



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

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84536030665>

Meeting ID: 845 3603 0665

Thursday, February 17, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:25 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson

Michelle Bailey

Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary (participating remotely)

Jennifer Carr, Secretary

Michelle Horgan

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson

David Polito

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Chris Domoracki, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:00 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 notes that the meeting is being recorded, live streamed, and broadcast by HWCAM. She reviews the protocols surrounding citizen comments, noting that 15-20 minutes have been allocated for this purpose. Comments are limited to 3 minutes, and the timekeeper will indicate when that time is approaching.

Ms. Allara notes that School Committee member Julia Campbell is participating remotely in tonight's meeting.

John DeSimone, 15 Porter St., Wenham (in-person comment): Mr. DeSimone speaks about the Hamilton - Wenham Human Rights Coalition, expressing his concern that the co-founder and president of the coalition also serves as member and co-chairperson of the School Committee. He states that under Mass General Law 55, Section 5a, "no individual holding elected public office shall establish, finance, maintain control, or serve as a principal officer of a political action committee". Further he notes that Mass General Law 268-A outlines a conflict of interest rule, by which municipal employees must abide. He asks that this particular School Committee member immediately recuse themselves from all further committee business while the School Committee engages council and assures the residents of Hamilton-Wenham that the member has not violated Chapter 55 and 268-A. He will contact the Attorney General Secretary and State Ethics Commission in the meantime.

Eric Musser, 9 Naples Rd., Hamilton (Zoom comment): Mr. Musser explains that he has emailed the School Committee numerous times surrounding the district's flag policy, and has yet to receive a satisfactory answer. He has filed an official request to determine the amount of money spent on legal fees surrounding this issue. He asks if there is a list of approved flags to display. Quoting School Committee protocol #8, he asks that the district display the Pro Life Flag in addition to the Pride Flag already being displayed. He looks forward to the School Committee's response.

Lorrie Manganaro, Garfield Ave., Hamilton (Zoom comment): Ms. Manganaro is concerned about the data showing that 62% and 54% (at Miles River and Cutler) of staff are uncomfortable with removing masks at this time. She asks the School Committee to consider maintaining the current mask policy through 3/15/2022, which will allow 2 weeks past February break to explore data. She thanks the School Committee for their dedication to the district.

Erica Mitchell, 30 Marjorie St., Hamilton (in-person comment): Ms. Mitchell thanks the district administration and the School Committee for the tremendous progress made this year. She knows that there is a lot of conflict, including debate about masks, but she appreciates the district's conscientious decision making.

Beth Herr, 270 Asbury St., Hamilton (Zoom comment): Ms. Herr reminds the School Committee of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title 7, which does not allow for discrimination or segregation based on religion. She assumes that based on this, that the district would decide to unmask all students at the same time, regardless of the students' vaccination status. Ms. Herr personally knows three (3) individuals who have received life-altering injuries from the vaccine. She believes it is important to note that natural immunity offers better protection.

Ryan Quinn, 16 North St., Hamilton (in-person comment): Mr. Quinn states that the State Department of Education lifting the mask mandate is unfortunate as it puts the responsibility in the hands of the School Committee, and thus invites local pressure and outrage. Mr. Quinn thanks the School Committee for their work, as he believes they have been doing a great job.

Sara Barker, 6 AJ Gordon Court, Hamilton: Thank you to all administrators and the School Committee for navigating the pandemic. Ms. Barker believes that it is time to end the masking mandate, as we need to think about what is best for all our children. She is frustrated that it has taken as long as it has for this decision to be made.

Ms. Allara closes public comments at 7:21 PM; the Zoom link will close at this time. Community members may choose to view the meeting through HWCAM's livestream on the HWCAM [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

4. Review of School Committee Protocols

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Horgan reads protocol #5 as written in the *School Committee Protocols* detailed in the [exhibit](#).

5. Student Representative Report

Chris Domoracki, *Student Government Representative*, provides updates at each school in the district, which is detailed in his presentation to the School Committee.

