



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

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**  
**Webinar ID: 996 3902 0906**  
**Passcode: 974910**  
**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**  
**7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

**Present:**

Michelle Bailey, Chairperson  
Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson  
Dana Allara, Secretary  
Anna Siedzik, Vice Secretary  
David Polito  
Peter Wolczik  
Julia Campbell

**Also Present:**

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent  
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration  
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary  
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations  
Stacy Bucyk, Director of Student Services  
Ryan Roth, Secondary Special Education Coordinator  
Maureen Smith, Elementary Special Education Coordinator  
Lea Tabenkin, District Nurse Leader, High School Nurse  
Jenn Clifford, Cutler Elementary Principal  
Carolyn Shediak, Winthrop Elementary Principal  
Ben Schersten, Buker Elementary Principal  
Craig Hovey, MRMS Principal  
Liz Lovell, MRMS Assistant Principal  
Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal  
Bryan Menegoni, HWRHS Assistant Principal

**1. Call to Order**

6:30 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting is being recorded by HWCAM and held remotely per the Governor's emergency order. Ms. Horgan thanks the district leadership team and the public health nurses for participating tonight and answering questions from the community.

**2. Open Public Hearing**

*Community hearing to facilitate dialogue with the Superintendent and School Committee related to learning models.*

*Nicole Bradley, 110 Gregory Island Rd, Hamilton:* Ms. Bradley appears this evening on behalf of a group of over 288 concerned parents. The group is concerned about the COVID Response Team; the team's role in pivoting between learning models; the team seemingly circumventing MA Open Meeting Law; as well as

the membership and transparency of the team. She asks that a licensed medical doctor and parent are added to the team. She asks for a more formal vote regarding the COVID Response Team membership. Finally, she asks that the meetings are made available to the public for transparency purposes.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios explains the strategy behind the COVID Response Team membership, identifying each of the 9 members. She further explains that the team was designed as an advisory committee rather than a public body, as the team is tasked with discussing confidential information that would not be appropriate to share publicly. Ms. Clifford and Ms. Tabenkin speak more in depth about close contact measurements and tracing. Ms. Tabenkin provides information about the weekly consultations with epidemiologists. Mr. Geary speaks more in depth about data analysis/ review and the organizational structure of the team.

Mr. Polito appreciates the thoroughness of this response, however, he asks that the School Committee move forward given the current constraints of the agenda.

*Aimee Cooper, 108 Main St., Wenham:* Ms. Cooper is concerned about the shortage in substitute teachers and the impact that may have on students being able to attend school. She asks what parents and community members can do to help the district in this regard. She offers this question on behalf of the parent collective.

*Response:* Mr. Schersten explains that many of the primary substitute positions were designed specifically to allow parents to apply for those positions. Mr. Tracy explains the strategy in posting the secondary substitute positions. Mr. Leone provides the Schoolspring link to these positions through the chat.

*Allie Moffett, 2 Smithwood Terrace, Hamilton:* Ms. Moffett observes three overarching themes: (1) communication; (2) safety of students/staff; and (3) staffing crisis. She asks the preferred method for communication and questions/comments from the community moving forward. She inquires about the status of current staff on leave, as well as accommodations for teaching staff to teach remotely when needed. She asks if there are plans for further negotiations with the teaching staff, as well as future meetings with the Boards of Health.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios explains the district's staffing situation in more detail, noting that the issue in bringing back in person learning is maintaining 6 feet social distancing. Mr. Hovey, Ms. Shediak, and Ms. Bucyk elaborate on bringing in more students for in-person learning. Ms. Banios adds that the district is continually looking at the unique individual needs of students. She states that the district is planning for district snow days, and explains the complexities behind the planning.

*Jennifer Carr, 5 Meridian Rd., Wenham:* Ms. Carr is concerned about staff being in the classroom teaching, when the students are learning remotely.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios states that teachers can work remotely if the students are remote, but many teachers have supplies and prefer to work in the classroom. Mr. Schersten and Ms. Shediak elaborate, noting many teachers prefer to work in the classroom partly because of the available technology.

