



**HAMILTON-WENHAM**  
**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)**  
**Zoom Webinar ID: 957 6709 9243**  
**Meeting Password: 226379**  
**Tuesday, August 25, 2020**  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

Michelle Bailey, Chairperson  
Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson  
Dana Allara, Secretary  
Anna Siedzik, Vice Secretary  
Peter Wolczik  
David Polito  
Stacey Metternick

**Also Present:**

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent  
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, and Operations  
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

**1. Call to Order**

5:00 PM

With quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

**2. 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. Total comment time will be limited to 20 minutes.

School Committee members note their frustration around the Zoom virtual committee meeting invitations/emails, and encourage a more unified approach moving forward.

*Deborah Clapp, HWRSD Teacher:* Notes her surprise that teachers began in-person this morning, and remains perplexed that remote is available only as an option and not the baseline. Ms. Clapp details the challenges present in a hybrid model, and implores the School Committee to do the right thing (remote only education to begin the school year).

*Marcie Sidlowski, HWRSD, MRMS Teacher:* Points out the difference and consequences between intention and action. Ms. Sidlowski highlights many of the challenges presented in a hybrid model of education, further noting that both teachers and students have been denied the chance to speak during discussions on the re-opening plan.

*Allison Spies, 14 Farrington Lane, Hamilton:* Supports the teachers in their comments this evening, and apologizes for the challenges they face. She reiterates that there are many parents who fully support the teachers.

*Jessica Merritt, HWRSD/MRMS counselor:* She voices her concerns surrounding the preparations for re-opening schools, as well as concerns surrounding voicing the concerns. Ms. Merritt is currently in her 3rd trimester, and as such she worries about the high risk she and her unborn face. She is also concerned about the other Middle School counselor facing challenges in returning to in-person/hybrid model. She implores the School Committee to reconsider a remote only opening.

*Beth Blanchard, HWRSD/Buker/Retired:* Notes her concerns around the hybrid model for re-opening schools, citing the many school districts across the state that have opted for beginning with a remote model.

*Jaqueline Johnson, HWRSD Winthrop/ Buker:* She teaches elementary Art at both Buker and Winthrop Schools. She is not excited about school reopening, and notes some of the challenges including the high risk medical issues she and others face.

### 3. **New Business**

#### A. Vote to Adjourn into Executive Session

Exhibit

Ms. Bailey states that the Executive Session meeting will take no more than 30 minutes.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:28 PM FOR PURPOSE #2, TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, AND TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.**

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

David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of 7 members present.**

*Executive Session meets from 5:28 PM - 6:14 PM.*

#### B. Vote to approve COVID related Policies

Ms. Seidzik explains how the Policy Subcommittee approached discussion and reached decision surrounding the two policies listed below.

- Face Coverings (EBCFA)

Exhibit

Discussion regarding the policy as detailed in the [exhibit](#). This was approved (3:0) in the most recent Policy Subcommittee meeting. Brief discussion regarding expected discipline for noncompliance, Student Handbook changes, etc.

Ms. Bailey notes that approving these policies involves setting aside normal School Committee procedure: 1st and 2nd policy readings.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE SET ASIDE THE ORDER OF APPROVING THE POLICY, FACE COVERINGS (EBCFA).**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

**MOTION WITHDRAWN by Dana Allara.**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUSPEND THE NORMAL APPROVAL ORDER FOR THE TWO POLICIES BEFORE US THIS EVENING, FACE COVERINGS (EBCFA) AND POLICY ISSUES FOR THE PANDEMIC (EBC SUPPLEMENTAL).\_\_\_\_\_**

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

*Discussion:* Clarification offered that the current motion and vote would allow suspension of the first and second reading for the two specific policies; a motion to approve those policies will occur after voting to suspend the normal order of first/second readings prior to approval.

Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of 7 members present.**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FACE COVERINGS POLICY AS PRESENTED BY THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE, AND AS DETAILED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

*Discussion:* Members discuss whether this policy is approved by the Teachers' Association and how the vote proceeds specifically regarding changes to the Student Handbook.

Dana Allara	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;
David Polito	NO;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

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

- Policy Issues for the Pandemic (EBC Supplemental)\_\_\_\_\_

[Exhibit](#)

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE POLICY ISSUES FOR THE PANDEMIC (EBC SUPPLEMENTAL), AS PRESENTED BY THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE, AND AS DETAILED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

Dana Allara	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;

David Polito NO;  
Peter Wolczik NO;  
Michelle Horgan YES;  
Anna Siedzik YES;  
Michelle Bailey YES.

**MOTION PASSES via majority roll call vote (5:2) of 7 members present.**

C. Vote to approve MOU Exhibit  
Once the Hamilton - Wenham Education Association ratifies the MOU, the School Committee will vote to approve the MOU.

D. Buildings Update Exhibit  
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, and Operations moves through the Buildings Update presentation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Discussion regarding health and safety in re-opening schools with a hybrid model.

E. Health Matrix from the Boards of Health  
Discussion regarding health matrix and determinants anticipated. The Boards of Health will be meeting to determine the health matrix. Dana Allara is the School Committee member appointed to the District's COVID-Response team.

