



# HAMILTON-WENHAM

## REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

### School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

#### In-Person Meeting

#### Buker Elementary School

#### Multipurpose Room

Thursday, December 16, 2021

7:00 PM - 9:45 PM

#### Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson

Michelle Bailey

Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary

Jennifer Carr, Secretary

Michelle Horgan

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson

#### Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRHS Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Craig Genualdo, Athletic Director

Bryan Menegoni, Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School Principal

#### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting is being recorded and broadcast by HWCAM.

#### 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.*

**In-Person Meeting. Zoom Link below is for Public Comment Only:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87012010122>

Meeting ID: 870 1201 0122

There are no public comments at this time.

Ms. Allara closes public comments at approximately 7:14 PM, noting that those wishing to view the meeting can do so through HWCAM's livestream on the HWCAM [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

**4. Review of School Committee Protocols**

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Allara reads the opening lines written in the School Committee Protocols, as shown in the [exhibit](#).

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJUST THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA TO MOVE FORWARD AS OUR NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS, ITEM 6A, ATHLETIC RECOMMENDATIONS.**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.**

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

**6. New Business / Athletic Recognition**

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genualdo appears this evening to recognize Hamilton - Wenham student athletes, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

Abby Schibli, Girls Lacrosse CAL Coach of the Year, appears to recognize Haley Hamilton, EMASS 1st Team / All American: Girls Lacrosse athlete.

Nancy Waddell, Girls Soccer CAL Coach of the Year, appears to recognize Jane Maguire, CAL Player of the Year, Herald All-Scholastic, EMASS 1st Team All-State, and Jackie Chapdelaine, EMASS 1st Team All-State

**5. Consent Agenda**

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 14
- Voucher No. 1023
- Voucher No. 3062
- Voucher No. 3063
- Voucher No. 3064
- Voucher No. 3065

B. Donations

- a. New World Van Lines Laptop Donation, \$379.99
- b. The Institution for Savings Donation, \$1,500
- c. Biolabs Donation for Robotics, \$1,000

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

C. Minutes

- November 4, 2021
- November 18, 2021
- December 2, 2021

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

D. Field Trip Request

- Ski Club Field Trip Request

[Exhibit](#)

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN, EXCLUDING THE MINUTES FROM 11/04/2021, MINUTES FROM 11/18/2021, THE \$1,500 DONATION FROM THE INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS, AND THE SKI CLUB FIELD TRIP REQUEST; THERE SHALL BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.**

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

The Institution for Savings donation was an in-kind donation to Holiday Toy Drive. Since this donation came through the schools, it will appear on the district's budget.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS DONATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500.**

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

The minutes from 11/04/2021 should be revised to reflect the accurate spelling of Willa Scudder's name during the citizen comments, as well as the correct spelling of the District's Attorney, Marc Terry's name. The minutes from 11/18/2021 should be revised to reflect the accurate spelling of Ella Schenker.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM 11/04/2021 AND 11/18/2021 WITH THE CHANGES SUGGESTED.**

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

With regards to the Ski Club Field Trip Request, Ms. Bailey suggests that the district require vaccination for out-of-state field trips. According to her research, there are many other communities in Massachusetts that require vaccination for extra-curricular activities. There is further discussion regarding mitigation strategies to ensure the safety of students participating in this trip; School Committee policies and procedures; student eligibility; equality in all activities/clubs; developing a policy concerning this issue; etc.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FIELD TRIP FOR THE SKI CLUB FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS AND THAT WE REQUIRE STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES ON THESE TRIPS TO BE VACCINATED.**

**MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.  
Discussion:** Strategy in managing administrative burden associated with this requirement; district's current policy and criteria to determine eligibility; length of travel involved with the ski club field trip; etc.  
**MOTION PASSES through majority vote (5:1) of six (6) members present.**

**6. New Business**

A. Athletic Recognition

[Exhibit](#)

Addressed earlier in the agenda (above).

