



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: 916 7283 3551
Meeting Passcode: 775669
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
7:00 PM - 9:00 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
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations
Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. This meeting is being recorded by HWCAM and held remotely per the Governor's emergency order.

Ms. Bailey reads a statement regarding the School Committee's policies, protocols, and accepted practices surrounding public comments. Ms. Horgan reads a statement from herself and Chairperson Bailey regarding diversity of opinions, district administration dedication and work, and the absolute necessity for the School Committee to unite in respectful and meaningful deliberations.

Mr. Polito points out that the above statement comes across as accusatory, and he would like the record to reflect that the statement does not reflect the views and opinions of the entire School Committee.

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.

Jen Carr, 5 Meridian Road, Wenham: Dr. Carr appears to offer a comment surrounding the district following protocols; Superintendent's accountability to parents and the community; as well as the general aspects of communication (referencing Citizen Comment section of District Policies, B2005). She notes that she sent a letter compiling the concerns of the community, and this letter has largely been ignored. She implores the Superintendent and School Committee to prioritize communication, and requests a Public Meeting is held to offer the chance for meaningful dialogue to occur.

Mary Montgomery-Koppel, *40 Perkins St., Wenham*: Ms. Montgomery-Koppel commends district staff and administration, as she has observed excellent procedures as far as drop off/pick up, mask wearing, and other aspects of in-person learning. She does, however, note the legitimate concerns brought forth by many in the community, specifically surrounding face-to-face learning time; parent oversight; and additional concerns. As she has stated in numerous past emails, she encourages the district to reevaluate the education model implemented, with consideration given to a phased model of reentry and possible timeline changes in pivoting models.

Pamela Stein, *address unknown*: Ms. Stein is a parent to a 7th grade MRMS student. She offers a comment regarding DESE regulations, specifically noting the requirements set forth around synchronous/asynchronous learning. Citing the DESE requirements for remote learning, she points to information that would suggest the district is failing to meet those requirements, specifically with regard to time on learning. She notes that parents seeking information have largely been ignored. Ms. Stein requests that a special public meeting be scheduled, or alternatively, that the district develop a clear plan for responding to parents' requests and questions. She stresses the importance of moving forward with a collaborative approach.

Joelle Moroney, *116 Grapevine Road, Wenham*: Ms. Moroney thanks the Superintendent for hosting the recent Coffee Hours. She believes these time slots are well executed, informative, and shed light on the incredible amount of behind-the-scenes work necessary for the district. She was surprised that these Coffee Hours were not better attended. She hopes that the Hamilton - Wenham community can pull together through these rough times, and rally behind the district in their efforts.

Allie Moffatt, *2 Smithwood Terrace, Hamilton*: Ms. Moffatt points to the clear evidence showing that district teaching staff is being spread too thin. She stresses the importance of parents becoming more involved in the district's plans moving forward. Specifically, she would like parents to be involved in discussions, and provided answers surrounding staff leaves, synchronous/asynchronous learning, staffing turnover, time on learning, and pivoting between models. Ms. Moffatt also notes that staff leaves are a growing concern, and wonders why those staff who request leaves are not transitioned into a role for remote learning. She encourages the district to consider whether they have the resources to support the hybrid model as previously presented. Ms. Moffatt requests a Public Meeting with the School Committee, Superintendent, District Administration, and parents/community present.

Jeremy Coffey, *45 Kimball Road, Wenham*: Mr. Coffey thanks the School Committee, Superintendent Banios, District Administration and all district staff and teachers for their incredibly hard work during impossible challenges presented by the pandemic. Although he notes that he did not agree with all actions taken by the district, he is convinced that everyone is acting with best intentions for the District.

Ms. Bailey ends the Citizen's Comment portion of the meeting at 7:31 PM, requesting that those still wishing to offer public comment email her at m.bailey@hwschools.net.