*Chris Moffett, 2 Smithwood Terrace, Hamilton:* Member of collective 300+ parents, stresses collaboration, wants a sense for plan going forward, more data drive, aligned with governor and dese, wants well founded thoughts and guidance to have kids back in school. also wants a sense for what teachers and schools think the kids have learned versus the normal curriculum.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios notes that the district agrees about the priority to have students back in person. The issue continues to be bringing back more students and maintaining the 6 feet social distancing. Mr. Tracy, Ms. Clifford, Ms. Shediak, Mr. Schersten elaborate on the details regarding complexities in bringing students back to in-person learning.

*Mary Koppel, 40 Perkins St., Wenham:* Ms. Koppel appreciated the update from primary schools. She asks about the timeline and planning process about bringing back K-1 grades. She also asks about any plans to renegotiate with the Teachers' Union specifically about revisiting the 6 foot social distancing in the MOA.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios explains the complexities involved in bringing back students for in-person learning. There are additional issues beyond just the 6 feet social distancing. Ms. Clifford and Mr. Schersten elaborate on some challenges, including pedagogy, technology, building space, etc.

*Tracey Westgate, 385 Lake Drive, Hamilton:* Reads a letter from her daughter, a remote learner in 5th grade. There are numerous aspects that are enjoyable, but the information and structure of Accelerate is frustrating. Ms. Westgate asks about the plan to improve the remote learning platform, specifically the Accelerate program.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios and Mr. Schersten provide details regarding the district's remote learning platform and current actions/planning to improve this learning.

8:00 PM: Discussion regarding extending the time for public comments. The School Committee agrees to allow more comments. Ms. Banios adds the link to providing comments.

*Jaqueline Maher, 142 Railroad Ave, Hamilton:* Ms. Maher is a 1997 graduate from the district and is a current teacher in the district. Her comment does not require a response at this time. She speaks about the lack of teachers' voices throughout this process. She is not proud of the way the district is handling the pandemic, specifically with the way community members have been treating each other. She implores the district, School Committee, and larger community to treat each other with grace, patience, and compassion moving forward.

*Anne Brady, 12 Gifford Rd., Hamilton:* Ms. Brady is a High School special education teacher in another district and parent to a student in Hamilton - Wenham. She asks how the district is addressing issues of equity for students, particularly regarding time on learning for students in the remote learning model.

*Response:* Mr. Tracy responds, noting the High School recently applied for an EdFund grant for streaming technology to allow for more equity.

*Tom Geary, 41 Ortins Rd., Hamilton:* Mr. Geary asks if there is any structure, criteria, or detailed plan for bringing students back full-time to in person learning, especially given the roll out of the vaccine in the near future.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios responds that this will be a process involving future conversations regarding health metrics and changing state guidance.

*Pamela Millman-Stein, 135 Lynn St. Peabody:* She urges the district to revisit the makeup and membership of the COVID Response Team. She also requests that the district develop a detailed and specific plan to bring each grade level back to in-person learning. She hopes this will be addressed in the very near future.

*Response:* Superintendent Banios responds that a lot of planning is currently underway, noting that circumstances can and will rapidly change.

*Kristin Procter, 18 Homestead Circle, Hamilton:* Ms. Procter has two students enrolled in remote only learning. She notes that there is a group of remote learners who are doing very well, and asks the community to include these students in social planning.

*Kristin Crockett, 5 Birch Rd. Wenham:* Ms. Crockett asks about specific scenarios involving contact tracing, and what, if any, procedures are in place for documenting close contacts.

*Response:* Ms. Tabenkin, explains the district's process in documenting close contacts. There is further elaboration from both Ms. Tabekin and Mr. Tracy regarding QR technology to monitor close contacts in the cafeteria and library. Ms. Clifford elaborates on the procedure surrounding bussing rosters and seating charts.

Ms. Bailey thanks everyone who offered comments this evening, and directs those still wishing to speak or ask questions to the Google Form circulated in the Zoom chat.

