



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

PUBLIC HEARING - FY23 SCHOOL CHOICE
PUBLIC HEARING #1 - FY23 BUDGET
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ([agenda](#))

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room
[Zoom Link](#) for Public Hearings and Public Comment
Meeting ID: 870 0715 9564
Thursday, January 20, 2022
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson
Michelle Bailey
Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary
Jennifer Carr, Secretary
Michelle Horgan
Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson
David Polito (6:39 PM arrival)

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration
Laura Wheeler, DECA Advisor
Bryan Menegoni, HWRHS Principal

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. This meeting is being recorded and broadcast by HWCAM.

2. Public Hearing - School Choice for 2022-2023 School Year

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Bailey explains that the District's policy surrounding Public Hearings is to hear a presentation on the issue first, and then allow citizen comments.

Superintendent Tracy explains that the School Committee must vote on whether to approve the School Choice program annually. He shares information regarding the 2022-2023 School Choice Program, including MRMS and HWRHS data, which was presented in the 01/12/22 School Committee meeting ([exhibit](#)).

David Polito joins the meeting at 6:39 PM.

Ms. Allara opens the floor to comments specific to the 22/23 School Choice Program.

Patty Lynch, Beverly Resident: Ms. Lynch has a son who attends Hamilton - Wenham through the School Choice Program. The transition was smooth, and her son is adjusting wonderfully. She believes the program is important and she is grateful for the positive experience.

There are no additional comments at this time. The School Choice Public Hearing closes at approximately 6:42 PM.

3. Public Hearing #1 - HWRSD FY23 Budget

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy and Mr. Leone detail the HWRSD FY23 Budget presentation, as has been presented in prior School Committee meetings (01/06/22 meeting [exhibit](#)).

There is some discussion about how to view the School Committee meeting: Superintendent Tracy explains that HWCAM is streaming the meeting, which can be viewed through the local cable station, or livestream through the [HWCAM website](#).

There are no citizen comments at this time.

The HWRSD FY23 Budget Public Hearing #1 closes at approximately 6:52 PM.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

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

5. 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.

There are no citizen comments at this time.

Ms. Allara closes public comments at approximately 6:53 PM. Ms. Allara closes the Zoom link, noting that those wishing to view the meeting may do so through HWCAM's livestream on the HWCAM [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

6. Review of School Committee Protocols

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Allara reads protocol #2 as written in the *School Committee Protocols* detailed in the [exhibit](#).

7. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 16
- Voucher No. 1027
- Voucher No. 3070
- Voucher No. 3071
- Voucher No. 3072

B. Field Trips

- DECA State Competition Field Trip

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN, EXCEPT FOR ITEM B: FIELD TRIPS; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

Ms. Bailey would like further clarification regarding the overnight accommodations offered during the DECA State Competition Field Trip.

Laura Wheeler, *DECA Advisor*, explains that she proposed 3 students per room for this trip's accommodations. She does not believe that this poses a significant health risk, as these students frequently interact and eat lunch together. Superintendent Tracy adds that the cost would increase \$110 should there be only 2 students per room.

There is discussion regarding transportation to/from the event; anticipated number of participants; etc.

Ms. Bailey requests that families who would like to board students in a room with only one other student be given that option (with an increased cost).

There is discussion regarding vaccination requirements in the City of Boston; DECA requirements; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DECA STATE COMPETITION FIELD TRIP, AS DETAILED IN THE EXHIBIT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

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

8. New Business

A. Adopt HWRHS 2022-2023 Course Catalog

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

Mr. Menegoni appears to review the *HWRHS 2022-2023 Course Catalog*, as presented in the exhibits above. He notes that he has recently learned a great deal about the "Abstinence Plus" curriculum. He made necessary changes to the catalog, as the district was not, in fact, relying on that curriculum.

Ms. Siedzik thanks Mr. Menegoni for his work surrounding this issue, and she is grateful that this has been addressed. She also voices her appreciation that the curriculum outlined highlights the importance of consent.

There is some discussion about DESE updates to frameworks.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADOPT THE HWRHS 2022-2023 COURSE CATALOG AS DETAILED IN THE EXHIBITS PRESENTED ON THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

B. Vote on School Choice for 2022-2023 School Year

Superintendent Tracy recommends that the School Committee vote to approve the School Choice Program for the 22-23 School Year. Once approved by the School Committee, District Administration would manage the details based on seats available/other factors.

