student fundraising and principal's final approval, with Mr. Tracy providing details about fundraising approval and advisor training.

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSES through majority (6:1) vote of seven (7) members present.

E. Vote Athletic Fee Structure 21-22 School Year

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genuardo, *Athletic Director*, reviews the *Athletic Fee Structure*, as presented in the [exhibit](#). Based on data from the 2020-2021 athletic season, Mr. Genuardo recommends that the HWRSD continue with the Family Cap program, maintaining the district contribution of 25% across all sports for the 2021-2022 school year. It is strongly encouraged that the School Committee look for alternative strategies to increase the district's contribution to the athletic programs moving forward.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONTINUE WITH THE FAMILY CAP PROGRAM, MAINTAINING STATUS QUO WITH A DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION OF 25% ACROSS ALL SPORTS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: There is a lengthy discussion about the benefits from the Family Cap Program, with Mr. Genuardo explaining that the district allocates 25% of the money needed to run a program, and the remainder of the necessary costs are divided amongst participating families. There is continued discussion regarding the cost burden and the data provided about students not participating due to this burden. Ms. Siedzik is concerned about implementing a policy that caters to such a small percentage of families. Mr. Genuardo responds, noting that all the families who participated were impacted (with a higher cost to participate since the families who declined did not share the costs). There is discussion about the number of seasons for the 2021/2022 School Year (back to the 3 season schedule opposed to the prior year's 4 season schedule).

MOTION PASSES through majority (6:1) vote of seven (7) members present.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 28
- Voucher No. 1059
- Voucher No. 1060
- Voucher No. 1061
- Voucher No. 3010
- Voucher No. 3011
- Voucher No. 3012
- Voucher No. 3013
- Voucher No. 3014
- Voucher No. 3015
- Voucher No. 3016
- Voucher No. 3017
- Voucher No. 3018
- Voucher No. 3019
- Voucher No. 3020
- Voucher No. 3021
- Voucher No. 3022
- Voucher No. 3023
- Voucher No. 3024
- Voucher No. 3025
- Voucher No. 2
- Voucher No. 3
- Voucher No. 4
- Voucher No. 5
- Voucher No. 1001
- Voucher No. 1002
- Voucher No. 1003
- Voucher No. 1004
- Voucher No. 1005
- Voucher No. 1006
- Voucher No. 3030

- Voucher No. 3031
- Voucher No. 3032
- Voucher No. 3033
- Voucher No. 3034
- Voucher No. 3035

B. Donations

- Donation of \$2,948 Girls Volleyball
- Donation of \$2,948 Boys Soccer
- Donation of \$2,948 Girls Soccer

[Exhibit](#)
[Exhibit](#)
[Exhibit](#)

C. Minutes

- June 16, 2021
- July 20, 2021

[Exhibit](#)
[Exhibit](#)

D. Other

- Approve 8th Grade Field Hockey Waiver
- Approve Soccer Boosters Ad Booklet
- Approve Football Boosters Ad Booklet

[Exhibit](#)
[Exhibit](#)
[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA: ITEM A, WARRANTS; ITEM B, DONATIONS; AND ITEM C, MINUTES AS WRITTEN IN THE EXHIBITS PRESENTED ON THE AGENDA; THERE SHALL BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of six (6) members present (Ms. Campbell is absent for a brief time).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE SOCCER BOOSTERS AD BOOKLET, [EXHIBIT](#), AND FOOTBALL BOOSTERS AD BOOKLET, [EXHIBIT](#), AS PRESENTED IN THE MEETING AGENDA; THERE SHALL BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WAIVER THAT WILL ALLOW EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS TO PLAY ON THE HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY TEAM AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE CONSENT AGENDA; THERE SHALL BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: There is discussion about waivers offered for specific sports, with Mr. Genualdo explaining that the first criteria for a waiver is to determine sports with low participation rates. Sports that are partnered in co-ops with other schools (such as Gymnastics with Manchester - Essex) are designed to increase participation, and therefore teams are not able to have both a waiver and a co-op.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

There is a brief recess called at 8:49 PM. The School Committee reconvenes at approximately 8:54 PM.

7. Finance and Operations

A. FY21 Year End Close Out and Transfers

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the FY21 Year-End close out and transfers, as detailed in exhibits 1 and 2, above. He explains that the Budget Realities are all related to changes brought about by COVID. He reviews the Year-End Actuals by DAC; Year-End Actuals by DESE; and further details surrounding the budget totals and realities for FY21.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY21 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS RECOMMENDED HEREIN BY THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION AND AS PRESENTED ON THE PREVIOUS SLIDE ENTITLED “PROPOSED YEAR-END TRANSFERS:” TRANSFER \$418,0000 FROM “PUPIL SERVICES” TO “TUITIONS”.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: There is some clarification about the amount left over in the Pupil Services Account. There is discussion about vacant TA positions, and strategy regarding hiring TAs. There is a brief discussion regarding surplus, calculating user fees, etc. Ms. Siedzik asks that budget adjustments be made earlier on in the budget cycle.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Mr. Leone continues his presentation, explaining how Regional Transportation is calculated. He explains the State’s reimbursement structure and the variables at play in the district. He details the State’s General Laws which allows regional school districts to establish a transportation revolving fund and deposit up to one year's worth of revenue. Any excess over one year must revert to E&D. Over the past two years, at the end of the year, HWSC has transferred any revenues over our budgeted amount into this revolving account.