### **3. Open Special School Committee Meeting**

*Discuss the process for feedback about the plan. Discuss improvement to the plan in the hybrid/remote models.*

School Committee members share the 1-2 themes they observed throughout the public comments offered this evening. These themes include:

- Staffing concerns;
- More 1-1 contact in learning;
- Time on Learning;
- Equity, specifically with regard to remote learners;
- Learning Management System needed;
- Concerns regarding makeup/transparency of COVID Response Team;
- Lack of input/voice from teachers;
- 6 foot social distancing and in person learning urgency;
- Inclusion of parent voices;
- Community would like to be informed of process/planning and to see the district's vision for every student;
- Request for more information about what prevents us from doing what other districts are doing

There is discussion regarding the logistical challenges of bringing back all K-5 students to in-person learning. Mr. Schersten reviews the building layout, noting that the social distance would need to be reduced to about 4 feet in order to accommodate this. Ms. Siedzik urges the district to revisit spacing and distancing procedures,

There is some discussion regarding the inclusion of teachers' voices in the district's planning and implementation. Ms. Banios highlights that teachers are consulted in every step of the district's planning.

There is discussion surrounding the next steps for the district and the School Committee. Ms. Siedzik requests the Covid Response Team concerns appear on a future agenda. There is discussion regarding the community concerns regarding the COVID Response Team. Ms. Allara believes that there is a widespread

misunderstanding of the team. She reiterates that the team is an advisory group to consult with Ms. Banios about decisions for the district's safety.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADD THE LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM EXPERT TO THE 12/16/2020 MEETING AGENDA.**

**MOTION by Peter Wolczik; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.**

*Discussion:* Ms. Banios does not believe the next meeting can accommodate this additional agenda item. There is some discussion regarding the agenda item proposed, and the qualifications/intentions of the guest speaker. After some questions, Mr. Wolczik confirms that he hopes to have an informative presentation at this point, and that any School Committee action/vote would be done at a later date.

**ANNA SIEDZIK MOVES TO VOTE.**

Mr. Wolczik says he continues to receive emails from the chairs requesting information. Ms. Banios says she is happy to have IT attend a meeting to speak more in depth about this subject, instead of having an outside party come in to speak about it. There is some discussion about this.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES;
Michelle Horgan	NO;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Bailey	NO.

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

Ms. Bailey notes that the current meeting is running 45 minutes later than anticipated, and with the added agenda item for next meeting, she anticipates the meeting will run 20 minutes later than anticipated. There is some tension and discussion about School Committee goals and focus. The 12/16/2020 meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.

Ms. Horgan asks Mr. Woczik to forward any exhibits to Janell Carleo so that she is able to include those documents in the 12/16/20 meeting agenda.

**4. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 12/09/2020 MEETING AT 9:47 PM.**

**MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Dana Allara.**

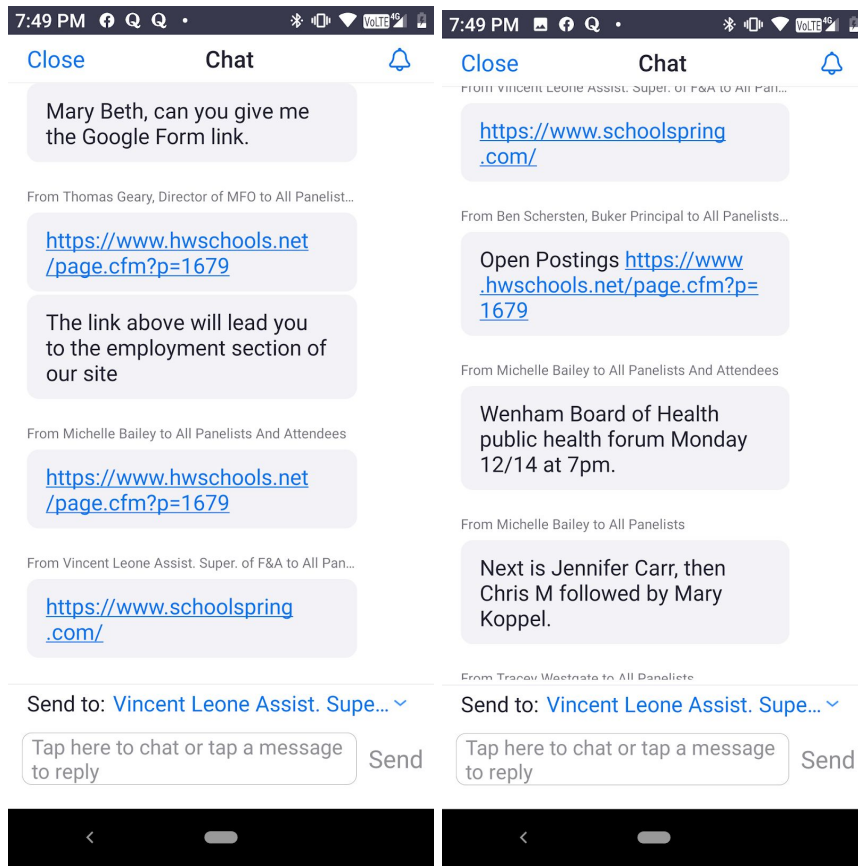
Julia Campbell	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