Ms. Siedzik relays a community member question: how many school choice students participate in special education services? Superintendent Tracy explains that out of the 77 students, 13 have an IEP. The majority of the IEPs simply require academic support, which does not cost the district any additional funds. Superintendent Tracy further explains that additional special education services that may be needed from the School Choice population are typically cost shared with the students' home district, or are reimbursed by the state. In response to Ms. Allara's inquiry, Superintendent Tracy explains that 16% of the School Choice population require special education services, compared to slightly over 19% of the district population as a whole. overall percentage is above 19%. In response to Ms. Horgan's inquiry, Superintendent Tracy states that each choice student brings in \$5,000 (fixed cost established by law), in addition to some reimbursed costs.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by David Polito.

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

C. Cutler Principal Search

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy reviews the drafted timeline for the selection of Cutler Elementary School Principal, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Mrs. Carr points out a numerical typo. There is some discussion regarding accessibility, with agreement that sessions will likely be both in-person and virtual through Zoom.

9. Finance and Operations

A. Presentation/Review of any Additional Budget Items Requested by the School Committee

Superintendent Tracy notes that there is no formal presentation, but that this was included on the agenda as a placeholder in the event the School Committee had additional questions. There are no questions.

10. Policy

A. Review Face Coverings Policy

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Superintendent Tracy explains the district's current positive COVID cases, as detailed in [exhibit 2](#). He reviews the vaccination data, including the new data from elementary schools. There is discussion regarding the types of masks worn in schools, with Mr. Tracy indicating that cloth masks are still allowed in schools, but that a supply of medical grade masks has been given to each school.

There is discussion regarding the at-home COVID testing program, which will be implemented in the district later this month.. Mr. Tracy explains that this program has been designed to decrease the school nurses' workload. Mr. Geary has been developing the guidelines and details of the program. Pool testing would continue, while the "Test to Stay" and contact tracing practice would cease.

11. Superintendent's Report

As discussed above, the district will sign up for the at-home COVID test program. Contact tracing will continue until the first round of tests is distributed.

On 01/26/22, Katie Greer will visit Grades 7-10 to teach about Internet and Social Media Safety. That night, parents will have the opportunity to meet hew (via Zoom)..

Last night, 01/19/22, Mr. Tracy and Mr. Leone hosted a public budget information session, which, according to HWCAM, had upwards of 70 viewers.

12. Committee Reports

Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

The *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* has not met since the last update. Their next meeting will be Thursday, 01/27/2022.

Policy/Legislative Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* met this past Tuesday, 01/18/2022. In consultation with District Legal Counsel, Mr. Terry, the subcommittee finalized the Flag Policy (to be presented at the 02/03/2022 School Committee meeting). They also reviewed a substantial number of policies in the “J” section of the policy manual.

Negotiations Subcommittee

The *Negotiations Subcommittee* met yesterday, 01/19/2022, and developed a schedule for negotiating a contract with the custodial union. The subcommittee also addressed the Regional Agreement agenda item: Ms. Allara and Mr. Terry, District Legal Counsel, have a scheduled phone call regarding this next Monday.

13. Chair’s Report

- Quintuple Board meeting last Thursday, 01/13/22 with both Towns: Hamilton presented highlights of their budget; Wenham was not quite prepared to present. Hamilton expressed concern about the district’s budget.
- DEI School Committee workshop: Saturday, 01/22/22, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM. This has been posted on the district website.

14. Topics for Future Meetings

- Update on School Committee elections (number of those who have pulled papers);
- Discussion regarding strategy to reach other groups to communicate about budget (assigning to certain members, developing a schedule, etc.).

15. Vote to Adjourn into Executive Session

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 01/20/2022 MEETING AT 8:04PM, AND MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSE #3, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE AFSCME, AND TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE HWEA; AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER; AND DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE, AND THE CHAIR SO DECLARES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

David Polito YES;
Julia Campbell YES;

Dana Allara YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Jen Carr YES;
Michelle Bailey YES;
Michelle Horgan YES.

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

Respectfully submitted February 3 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
