



HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

In-Person Meeting

Buker Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

Thursday, September 9, 2021

7:00 PM - 9:20 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson

Michelle Bailey

Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary

Jennifer Carr, Secretary

Michelle Horgan

David Polito (7:50 PM approximate arrival)

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations

Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal/Incoming Superintendent

Craig Genuardo, Athletic Director

Stacy Bucyk, Director of Student Services

Jennifer Clifford, Cutler Principal

Mary Adamik, Cutler School Educator/Instructional Coach

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Citizen's Comments

[Exhibit](#)

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.

Ms. Allara states that the 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 (detailed below) will end after the citizen comment portion of the meeting has been completed, but the meeting will continue to be live streamed through HWCAM's [website](#) and [Youtube channel](#).

In-Person Meeting, Zoom Link below is for Public Comment Only:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83919048970?pwd=VWVVL01EM2JETUdzMGtOS3FxdUdZZzo9>
Meeting ID: 839 1904 8970 Passcode: 501843

There are no citizen comments at this time.

Ms. Allara closes public comments at approximately 7:07 PM and the Zoom meeting is closed.

4. Review of School Committee Protocols [Exhibit](#)
A review of the School Committee Protocols will occur over the next few meetings. Ms. Siedzik reads the opening statement and the first two protocols, as written in the [exhibit](#).

5. Consent Agenda [Exhibit](#)

- A. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
- Voucher No. 6
 - Voucher No. 7
 - Voucher No. 1007
 - Voucher No. 1008
 - Voucher No. 1009
 - Voucher No. 1010
 - Voucher No. 3036
 - Voucher No. 3037
 - Voucher No. 3038
 - Voucher No. 3039
 - Voucher No. 3040

- B. Donations [Exhibit](#)
- Mulch Donation \$504

- C. Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- August 11, 2021

- D. Other [Exhibit](#)
- Approve Cross Country to attend Ocean State Invitational [Exhibit](#)
 - Approve COVID MOA with HWEA [Exhibit](#)

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

**MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of six (6) members present.**

Ms. Siedzik will abstain in the vote to approve the 08/11/2021 meeting minutes because she was not present during this meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, ITEM C, MINUTES FROM 08/11/2021, AS WRITTEN IN THE MEETING AGENDA; THERE SHALL BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

MOTION PASSES through majority vote (5 in favor; 1 abstain) of six (6) members present.

6. New Business

A. Overview of Opening of Schools

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios provides an update to the School Committee regarding the opening of schools last week. She reviews the Staff Opening Day agenda, including Superintendent Banios and incoming Superintendent Tracy's co-presentation during the opening meeting. She shares the feedback received from school principals, an update on student transportation, and notes that, overall, the opening process was a very positive experience.

The district continues to face challenges in hiring Teaching Assistants.

Ms. Allara reminds those in attendance that the district currently has a mask requirement while indoors.

B. Update on Summer Learning

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Eric Tracy, *HWRHS Principal*, Jennifer Clifford, *Cutler Principal*, and Stacy Bucyk, *Director of Student Services* appear this evening to present the *Update on Summer Learning*, as detailed in the exhibits above.

- YMCA early literacy/camp program collaboration: Ms. Clifford presents details of this program;
- Extended School Year Program: Ms. Bucyk presents details of this program;
- Early Childhood Partners CFCE Grant: Ms. Bucyk presents details of this program;
- Summer Acceleration Academy: Mr. Tracy presents details of this program;
- Book Clubs: Mr. Tracy presents details of this program;
- MTSS Training: Ms. Clifford presents details of this program;
- Science of Reading Training: Ms. Clifford presents details of this program;
- Professional Development Committee: Ms. Clifford and Mr. Tracy present details of this program in both the primary and secondary levels.(including teacher mentor program, "responsive classroom", student coaching, skillful teaching, instructional coaching, etc. Ms. Adamik appears and provides further details regarding the student coaching model.

There is a discussion about the funding for these programs, including future funding opportunities to continue running those programs.

David Polito enters the meeting at approximately 7:50 PM.