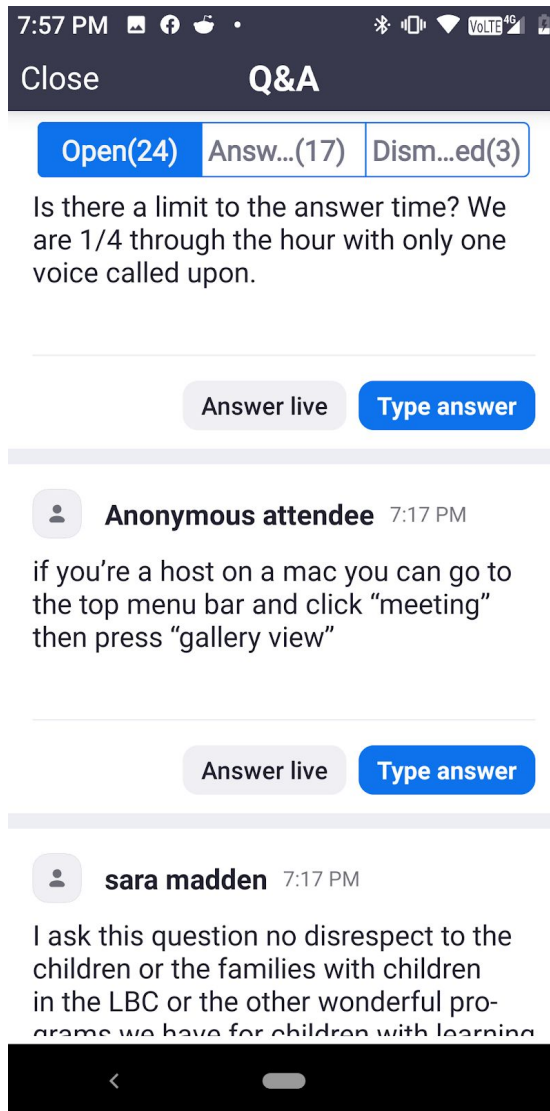
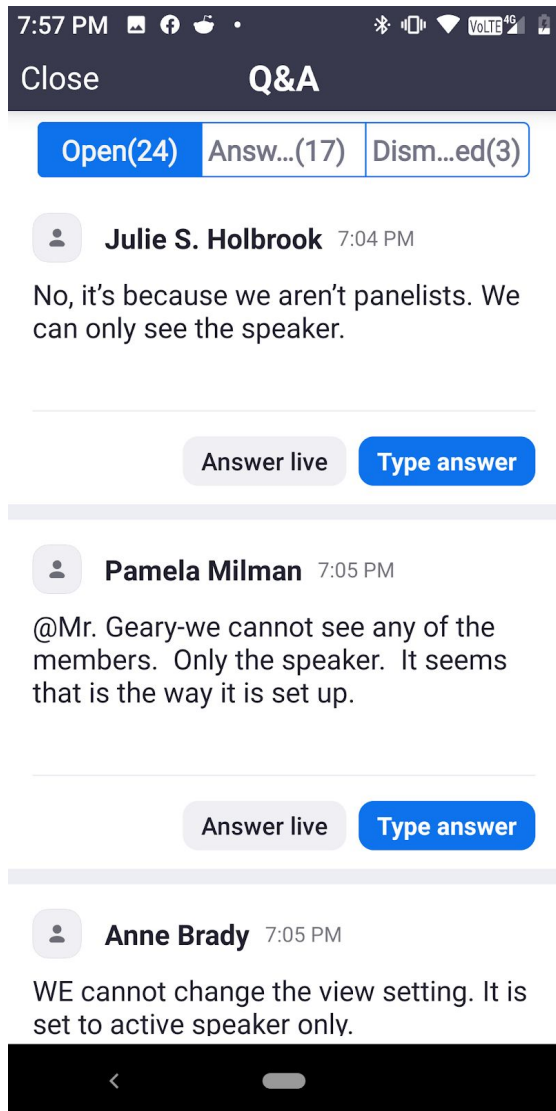
**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of seven (7) members present.**