Mr. Domoracki presents the student survey data. The survey asked students about their comfort level in removing masks. He notes that of the 239 responses at the High School, 207 said yes (they were comfortable), and 34 said no (they were not comfortable). He reviews some of the comments from students. At Miles River, of the 232 responses, 205 responded yes, while 27 responded no. He shares some of the comments from Middle School students.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 18
- Voucher No. 1030
- Voucher No. 1031
- Voucher No. 3078
- Voucher No. 3079
- Voucher No. 3080
- Voucher No. 3081

B. Minutes

- January 20, 2022
- January 13, 2022 Quintuple Meeting

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

C. Field Trip

- DECA ICDC (Nationals) Field Trip

[Exhibit](#)

D. Donations

- Robotics Club Donation by Frontier Technologies \$2,500
- Athletic Facilities Improvement Project Donation by the HW EdFund, \$27,730

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEM C, FIELD TRIPS: DECA ICDC NATIONALS FIELD TRIP AND ITEM D, DONATIONS - ATHLETIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DONATION FROM THE HW EDFUND; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Julia Campbell	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

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

Ms. Bailey requests that the DECA Nationals field trip discussion be moved to New Business/ B. DECA State Competition Discussion. The School Committee agrees.

Ms. Horgan thanks the Hamilton - Wenham EdFund for this donation in support of the athletic fields. She summarizes the work from Tom Geary and Gale Associates in working towards these athletic fields. There is a brief discussion about the scope of the project and when the money is spent.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE EDFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,730 FOR THE ATHLETIC FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan,

Michelle Bailey	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES.

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

7. New Business

A. Vote to Approve Changes to MOA

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE MOA CHANGES AS WRITTEN.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Discussion: HWEA has ratified these changes.

David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES.

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

B. DECA State Competition Discussion

There is a lengthy discussion regarding the DECA State Competition, with Mr. Tracy explaining that the City of Boston no longer has a vaccination requirement. There is some discussion regarding the past motion and approval from the School Committee, and the best course of action moving forward in light of these changes. A number of members voice concern about lodging arrangements given that unvaccinated student(s) may be participating.

Mrs. Carr notes that any changes should be made across the board, for all district field trips.

Mr. Polito voices his frustration with the State's guidance, and believes the School Committee should limit their involvement in this matter.

Clarification: If the School Committee were to do nothing, the field trip would go on as initially planned and voted on in a previous meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO ALLOW ALL HAMILTON - WENHAM STUDENTS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DECA STATE COMPETITION. WITH REGARD TO THE OVERNIGHT STAY, WE WILL ONLY ALLOW VACCINATED STUDENTS TO STAY OVERNIGHT. IN THE CASE OF AN UNVACCINATED STUDENT, THAT STUDENT MUST DISCLOSE THEIR STATUS BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO A ROOM, OR CHOOSE TO COMMUTE.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR: TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STIPULATION THAT UNVACCINATED STUDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO: (1) DISCLOSE THEIR STATUS BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO A ROOM, (2) CHOOSE TO COMMUTE, OR (3) STAY IN A ROOM ON THEIR OWN, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE.

MOTION TO AMEND by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Ms. Bailey states that Ms. Sedzik's amendment is a friendly amendment; the amendment is therefore approved as stated.

Discussion: Mr. Polito believes that an updated permission slip is a better approach, as he reiterates that the School Committee should not be involved in this level of detail/direction.

There is a brief discussion regarding potential HIPPA violations (no HIPPA violations would occur in the proposed course of action). Mrs. Carr believes, and Ms. Bailey agrees, that the School Committee should make such action applicable to all Hamilton - Wenham students and field trips. Superintendent Tracy confirms that he understands the steps he needs to take concerning this issue.

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

MOTION AS AMENDED PASSES through majority (4:3) roll call vote of seven (7) members present.