There is discussion about progress made on the district's DEI goal. Ms. Clifford and Ms. Bucyk responding with a summary of the work done to date and the anticipated timeline to bring in a consultant, provide training, and other steps necessary to meet this district goal.

Further discussion regarding finding of these programs, including ESSER II and ESSER III fund allocation. Discussion regarding decision making and process to determine whether to continue programs.

C. Football Boosters Advertising Request

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE FOOTBALL BOOSTERS ADVERTISING REQUEST AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Allara provides a brief overview of this issue: the Football Boosters are asking to hang a banner for the length of the Football season. Last Spring, the School Committee approved a request from the Little League to advertise in a similar fashion, setting a precedent to consider for this current request.

Ms. Allara notes that she did not consult with the district's legal counsel, Naomi Stonberg. There is continued discussion including current district policy; School Committee's role and authority; precedent set; current policy and practice; advertising in classrooms; etc.

Ms. Bailey explains that the district's policy is to not allow advertising in the schools, as doing so would expose students to advertising without their choice in the matter (opposed to advertising at the games, where students and families are able to choose whether to attend).

Mr. Genualdo appears and provides additional details surrounding this specific request and precedent set last spring. He details the costs involved in the football program, and the benefits realized by approving the current request.

Ms. Siedzik voices her concerns with the funding for sports programs, and the unfair advantage or attention the football team receives. Mr. Genualdo and Ms. Siedzik have a respectful disagreement about whether football has an unfair advantage over other sports.

Jim Moyinhan, Football Booster President, appears to provide further details about the request and the financial relief provided.

Ms. Bailey states that the current policy dictates that the School Committee may approve this request under regulations and guidelines that the School Committee approves. She notes that the School Committee has not done the work to develop such regulations, there is therefore nothing in place to guide a decision.

Mr. Polito notes that the advertising would be for local businesses who have consistently supported the community at large and Hamilton/Wenham students in particular. There is a lengthy discussion about advertising; district policy; cost of sports; amount of time School Committee devotes to the funding of athletic programs; precedent set in previous decisions, etc.

Ms. Allara reiterates that the motion on the floor is to approve the advertising request for the season, as presented in the [exhibit](#) linked to the agenda.

There is a brief discussion about advertising practices in other Cape Ann League schools.

MOTION FAILS (3 in favor; 4 opposed) through vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ALLOW THE HAMILTON - WENHAM GENERAL'S TOUCHDOWN CLUB TO HANG AS MANY AS 10 BANNERS ON GAME DAY.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: There is a brief discussion regarding the intention of the motion; the effectiveness of the language as stated above; schedule of football games for the year; etc.

Michelle Bailey rescinds her motion.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ALLOW THE HAMILTON - WENHAM GENERAL'S TOUCHDOWN CLUB TO HANG BANNERS BEGINNING FRIDAY AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL SUNDOWN ON SUNDAY.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Jennifer Carr.

Discussion: The intent of the motion is to allow advertising, but refrain from having advertising/banners visible during the school day in the school/classrooms. There is a discussion about the language in the motion, with Ms. Siedzik suggesting an amendment to note that the banners must be removed within 24 hours. There is discussion about game schedules, day of the week when games occur,

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO NOTE THAT THE ADVERTISING BANNERS MUST BE REMOVED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE GAME ENDING.

**MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Julia Campbell
MOTION TO AMEND PASSES through majority vote (6 in favor; 1 opposed) of seven (7) members present.**

Original motion with amendment:

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

The agenda is rearranged in order to address agenda item 7A, *Vote Treasurer*, as the candidate has joined the meeting at this point.

Vote Treasurer

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the hiring process and the administration's recommendation for district treasurer, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE KEVIN A. MERZ AS THE TREASURER FOR THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS RECOMMENDED BY MR. LEONE.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan

Discussion: Mr. Leone confirms that Mr. Merz's official title will be "District Treasurer". There is some discussion surrounding Mr. Merz and his experience and qualifications for this position.