*Respectfully submitted January 16, 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

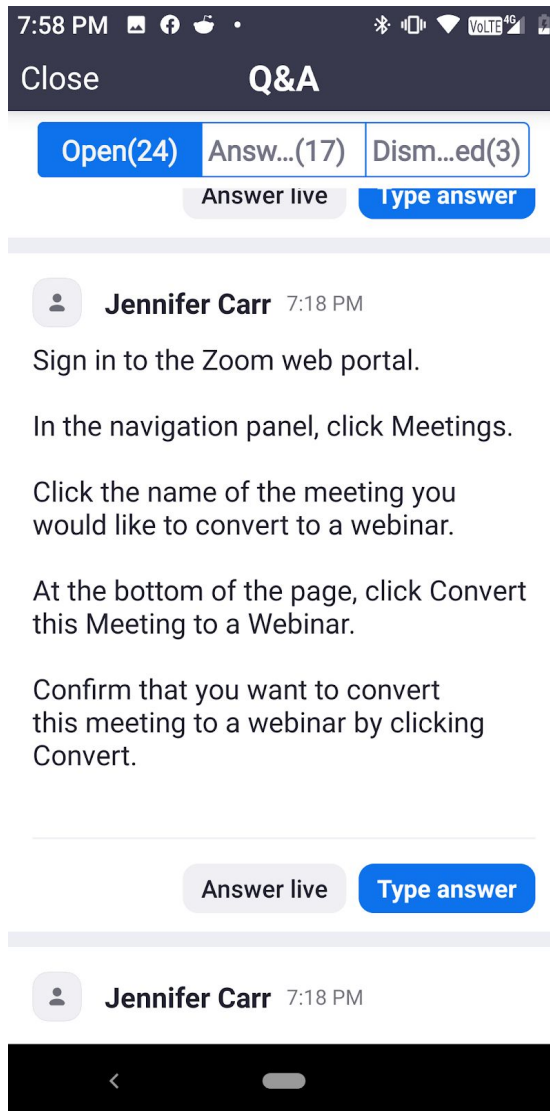
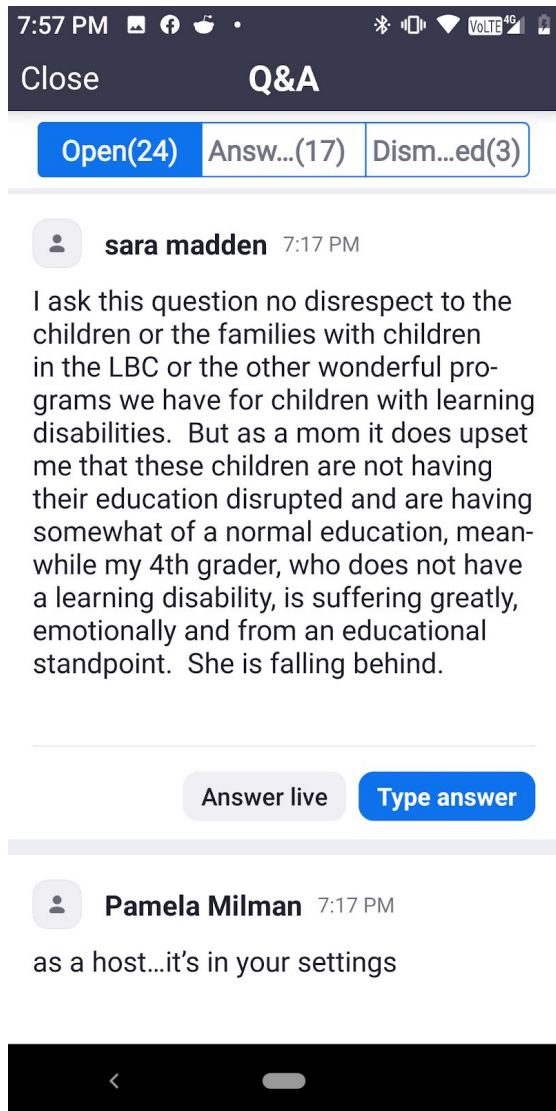
\*\*Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the 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.\*\*