3. New Business

A. [Vote to approve the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student Handbook](#) [Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK, AS SHOWN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik points out the numerous discrepancies, both within the document itself, as well as with the broader district policies and practices. Mr. Tracy joins the discussion regarding standardizing the Student Handbook; District's policies/procedures regarding dress code and graduation requirements; language surrounding mask requirements and perceived conflicts; revisions necessary; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR, ADDING THE FOLLOWING UNDERLINED LANGUAGE: THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK, AS SHOWN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#), WITH APPROVAL CONTINGENT ON THE AGREEMENT THAT THE 2021/2022 SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK WILL BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

- (1) STANDARDIZING POLICY WITHIN THE DOCUMENT TO DISTRICT POLICY;**
- (2) CONSISTENCY OF TERMINOLOGY USAGE WITHIN THE HANDBOOK ITSELF;**
- AND**
- (3) ELIMINATING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN STATED POLICY AND ACTUAL PRACTICES IN DISTRICT OPERATIONS.**

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: Mr. Tracy would like the record to reflect that the Student Handbook is currently aligned with policies as written, and if and when such policies change, the handbook will reflect and align with those changes. There is a brief discussion regarding the Student Council, with Superintendent Banios recommending that Ms. Siedzik consult with this group to address her concerns as discussed this evening.

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

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

ORIGINAL MOTION:

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

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

*Ms. Siedzik initially votes YES then changes her vote to NO after all roll call votes were taken.

B. MASC Resolutions

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Polito was previously appointed¹ as Hamilton - Wenham district representative for the 11/07/2020 MASC conference.

¹ Through unanimous roll call vote of six (6) members present at the 10/06/2020 School Committee Workshop.
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This agenda item authorizes Mr. Polito to vote in the affirmative for the MASC resolutions, as presented in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT OF THE MASC RESOLUTIONS AND TO AUTHORIZE DAVID POLITO, SERVING AS DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE 11/07/2020 MASC CONFERENCE, TO VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE FOR ALL MASC RESOLUTIONS AS WRITTEN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

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 seven (7) members present.

C. Vote to fund additional Elementary Special Education position [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios explains the changes (reflected in the [exhibit](#)) that became necessary since her original request for a .5 level elementary special education position. Superintendent Banios explains that the position has been posted for about 2.5 weeks, and the district has received no inquiries/applications. Ms. Banios therefore requests an amendment to the approved position: changing this to a 1.0 position, and changing the position responsibilities to include assisting with remote learning and individualized services to students. Superintendent Banios clarifies that at least .5 of the position's responsibilities would focus on the District's elementary remote learning platform (APL).

Ms. Metternick is concerned about hiring for this position given the detrimental impact on the budget. Ms. Metternick also brings up concerns regarding the backlog of testing, and the possibility of relying on the services of a consultant. There is discussion regarding the logistics of testing; consultant work; and the changes made to the position in order to encourage qualified candidates. Superintendent Banios explains that this position, as presented, does fall within the district's available budget. Ms. Metternick reiterates her concerns about the budget implications in posting such a position.

Mr. Wolczik appreciates the planning that went into this, believes this will be a positive addition to the district, and hopes to see additional proactive approaches throughout other departments.

There is some discussion surrounding the remedy offered by posting the position at 1.0 rather than 0.5. Ms. Siedzik inquires as to potential compliance issues with this position not being filled. Superintendent Banios explains that all districts throughout the state are facing a similar struggle, and that though there is no imminent risk, Hamilton - Wenham does need to be showing efforts to get back into compliance. Mr Leone joins the discussion, offering a more detailed explanation around costs involved with the current recommendation.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL ELEMENTARY SPECIAL EDUCATION 1.0 POSITION, AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) AND DISCUSSED HEREIN.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

D. Final Review and Vote to approve 20-21 District Goals [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios explains the changes to the 2020/2021 District Goals based on feedback she received at her presentation during the 10/06/20 School Committee Workshop. Discussion regarding modifications; carrying out goals related to district strategic planning; meeting the goals as outlined; potential use of outside consultants; etc.

Discussion regarding community feedback and School Committee's involvement when revising and finalizing the 20-21 District Goals.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ENTRY PLAN PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDED 20-21 DISTRICT GOALS DATED OCTOBER 21, 2020, AS WRITTEN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding the historical and appropriate approach when developing these district goals. Superintendent Banios is concerned about further extending the timeline to approve these goals. Ms. Bailey adds that under normal circumstances, the School Committee would have developed and approved School Committee goals over the summer. There is discussion surrounding the School Committee's roles and responsibilities, including their involvement in crafting district goals.