F. Supporting Staff  
There is some misunderstanding regarding this item appearing on tonight's agenda.

Ms. Seidzik brings up the fact that there were a number of teachers who expressed some heartbreaking and emotional statements during the citizen's comments section of the meeting tonight. In combination with the number of leaves appearing, she humbly requests this issue be addressed at the next School Committee meeting. Mr. Wolczik seconds this request.

Ms. Seidzik states for the record and for the benefit of the community, that the statements from educators earlier this evening, as well as other negative consequences, are a result of moving forward with a hybrid re-opening plan that does not have the support of the district teachers/ Education Association.

Ms. Bailey explains that this discussion will happen at next week's meeting.

Mr. Polito notes that there is an agenda item in tonight's meeting for discussion regarding this issue. He argues that there is a need to have this discussion. Ms. Bailey explains the purpose of the agenda item "supporting staff" and reiterates the need for the School Committee to have a more detailed discussion in Executive Session. There is a passionate discussion and continued disagreement about how and when to address the issue of the teachers' concerns brought up earlier.

Ms. Bailey ends the discussion.

- 4. Superintendent's Report** Exhibit
- District is working on cohort assignments; anticipated placement by 09/01/2020;
  - DESE reports circulating stating Edgenuity is full. Ms. Banios clarifies that Hamilton - Wenham has been able to purchase the K-5 curriculum.
  - In response to requests to share more detailed survey information, Ms. Banios shares the enrollment data, as presented in the attached [exhibit](#).

Mr. Wolczik inquires as to further details surrounding the remote program platform, Edgenuity. Ms. Banios explains the platform in a bit more detail. Mr. Wolczik voices his concerns about the system, and encourages Ms. Banios to review the ratings of the program. Ms. Banios assures him that she is comfortable with the state and district decision to use this platform.

Ms. Bailey asks Ms. Banios to provide a total for each column/row in the [exhibit](#) table, or, alternatively, to port the table over to an Excel spreadsheet.

Ms. Siedzik points out the irregularities in some of the data presented, specifically data such as Grade 7 having almost 7% of families fully homeschooling. Ms. Seidzik wonders if the district has probed any of these families further. There is a discussion regarding the data and accuracy of the information. Ms. Seidzik notes that the uncertainty surrounding the remote model requirements may be driving many families to choose alternative options.

## 5. **Chair's Report**

- Ms. Bailey requests an update on the HWRHS full-remote model, as numbers presented this evening are different than her understanding;
- District received \$43,000 technology grant;
- Ms. Bailey encourages School Committee members to prepare for a long meeting on 09/02/2020
  - Brief discussion regarding start time of meeting (typically 7:00 PM start time).

## 6. **Committee Reports**

Ms. Bailey reminds the School Committee to provide the year end reports to the appropriate group/committee that members serve as liaison to.

### A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

No update.

### B. Policy Subcommittee

Reviewed earlier in the meeting (face coverings and pandemic related policies).

### C. Negotiations Subcommittee

No update.

## 7. **Consent Agenda**

### A. Warrants

- Voucher No. 2931
- Voucher No. 2930
- Voucher No. 2928
- Voucher No. 2919
- Voucher No. 2918
- Voucher No. 1003
- Voucher No. 1005
- Voucher No. 1004
- Voucher No. 5
- Voucher No. 2929
- Voucher No. 2926
- Voucher No. 6
- Voucher No. 2933
- Voucher No. 2932
- Voucher No. 1006

[Exhibit](#)

B. Minutes

- June 3, 2020
- June 10, 2020
- June 17, 2020
- July 8, 2020

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

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WARRANTS LISTED ABOVE IN THE THE CONSENT AGENDA, AS WELL AS THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUNE 3 2020, JUNE 10 2020, AND JUNE 17 2020; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of 7 members present.**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE prior meeting minutes of JUNE 3 2020, JUNE 10 2020, AND JUNE 17 2020; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

*Discussion:* The minutes are inaccessible to School Committee members. Ms. Allara will work with Ms. Lettvin and administration to ensure minutes are accessible moving forward.

**MOTION TABLED until minutes are accessible.**

**8. Other**

A. Topics for Future Meetings

- Teacher, staff, and community concerns around school re-opening;
- Update regarding the data from surveys regarding Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School full-remote model;
- Health Matrix from the Boards of Health (originally listed in this evening's agenda);
- Staffing update;
  - Mr. Wolczik requests an update specifically regarding custodial substitutes. Ms. Banios notes that she will be able to present a staffing update, but this level of detail may not be available until a later date.
- Approval of prior meeting minutes;

**9. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:01 PM FOR PURPOSE #2, TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, AND NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.**

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

Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Stacey Metternick	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of 7 members present.**

*Executive Session meets from 8:01 PM - 8:49 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted August 28th, 2020 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

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\*\*Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Please [click here](#) to read the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.\*\*

\*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the [Zoom.com](#) application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select "Join Meeting" in the upper right corner and enter the webinar id: **957 6709 9243**; password: **226379**. The community should ask questions via the "chat" function within the Zoom application during the Citizen's Comments section. During the Zoom meeting, participants will be given instructions on how to provide their comments. Unfortunately, we must limit the in-person conversations to just the Committee members. However, for the benefit of all, the School Committee meetings will be available on our local cable channel, HWCam, and [HWCam.org](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.