Mr. Leone explains that he will have more accurate data when building the 2023 Budget and providing the Town’s assessments. He recommends the transfer, as written below.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY21 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS RECOMMENDED HEREIN BY THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION AND AS PRESENTED ON A PREVIOUS SLIDE ENTITLED “PROPOSED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION TRANSFER:” TRANSFER \$206,094 FROM “TRANSPORTATION CHAPTER 71” REVENUE ACCOUNT TO “REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FUND”.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Mr. Leone thanks the School Committee. He notes that the *Capital Financial Planning Subcommittee* has a lot of work ahead of them, and a meeting will need to be scheduled in the very near future.

B. Vote Draft FY23 Budget Development Calendar

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios and Mr. Leone review the FY23 Budget Development Calendar as presented in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding the tentative Town Meeting dates and requirements for the District to approve a tentative budget 45 days prior to the Town Meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY23 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED THIS EVENING AND AS WRITTEN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON TONIGHT'S MEETING AGENDA.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Discussion: There is discussion about sharing this information with the Towns and other stakeholders. There is brief discussions surrounding typos in the document; feedback from Towns in years prior; importance of maintaining communication with Towns; Subcommittee meetings; etc.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

C. Vote Committee Member to Sign Warrants

Ms. Siedzik is currently appointed to sign warrants and Ms. Allara serves as backup in the event Ms. Siedzik is unavailable.

Anna Siedzik nominates Julia Campbell to sign warrants; Ms. Campbell accepts the nomination.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER JULIA CAMPBELL TO SIGN WARRANTS.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ALLOW ANY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SIGN WARRANTS IN THE EVENT THAT JULIA CAMPBELL IS UNAVAILABLE.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by David Polito.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

8. Policy

There is discussion to clarify the School Committee members on the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee*.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE FORM THE POLICY/ LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INCLUDE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ANNA SIEDZIK, MICHELLE HORGAN, AND DAVID POLITO.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Ms. Siedzik, Chairperson for the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee*, will organize a meeting based on members' availability and the anticipated agenda items.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. District Goals Update

- Building District Plan: review upcoming dates and timeline;

- Teaching and Learning goals will be covered in more detail at the 09/09/21 meeting;
- DEI goal update: RFP out to bid and anticipate choosing provider by mid-September;
- Improving Learning Environments: Tom Geary provides an update: RFP for athletic field project resulted in 2 proposals. Mr. Geary would prefer to take on a project management roles and hire consultants. This allows him to leverage his knowledge and institutional wisdom on facilities and district needs. He asks for the School Committee's approval to deviate from the written details of this goal, as he points out the end result will be the same. The School Committee does not believe they need to vote to authorize Mr. Geary to alter the approach in meeting this goal.

10. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

The *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* has not met and currently has no information to report to the School Committee.

B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* has not met and currently has no information to report to the School Committee (members voted in earlier this evening, see agenda item #8).

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

The *Negotiations Subcommittee* is continuing to work on scheduling a meeting.

~~11.~~ — Chair's Report

12. Topics for Future Meetings

- Vote to approve District Treasurer;
- Revisit and potentially vote to approve revised district Work Plan;
- Revisit Regional Agreement;
 - Ms. Allara will consult with District Legal Counsel, Naomi Stonberg, for feedback on whether such discussion is a topic for Open M49errrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrreeting or warrants an Executive Session.
- Discussion regarding District's determination of Athletic Fees;
 - The *Capital/Financial Subcommittee* will examine this topic in more detail. Mrs. Carr will review this topic's alignment with the District's current Work Plan, and the School Committee will then discuss scheduling at a future meeting.

Ms. Allara invites School Committee members to email her with any additional topics for future meetings.

13. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:45 PM FOR PURPOSE #2 TO CONDUCT STRATEGY IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT; AND POTENTIALLY FOR PURPOSE #3 TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH AFSCME; THE CHAIR DECLARES THAT AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE; AND FURTHER THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL NOT RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Julia Campbell	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Jen Carr	YES;
David Polito	NO;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority (6:1) roll call vote of seven (7) members present.

Respectfully submitted October 1 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