B. Adopt HWRHS 2022-2023 Course Catalog

[Exhibit 1](#)  
[Exhibit 2](#)

Bryan Menegoni, Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School Principal, appears to present the changes made to the HWRHS 2022-2023 Course Catalog, as detailed through (1) the changes indicated through red font found throughout the Program of Studies ([Exhibit 1](#)) and (2) the table which outlines each of the changes made ([Exhibit 2](#)).

There is discussion regarding the changes made to the course catalog, including details surrounding the global competency certificate; graduation requirements; required credits for social studies; categorizing US History as required credit vs. elective etc.

There is a lengthy discussion regarding the Sex Education Program curriculum, with many members expressing their concern about the Absitence Plus curriculum and the district's decision about when to offer this education (e.g. which grade levels receive sex education). Ms. Bailey requests the opportunity to view the material being taught. Ms. Siedzik points to the recently passed Senate Bill 2541, which requires medically accurate comprehensive sex education in the state of Massachusetts. Ms. Siedzik voted against the course catalog last year because of these concerns, and she intends on doing the same this year given that there have not been any changes. There is ongoing discussion about the district's sex education curriculum.

There is discussion surrounding human rights and genocide education, with Ms. Siedzik pointing out that S-2557, genocide education, was signed into law earlier this month. She points out that "genocide" does not appear anywhere in the course catalog, and the term "human rights" only appears once, in the description of an elective course..

There is a brief discussion about next steps and the timeline for approving the Course Catalog.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE ADOPTION OF THE HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDIES FOR 2022-2023 TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT SPECIFIC CURRICULUM AND TEACHING AROUND SEX EDUCATION IN THE DISTRICT.**

**MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Jennifer Carr.**

*Discussion:* Ms. Allara asks Mr. Menegoni about what he anticipates being able to accomplish over the winter break, as well as strategy/timeline moving forward after break.

**MOTION PASSES through majority vote (4:2) of six (6) members present.**

This item will appear on a future School Committee meeting agenda, likely sometime in the month of January.

**7. Finance and Operations**

**A. Athletics Budget Presentation**

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genualdo appears to present the Athletics Budget Presentation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Mr. Genualdo recommends increasing the district contribution of user fees from 25% to either 30%, 35% or 40%, while keeping scholarship funding and the family cap program in place. He reviews prior year budgets, highlighting the changes in district's contribution to user fees and the family cap and scholarship availability. Mr. Genualdo outlines the athletic program needs that are not included in the budget as presented, including assistant varsity coaches; addressing safety issues through maintenance and replacing equipment; aiding improvement of outdoor facilities; etc. There is discussion regarding the athletic program highlights and success; statistics surrounding number of students who participate in athletic programs; percentage of the district's overall budget allocated to the athletic budget; etc.

**B. IT Budget Presentation**

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone notes that information presented this evening differs from what has been presented to the School Committee over the previous two (2) meetings. Alan Taupier appears to present the IT Budget

Presentation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion surrounding student Ipads, including the annual costs, frequency of replacement, budgeting for this in the future, benefit to students, etc. There is further discussion regarding student technology needs; student learning styles/outcomes and use of technology; smartboard replacement and lifecycle of the smartboard; etc.

C. Facilities, Maintenance & Operations Budget Presentation

[Exhibit](#)

Tom Geary appears to present the Facilities, Maintenance & Operations Budget Presentation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding long-term strategy to address aging infrastructure; restructuring of programs and strategy to use temporary facilities when needed; ADA compliance; facility security needs; status update on MSBA project applications and creating a backup plan in case the district does not receive approval on those applications.

D. FY23 Budget Update & Discussion

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Mr. Leone details the changes from the budgets previously presented to the School Committee, showing each category and the line items/amounts changed, shown in the Superintendent's FY23 Budget Recommendation as of December 16, 2021, [Exhibit 1](#). Mr. Leone would like to hear any requests or direction and incorporate those changes as the School Committee is scheduled to vote on a tentative budget at their next meeting, 01/06/2021.