Discussion regarding DECA ICDC Nationals: (carried over from 6. Consent Agenda: C. Field Trip: DECA ICDC (Nationals) Field Trip as shown on page 3, above [Exhibit](#))

There is discussion regarding the DECA ICDC Nationals Field Trip, as scheduled for the week of 04/22/2022, and as presented in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding the best course of action surrounding this field trip, including mask and vaccine mandates; mitigation strategies; current COVID

related data in Georgia (highest percentage in nation); purview and responsibility of the School Committee; further considerations; etc. Mr. Polito reiterates his belief that the School Committee should include information on the permission slip, but not take such a directive approach.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO GO TO THE DECA NATIONAL COMPETITION.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR, ADDING THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW THIS AT THE 03/17/2022 MEETING.

MOTION TO AMEND by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

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

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

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

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

C. Superintendent Evaluation Discussion

Ms. Allara introduces this discussion, noting that she has spoken with both Superintendent Tracy as well as Ms. Presser, MASC Representative, regarding the details of Mr. Tracy's evaluation. She proposes the following timeline and procedure:

- 03/03/2022: Superintendent to present partial evidence submission; School Committee discussion to provide feedback and offer direction.
- 03/17/2022: 30 minute workshop on how to complete the Superintendent Evaluation, hosted by Ms. Presser, MASC.
- Election Day: deadline for all departing, or potentially departing, School Committee members to provide their written evaluation. Should those members be reelected to their seat on the School Committee, they could amend their evaluations as necessary. If members are not reelected and no longer hold a seat on the School Committee, they will be invited to attend the meeting where the compiled evaluations are presented (however, they would not be able to vote on the matter).
- 05/19/2022: Mr. Tracy to present his summative evidence to the School Committee during the meeting.

- 05/26/2022: Deadline for School Committee members to complete their written evaluations.
- 06/02/2022: Ms. Allara will present the compiled evaluations; School Committee will review, discuss and vote on whether to approve the compilation.

Ms. Allara hopes for feedback regarding the above proposal.

There is some discussion regarding whether School Committee members would have enough time to complete their written evaluations, given the timeline of when Mr. Tracy will be submitting evidence. Mr. Tracy anticipates providing evidence on both the 03/03/2022 and 03/17/2022 meetings.

Ms. Bailey believes that the timeline as proposed does not allow sufficient time for members to complete their review, nor enough time for Ms. Allara to compile those evaluations.

There is discussion about incoming School Committee members and their participation in the Superintendent Evaluation process. Ms. Allara reviews the procedure involved, stating that those incoming School Committee members will have only served for 1-2 weeks. Ms. Allara and Ms. Presser agree that it would be inappropriate to have those new members participate in this process.

The superintendent evaluation is to be conducted on an annual basis, as written in the contract.

There is discussion about the 04/21 /2022 School Committee meeting, which falls in the middle of the April vacation and will need to be rescheduled. Ms. Bailey also reminds the School Committee to not schedule meetings on religious holidays.

The School Committee agrees to amend the proposed timeline as follows:

- 03/03/2022: Mr. Tracy will provide some evidence at this meeting;
- 05/19/2022: Mr. Tracy to provide evidence by this day (deadline, nothing will be submitted after this date);
- 06/02/2022: School Committee members will have completed their written evaluations; discussion to take place during the meeting;
- 06/16/2022: Evaluations compiled: discussion and vote on approving compilation.

D. Discussion Letter to AG - Website Issue

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Bailey drafted the letter to Hanne Rush, Office of the Attorney General, as presented in the [exhibit](#).

There are a few typographical errors pointed out, including a factual error to be corrected: the district was unable to have a meeting for 8 days (as opposed to 10).

There is discussion regarding the specific request in the letter; posting locations (one official posting location and a backup is not currently allowed); State Representatives involvement; etc.