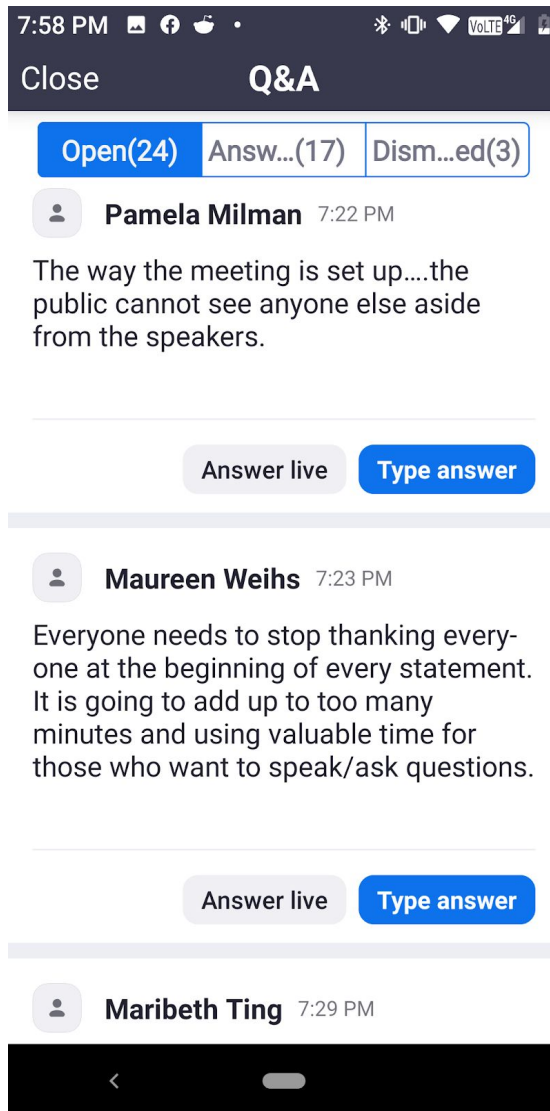
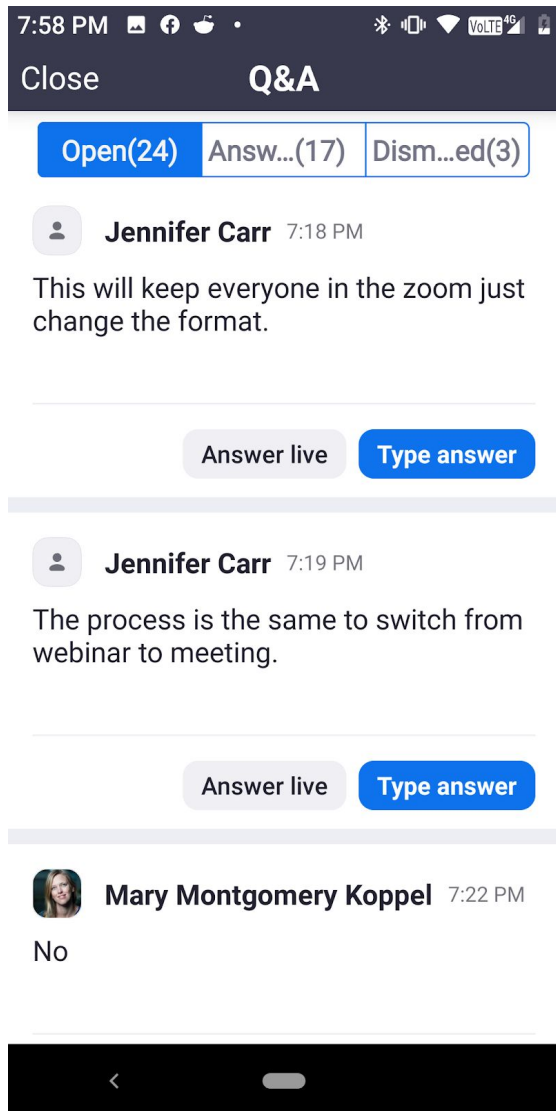
\*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the Zoom.com application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select "Join Meeting" in the upper right corner and enter the webinar id: 996 3902 0906; passcode: 974910. The 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.