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

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

E. October 1 Enrollment Report [Exhibit 1](#)
[Exhibit 2](#)

Superintendent Banios explains the enrollment data found in [exhibit 1](#) and [exhibit 2](#), as detailed above. Discussion regarding staffing margins; budget implications; school choice students; anticipated and unanticipated trends in the data as presented; etc.

Mr. Leone agrees to provide a detailed School Choice enrollment report, as specifically requested by Ms. Metternick.

Superintendent Banios anticipates that enrollment data will be certified by the State before the second meeting in November.

4. Finance & Operations

A. First Quarter Update

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the first quarter budget update, COVID related expenses, and his suggested budget transfers, as detailed in [exhibit 1](#) & [exhibit 2](#), above. Mr. Leone provides the School Committee with an updated budget forecast, noting that this year has been remarkably turbulent. Mr. Leone reviews the major budget drivers; employee leave requests; additional staffing for hybrid model; maintenance & facilities department; technology department (pending/potential technology grant); district wide items (including PPE expenses and both HR and Public Relations Support); anticipated revenue loss; anticipated savings; year end forecast by DAC; year end forecast by DESE category; FY21 items still in motion, etc.

Discussion regarding Zoom costs, with Mr. Wolczik recommending that the district reevaluate associated expenses and consider alternative platforms.

Mr. Leone reminds the School Committee that future budget transfers will be needed, however the budget transfers he requests this evening are corrective in nature:

- *Transfer \$81,000 from “Instructional Leadership” to “Inst. Materials”. This corrects the Teacher on Special Assignment and moves the budget to technology/software*
- *Transfer \$19,000 from “Capital, Operations, Maintenance” to “Inst. Materials”. This corrects the HVAC study (now grant funded) to cover the additional furniture costs needed for social distancing*

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FY21 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TRANSFERS AS RECOMMENDED HEREIN BY ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION, AND AS PRESENTED ON THE PREVIOUS SLIDE ENTITLED *SUGGESTED BUDGET TRANSFERS Q1* (AND ALSO REFLECTED IN THE LANGUAGE IN THE PARAGRAPH ABOVE).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.

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

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

5. Policy

A. First Reading Title IX

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik explains that the Harassment/Title IX policy, as shown in the [exhibit](#) above, is federally mandated. Upon consultation with Ms. Presser, the Policy Subcommittee voted unanimously (3:0) to approve the policy as written. It is anticipated that the laws will change, which will then require additional revisions. The second reading of this policy will occur at the next School Committee meeting on 11/04/2020.

B. First Reading School Committee Protocols

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik reviews the revised School Committee Protocols, as shown in the [exhibit](#) above. She explains that the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* voted to approve the changes unanimously (3:0) at the 10/14/20 subcommittee meeting.

There is discussion regarding the appropriate approach should continued violations of these protocols occur.

There is a lengthy discussion regarding how these School Committee protocols are designed and how to best ensure that the School Committee reestablishes a level of professionalism and trust from the community.

Ms. Bailey suggests a possible debriefing meeting (not in violation of the Open Meeting Law) following all School Committee meetings.

There is discussion and clarification offered about keeping communication transparent. Ms. Siedzik explains that the language “relevant to overall district policy or operations” was added to be a blanket statement with room for individual members to implement common sense when forwarding emails. The Policy/Legislative Subcommittee will meet again on 11/02/2020, and the School Committee will address this in more detail at the 11/10/2020 workshop.

6. **Chair’s Report**

- The Hamilton-Wenham SEPAC is hosting a virtual event on Thursday, 10/22/2020 at 6:00 PM. The event will focus on strategies to best support students through the heightened anxiety and trauma. This event is open to all Hamilton - Wenham district parents and caregivers. Location: <https://zoom.us/j/96571679114?pwd=UDdlMG1IZ2hocU1KOUQwOFZleGdKQTo9> and Passcode: 893619.