There is discussion about increasing athletic user fees and the overall structure of the athletic budget, as well as ensuring equity across sports/genders.

There is continued discussion about the budget as presented, including budgeting for a DEI director; capital plan; OPEB investments, level services; etc.

The School Committee will vote on the budget at the 01/06/22 School Committee meeting.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ALLOW THE MEETING TO CONTINUE UP UNTIL 10:30 PM.**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.**

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

**8. Policy**

A. Review Face Coverings Policy

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Superintendent Tracy reviews the district's current COVID data as detailed in [Exhibit 2](#), which shows a significant increase in both communities. The school nurses have indicated that the majority of cases are occurring outside the school. Cases are continuing to rise. Superintendent Tracy shares updated vaccination data based on his meeting yesterday with nurses, noting that 11 people in the district have received accommodations allowing them to not comply with the vaccine requirement. The most recent data shows:

Central Office: 100%

HWRHS: 85.10% students; 96.39% staff

MRMS: 77.04% students; 98.15% staff

Buker: 100% staff

Cutler: 94.64% staff

Winthrop: 97.10% staff

There is discussion regarding the updated vaccination rates, including anticipated rates for the younger students.

B. Removing Masks Discussion

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy reviews his recommendation for removing masks in Hamilton - Wenham schools, as detailed in his 12/10/2021 memorandum ([exhibit](#)). He highlights the changes he made based on his conversations with the School Committee, principals, and Union Representatives following the surge in COVID cases. There is discussion clarifying the details contained in the memorandum, including how to determine the origin of cases; Superintendent's authority; discipline for noncompliance, etc.

**11. Chair's Report (taken out of order)**

- Elections to School Committee: Ms. Allara explains that the Regional Agreement states that the District Secretary shall annually post notice regarding School Committee elections, including specific information about the dates of when nomination papers will be filed and the number of vacancies to be filled. Since election day is 04/07/2022, the nomination papers will need to be made available on 01/10/2022, and the posting will need to be made by 01/03/2022. Ms. Allara spoke with Marc Terry, district's counsel, about this. He advised that best practice would be to hold the vote on the warrant ahead of time, though the secretary could also post the notice without the vote. Ms. Allara is willing to pursue either option.

**9. Superintendent's Report**

A. District Goal Updates

- Portrait of a Graduate:
  - The 3rd meeting included a review of the hopes, dreams and aspirations established during meeting 2, as well as results of individual submissions of core competency rankings, which have been rounded down to seven;
  - The 4th meeting has been scheduled for early January;
  - Students have taken on the project of graphic design work, since the designs provided by the hired company were not universally loved.
- DEI:
  - Regis & A Mighty Network provides articles, videos, and other resources for discussions;
  - Walk throughs at all schools are scheduled through April. Mr. Tracy is working with the leadership team to determine what to look for in those walk throughs.
- MTSS:
  - Middle School met with consultants on 12/16/2021 to begin laying out the process moving forward;
  - High School will begin working with consultants in early January
- Athletic Facilities/ Gale Study progress:
  - 12/06/2021 meeting - welcomed new member to the team;
  - A comprehensive FAQ document to communicate with the community will be released in January;
  - An invitation to join the working group has been sent to both Hamilton and Wenham FINCOMS;
  - Gale wrapped up site property and wetland surveying. The findings, adjustments, and changes will be presented to the School Committee, most likely at the next meeting.

Superintendent Tracy offers two shout outs: Middle School and High School Band and Music personnel for a great concert; DECA students and the participation in the DECA competition.

**10. Committee Reports**

- A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee
- B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee
- C. Negotiations Subcommittee

**~~12. Topics for Future Meetings~~**

**13. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 12/16/2021 MEETING AT 10:30 PM.**

**MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.**

**MOTION PASSES through majority vote (5:1) of six (6) members present.**

*Respectfully submitted January 24 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

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