Ms. Allara is comfortable with this letter which asks for emergency posting procedures. She is seeking the School Committee's approval to send this letter.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE AUTHORIZE CHAIRPERSON DANA ALLARA TO SEND THE LETTER PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, SUBJECT TO THE MINOR TYPOGRAPHICAL CHANGES AS WELL AS THE CORRECTION TO THE DURATION OF THE RANSOMWARE ATTACK, AS DISCUSSED IN THIS MEETING.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

Julia Campbell	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

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

E. Vote Universal Free Lunch Resolution

[Exhibit](#)

WHEREAS: THE COST OF SCHOOL MEALS FOR LOW-INCOME CHILDREN HAS LONG BEEN A BARRIER TO PROPER NUTRITION, AND AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS EXACERBATED HUNGER, 23% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN ARE NOW EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY; AND

WHEREAS: SCHOOLS HAVE TRADITIONALLY USED MEANS OF TESTING TO DETERMINE WHO QUALIFIES FOR SCHOOL LUNCH, BUT MEANS OF TESTING CAN BE INVASIVE, AND FAILS TO CAPTURE AND ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS WHOSE FAMILIES BARELY EXCEED INCOME LIMITS, AND WHO STRUGGLE TO PAY FOR EVEN REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS; AND

WHEREAS: FEDERAL WAIVERS DURING THE PANDEMIC HAVE PROVIDED FREE MEALS AT ALL SCHOOL SITES THAT ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE TO ENSURE STUDENTS DO NOT GO HUNGRY, AND HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED THAT MEANS TESTING IS NOT NECESSARY; AND

WHEREAS: THE H.714 AND S.314 BILLS, AN ACT RELATIVE TO UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS, WOULD STRIP AWAY MEANS TESTING IN SCHOOLS AND MAKE SCHOOL MEALS FREE TO ALL STUDENTS; AND

WHEREAS: HAVING RELIABLE ACCESS TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE A CHILD'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, BUT PROTECT THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL, WHILE REMOVING THE STIGMA AROUND STUDENTS' ECONOMIC STATUS, CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE GO ON RECORD SUPPORTING H.714 AND S.314, AN ACT RELATIVE TO UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S SECRETARY BE AND HEREBY IS REQUESTED TO FORWARD SUITABLY ENGROSSED COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE ENTIRE MASSACHUSETTS STATE DELEGATION ON BEHALF OF THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Bailey does not understand completely how this will be paid for. She also asks how the district currently determines a student's low income status, and if these changes may impact Title I grant funding qualifications (economically disadvantaged students). Superintendent Tracy explains that he is not certain how the state would manage the data.

Jennifer Carr YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Dana Allara YES;
David Polito YES;
Julia Campbell YES;
Michelle Bailey YES;
Michelle Horgan YES.

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

F. Vote Regional Agreement Warrant Article

[Exhibit 1](#)
[Exhibit 2](#)
[Exhibit 3](#)

Note: the three (3) exhibits listed above were not initially included in the School Committee meeting agenda.

The *Negotiations Subcommittee* recommends favorable action on the revised Regional Agreement. Ms. Bailey explains that the revisions included condensed language that the town clerks follow the law and the towns hold elections on the same day.

There is some discussion about further revisions, including changing all titles (chairperson, board of selectmen, etc.) to gender neutral language.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE AMENDED REGIONAL AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED WITH THE AGREED UPON CHANGES SUGGESTED IN THIS EVENING'S MEETING.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Allara consults with Ms. Bailey about submitting this as a warrant. This initial motion is necessary, and an additional motion to submit as a warrant ([exhibit 3](#), above) to the towns will also be necessary.

Michelle Horgan YES;
Jennifer Carr YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Dana Allara YES;
David Polito YES;
Julia Campbell YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE SENDING THE REVISED REGIONAL AGREEMENT AS A WARRANT TO BOTH TOWNS FOR TOWN MEETING.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

David Polito YES;

Dana Allara YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Jennifer Carr YES;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Michelle Bailey YES;
Julia Campbell YES.