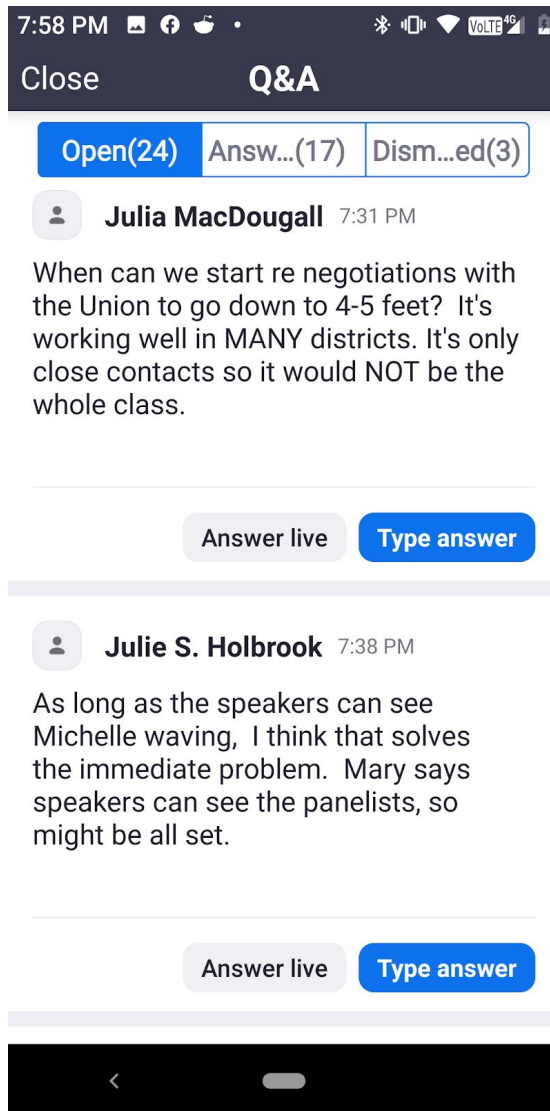
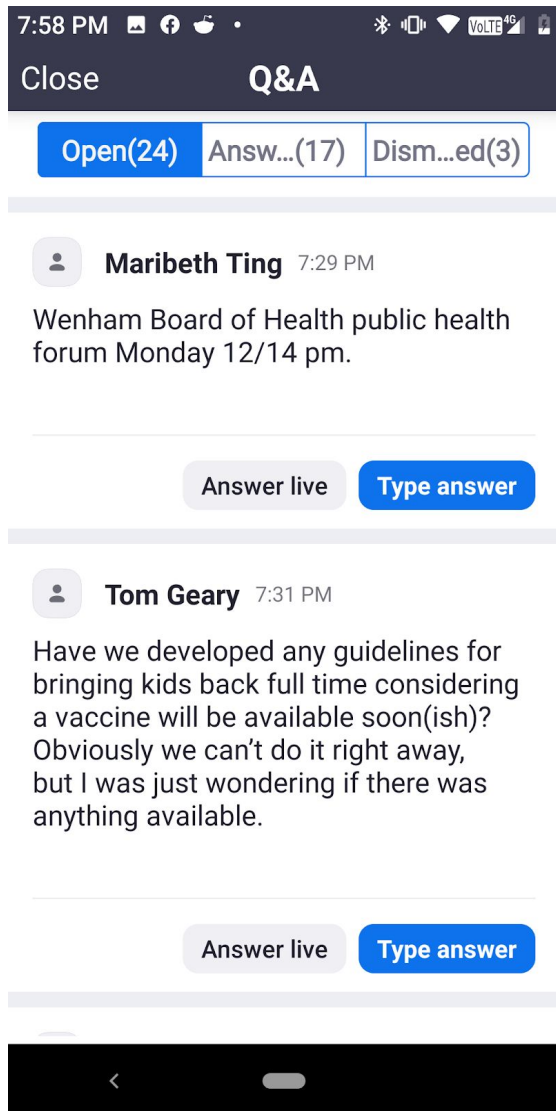