7. **Superintendent’s Report**

Superintendent Banios reports that the district is continuously open to receiving feedback on the District’s Learning Models. She reminds the School Committee and community that she is hosting coffee hours with the community, which began this week. These will be ongoing, and evening options will be made available in the near future.

A. School Closure Announcement

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the school closure announcement memo, including the methods of communication; possible scenarios; family emergency contact information; etc., as detailed in the [exhibit](#) above.

Superintendent Banios updates information on Twitter, via [@Baniosbeth](#). Mr. Geary clarifies that the official Twitter communications will be available via [@HW_SCHOOLS](#).

B. Political Discourse in our Schools

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the 10/14/2020 letter, as shown in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding the current political climate; district policies; community values; etc.

Superintendent Banios explains that students are afforded more flexibility than teachers as far as political discourse. She clarifies that matters of social justice and human dignity are allowed, however support of a candidate because they support those same issues are not allowed. Superintendent Banios clarifies that the

district's ultimate goal is to maintain a safe and respectful environment. As such, the district will restrict free speech only in situations that may endanger others.

Ms. Bailey notes that the time is now 10:33 PM, which is significantly later than the scheduled meeting time. She asks if the School Committee would like to proceed with the meeting agenda, with the majority of members communicating a desire to continue and finish the meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

- Vote charge and name change

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE OF THE CAPITAL/FINANCIAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE CHANGING ITS NAME TO THE *CAPITAL PLANNING AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE*; AND FURTHER APPROVE THE CAPITAL PLANNING AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE CHARGE, AS WRITTEN BELOW:

***CAPITAL*: ADVOCATE AND EXECUTE A LIST OF NEEDS TO MEET THE SHORT AND LONG TERM CAPITAL NEEDS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. *HW TURF*: WILL BE AN ADVISORY GROUP TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. ANY DECISIONS MADE BY THE WORKING GROUP AND ALL RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE *CAPITAL PLANNING AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE*. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BRING ALL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FULL SCHOOL COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.**

***FINANCE*: REVIEW AND IMPROVE THE BUDGET PROCESS TO MEET THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN A TRANSPARENT AND COLLABORATIVE MANNER. THE GROUP WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.**

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.

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

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

Ms. Metternick will send the name change and the charge of the subcommittee to Superintendent Banios in order to make appropriate updates.

b. Policy Subcommittee

- Vote charge and name change

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE CHANGING THE NAME TO *POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE*.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;

Stacey Metternick YES;
David Polito YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

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

c. Negotiations Subcommittee

There is no update.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 2944
- Voucher No. 2939
- Voucher No. 1014
- Voucher No. 10
- Voucher No. 1013
- Voucher No. 2943

b. Minutes

- September 2, 2020
- September 16, 2020

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

~~e. Accept Donations~~

- ~~● Hamilton/Wenham High School Girls' Soccer Boosters~~
- ~~● Friends of MRMS/HWRHS - Adirondack Chairs~~

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WARRANTS AND PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (SECTIONS A AND B) AS LISTED ABOVE IN THE CONSENT AGENDA, EXCLUDING SECTION C, DONATIONS; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.

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

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

Accept Donations (originally listed as C in the Consent Agenda, above)

Hamilton/Wenham High School Girls' Soccer Boosters

[Exhibit](#)

Friends of MRMS/HWRHS - Adirondack Chairs

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE HAMILTON/WENHAM HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER BOOSTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,306 FOR PURPOSES OF FUNDING TWO (2) .5 GIRLS SOCCER COACHES; AND THE DONATION OF 50 PLASTIC ADIRONDACK CHAIRS FOR STUDENTS TO USE FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND LEARNING SPACES FROM THE FRIENDS OF MRMS/HWRHS.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

Thanks you to the Hamilton - Wenham High School Girls' Soccer Boosters and the Friends of MRMS/HWRHS for their generous donations!

10. Other

A. Topics for next meeting (Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 @ 7:00 PM)

- Retiring General's Logo (Ms. Bailey recommends addressing this after Town Meetings);
- Community feedback process (Ms. Bailey believes this has been addressed, others disagree, as noted in the discussion, below);
- District enrollment report (Ms. Bailey believes this has been addressed);
- Staffing update (Ms. Bailey believes this has been addressed);
- Principal update (Ms. Metternick requests, Superintendent explains that reports are scheduled: 11/18/2020 elementary update and 12/02/2020 secondary update);

Ms. Metternick and Ms. Siedzik agree that the updates about learning models are not scheduled soon enough.