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

8. Finance and Operations

A. Direction for Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Leone explains that Kevin Mahoney, *District Assistant Treasurer*, left his position, and as a result, Mr. Leone is seeking the School Committee's guidance about filling the vacant position. The School Committee agrees that Mr. Leone and his team should proceed with posting the position and bringing forth his recommendation at a future School Committee meeting.

B. FY22 Year End Forecast as of Quarter Ending December 31, 2021

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

Mr. Leone explains the FY22 year-end budget forecast, explaining some of the challenges and obstacles present when providing an accurate end of year forecast. He reviews the major drivers that result in budget savings, as detailed in the presentations and documents found in the exhibits above. He is seeking the School Committee's approval about the spending (as detailed on page 16, [exhibit](#)), which would require the following transfers:.

- Transfer \$219,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Fixed Assets" (Technology)
- Transfer \$60,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Capital, Operations, Maintenance" (Furniture)
- Transfer \$50,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Capital, Operations, Maintenance" (MS/HS Gym Sound System)
- Transfer \$40,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Capital, Operations, Maintenance" (HS roof)
- Transfer \$40,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Capital, Operations, Maintenance" (Athletic equipment)
- Transfer \$35,000 from "Insurance, Retirement, Other" to "Capital, Operations, Maintenance" (MS/HS PA System)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY22 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS RECOMMENDED HEREIN BY THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION AND AS PRESENTED ON THE PREVIOUS SLIDE ENTITLED "TRANSFERS NEEDED" (PAGE 17, [EXHIBIT](#)).

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Julia Campbell YES;
David Polito YES;
Dana Allara YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Jennifer Carr YES;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

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

9. Policy

A. Review Face Coverings Policy

[Exhibit 1](#)

Mr. Tracy reviews the current COVID data; pool testing results; survey results and comments from surveys; and his recommendation ([exhibit 7](#)) as presented. There is a lengthy discussion about the masking mandate; survey data; community feedback; CDC guidance; State and DESE leadership (or lack thereof); current scientific research; February break; teacher opinions; additional obstacles in this decision making process. School Committee members offer their opinions on the masking mandate and plan to remove the mandate.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO MEET FOR UP TO 30 MINUTES AS NEEDED (UNTIL 10:30 PM).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Michelle Bailey	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES.

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

Discussion continues surrounding the mask mandate. Ms. Allara anticipates the School Committee voting on this matter during the 03/03/2022 meeting. Ms. Allara summarizes what she has heard from the School Committee, and the changes she has heard requested. There is some discussion about adding clarity about other mitigation strategies to remain in place, as well as clarification about bus transportation.

There is discussion about the date to remove the mask mandate, with some members voicing a preference to change 03/07/2022 to 03/14/2022.

Ms. Allara clarifies that the School Committee will consider community feedback and data based on February break, and vote on this issue on 03/03/2022.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO MEET FOR AN ADDITIONAL APPROXIMATE 3 MINUTES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Julia Campbell	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Jennifer Carr	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;

Michelle Bailey YES.

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

10. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy reports that the District has received the accelerating literacy learning with high quality instructional materials grant.

~~11. Committee Reports~~

~~A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee~~

~~B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee~~

~~C. Negotiations Subcommittee~~

12. Chair's Report

Ms. Allara reports the candidates who are running for the open School Committee seats:

Confirmed: Courtney Ashwood (W); David Frenkel (W); David Polito (W); Andrea Van Boven (W)

Unconfirmed: Brian Scudder (H); Lauren Lambert (W); Amy Kuneberger (H).

~~13. Topics for Future Meetings~~

14. Vote to Adjourn

There is no need for the Executive Session originally listed on tonight's agenda.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 02/17/2022 MEETING AT 10:35 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

Julia Campbell YES;

David Polito YES;

Dana Allara YES;

Anna Siedzik YES;

Jennifer Carr YES;

Michelle Horgan YES;

Michelle Bailey YES.

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

Respectfully submitted March 4 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
