



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

**School Committee Executive Session Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2020: 5:40 PM**

Present:

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

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, Superintendent
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

Executive Session meeting is in session from 5:40 PM - 6:14 PM and again from 8:05 PM - 8:40 PM.

The School Committee reviews the most current *Memorandum of Agreement* between the Hamilton - Wenham Regional School Committee and the Hamilton - Wenham Educational Association, as distributed previously through email. Ms. Bailey reviews the most recent updates and changes to the document, explaining that HWEA will need to ratify the agreement before the School Committee votes to approve it. Superintendent Banios review the MOU, providing a summary of each bulleted item.

Discussion regarding criteria for in-person learning; developing the COVID Response Team; district responsibilities; possible change in language surrounding public municipalities; status of developing/approving a district Mask/Face-Covering policy; etc.

Discussion regarding the process and status of developing health metrics and pivots to alternative learning models. Superintendent Banios notes that the first meeting of the COVID Response Team will occur tomorrow, 08/26/2020, at 1:00 PM. Dana Allara is the COVID Response Team's representative from the School Committee.

Superintendent Banios provides an overview of the district's current leave requests/policy; emergency paid sick leave policy; and other considerations in the face of pandemic. She explains that the district is following all laws and has hired an outside consultant to assist with the increased workload.

There is a lengthy discussion surrounding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. Superintendent Banios reviews the district policies, with School Committee members following up with questions surrounding ADA, FMLA, and individual staff circumstances.

There is continued discussion regarding the district's plan to address positive COVID cases, as well as abiding by the Board of Health record keeping protocol.

There is discussion regarding cleanliness of facilities, as well as other considerations outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement. The MOA would expire at the end of the federal emergency.

After expressing some concerns, Ms. Metternick requests that the district's legal counsel, Naomi Stonberg, review the MOA. Ms. Banios agrees and will provide Ms. Stonberg with the document.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 08/25/2020 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING AT 6:14 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

**School Committee Executive Session Meeting
Resumes 8:05 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
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

There is discussion regarding the best strategy for hearing from teaching staff (separate meeting versus “listening coffee” or some other option). There is a lengthy discussion regarding the anticipated length and content of the teachers’ comments. The School Committee has received more than 30 emails. There is some disagreement about the best approach in handling the concerns.

There is some discussion regarding the School Committee’s vote to enter into the hybrid model of education, and the potential complications should teachers not be heard.

School Committee members agree to allow district teaching staff to voice their concerns on Monday, 08/31/2020 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

Discussion regarding structure of the Superintendent hosted “coffee” hours on zoom.

Ms. Bailey will speak with HWEA Union President and follow up with Superintendent Banios.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 08/25/2020 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING AT 8:49 PM.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Dana Allara.

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

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

Respectfully submitted December 27th, 2020 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

**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.