Ms. Siedzik formally requests a Special Meeting to include a significant public hearing component to hear from families and community members about learning models, and to discuss the district's feedback process. Ms. Siedzik goes on to explain that it is clear that the public would appreciate a dialogue (scheduled sooner rather than later) with the Superintendent, district administration, and the School Committee. Ms. Siedzik, Mr. Polito, and Mr. Wolczik vocalize their support of such a meeting.

Ms. Siedzik requests the agenda item: "Feedback process and plan development with community input and opportunity for Superintendent Q&A".

There is a lengthy discussion surrounding criteria and purposes of a *Special Meeting* versus *Public Hearing* and which structure best accommodates the communicated intention of the meeting. Ms. Bailey explains that the Superintendent does not attend Special Meetings of the School Committee. There is some disagreement and tension about the scheduling of such a meeting. Mr. Polito is frustrated that the School Committee and the community have made the need for the meeting clear, and there is obvious reluctance to honor this. Ms. Bailey reiterates that members will need to communicate their availability and she will need a specific agenda for this meeting.

There is some discussion regarding whether the Superintendent Coffee Hour meetings satisfy the needs that have led to the meeting being requested (members disagree on this). There is discussion regarding the procedure in calling a Special Meeting (three School Committee members must request, there is no motion needed) and how to call for a Public Hearing (with some disagreement, but argued that the majority of members must vote in favor a motion made specifically for the purpose).

Mr. Polito is frustrated that a seemingly simple request for a meeting is so adamantly opposed by Chairperson Bailey. Ms. Bailey expresses her frustration that the current School Committee meeting is running so far beyond the scheduled time, and that she personally does not want to dedicate 4 more hours to hearing complaints. She believes that the meeting being requested will include irrelevant information.

Ms. Horgan and Ms. Allara believe that the Superintendent Coffee Hours satisfy the needs of the community and School Committee. There is continued disagreement surrounding this.

Ms. Bailey notes that the time is now after 11:00 PM, and asks School Committee members if they are interested in continuing the current meeting. Ms. Siedzik, Mr. Polito, Mr. Wolczik, and Ms. Allara (and possibly others) indicate their desire to continue.

Ms. Siedzik reiterates that the questions she would like answered would best be heard in a public meeting. Ms. Metternick adds that with budget season right around the corner, it is crucial that community members feel heard right now. There is continued discussion about the meeting structures, with Ms. Siedzik reading from [District Policy B2010](#):

If the School Committee believes that an issue requires a dialogue with the District community, the School Committee may schedule a separate public hearing on that open issue.

There is ongoing disagreement about the interpretation of this policy, with Ms. Bailey stating that the School Committee only acts through a majority of members, so holding such a meeting would require majority vote.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO FACILITATE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENT, ON ISSUES RELATED TO DISTRICT REMOTE AND HYBRID LEARNING MODELS, AND ON THAT SAME DAY, TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING TO ALLOW THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO FOLLOW UP WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT, AND FURTHER DISCUSS THE PROCESS AND PLAN MOVING FORWARD TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK, INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DISTRICT'S LEARNING MODELS.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: Mr. Polito notes that the public has a right to know the district's strategy and receive answers to their questions. Mr. Polito has not participated in the Superintendent phone conversations, as he does not have questions. However, he would like the community to be as well informed as he is and therefore would like a meeting to be scheduled. Ms. Horgan is concerned that the meeting will put Superintendent Banios on the spot. There is discussion regarding the logistical elements of the Superintendent Coffee Hours, including scheduling and methods of communicating those meeting dates/times to the public.

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

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

Ms. Bailey implores School Committee members to respond to the poll she will circulate to determine members' availability.

11. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 10/21/2020 MEETING AT 11:24 PM.

MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.

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

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

Respectfully submitted November 29th, 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.

*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:916 7283 3551; passcode: 775669. 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.