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

D. MASC/MASS Delegate

There is discussion about the MASC conference 11/03/2021-11/06/2021, and the delegates serving in years prior.

MICHELLE BAILEY NOMINATES DANA ALLARA FOR THE MASC/MASS DELEGATE. JULIA CAMPBELL SECONDS THIS NOMINATION. MS. ALLARA ACCEPTS THE NOMINATION.

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

E. District Counsel Search

Naomi Stonbers is retiring and the district will need to hire an attorney to take her place as the district's legal counsel. Both Ms. Siedzik and Ms. Horgan voice their interest in serving as the School Committee member appointed to work alongside Superintendent Eric Tracy to engage in this process.

Jen Carr	Anna Siedzik;
Anna Siedzik	Anna Siedzik;
Julia Campbell	Anna Siedzik;
David Polito	Anna Siedzik;
Michelle Horgan	Michelle Horgan;
Dana Allara	Michelle Horgan;
Michelle Bailey	Michelle Horgan;

Anna Siedzik receives four (4) votes; Michelle Horgan receives three (3) votes.

ANNA SIEDZIK IS APPOINTED TO WORK WITH SUPERINTENDENT ERIC TRACY IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS TO FIND NEW DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL.

F. Vote Revised 22-23 School Calendar

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios states that the Hamilton - Wenham Education Association representatives support the revised calendar as presented in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE REVISED 22-23 SCHOOL CALENDAR AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

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

G. Air Filter Donation \$350

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios explains that the air filter donation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#), has some complexities for the School Committee's considerations. Mr. Geary explains some of these factors, including the cost of maintenance associated with the donation; DESE facility guidance about ventilation; etc. There is a lengthy discussion surrounding the donation, including equity issues; benefits of the donation; School Committee's response to similar past donations; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE AIR FILTER DONATION VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY \$350 AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

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

H. Vaccine Requirement Discussion

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the vaccine requirements as presented in the forthcoming [exhibit](#) (the exhibit is not available at the time of the meeting). She reviews vaccination rates throughout the community as well as recommendations/guidance from various agencies/governments.

Ms. Allara reports that through conversation with the HWEA union president, she understands that most teaching staff are in favor of the vaccination requirement. There is further discussion regarding the consideration of a vaccination requirement. There is no School Committee action at this time.

I. Vote Superintendent Contract

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik clarifies the date specified for deciding whether to extend Mr. Tracy's contract.

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

7. Finance and Operations

A. Vote Treasurer

[Exhibit](#)

Addressed earlier in the agenda (see page 5).

8. Policy

A Policy update will be given during the Committee Reports agenda item, below.

9. Superintendent's Report

A. District Goal Update

Superintendent Tracy provides an update on the District's Goals, including:

- Portrait of a Graduate;
- DEI;
- Teaching and Learning;
- Athletic and Learning related to Facilities (Mr. Geary provides an update regarding athletic and facility projects.

Discussion regarding DEI advisory committee, design team, community and stakeholder involvement, etc.

B. DESE Mask Requirement

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios states that DESE published an 08/25/2021 mask requirement, found on their [website](#) linked in the agenda.

10. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

The *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* has not met. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 09/22/2021 at 3:30 PM.

B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* is currently working through scheduling issues, specifically around Dorothy Presser's availability. Ms. Siedzik reports that once scheduled (likely in October), the meeting agenda will include the flag policy.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

The *Negotiations Subcommittee* had a meeting in preparation for negotiations with the Custodial Union. The meeting with the Custodial Union will be 10/06/2021.

11. Chair's Report

This is Mary Beth Banios' last meeting in the district. Thank you for your service, Ms. Banios!

12. Topics for Future Meetings

Ms. Allara acknowledges Ms. Siedzik's request for a School Committee workshop. Members discuss their preference for the time of day and their availability to attend.

- Regional Agreement;
- Protocols and process related to parent feedback and concerns;

As always, 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 THE 09/09/2021 MEETING AT 9:30 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Jennifer Carr.

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

Respectfully submitted October 22 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