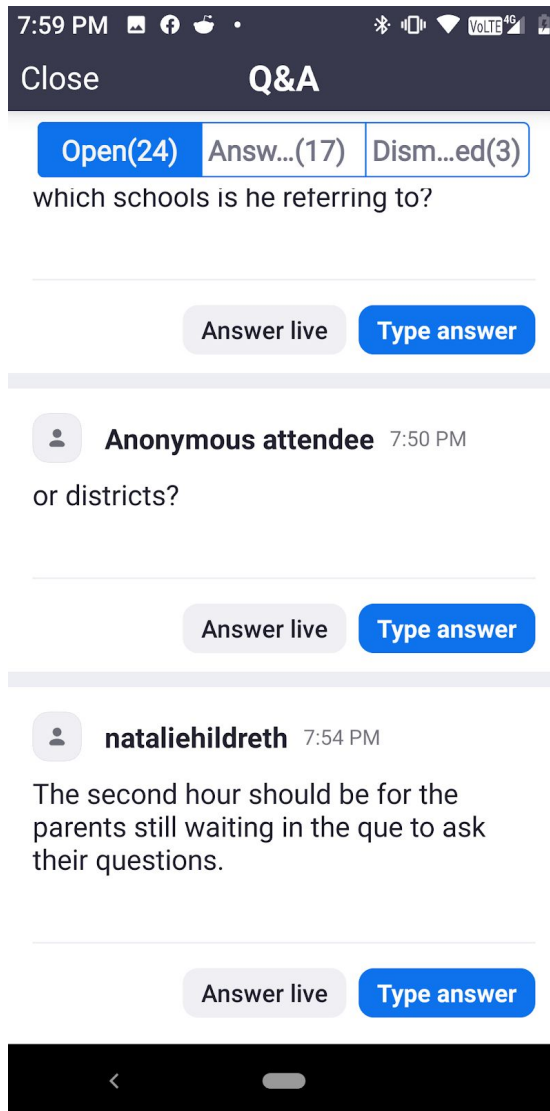
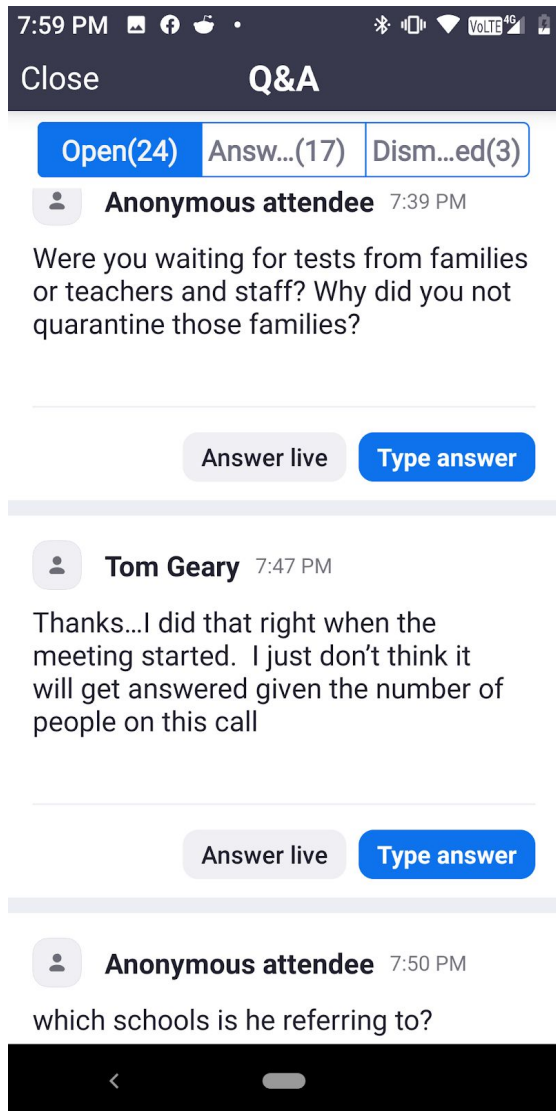


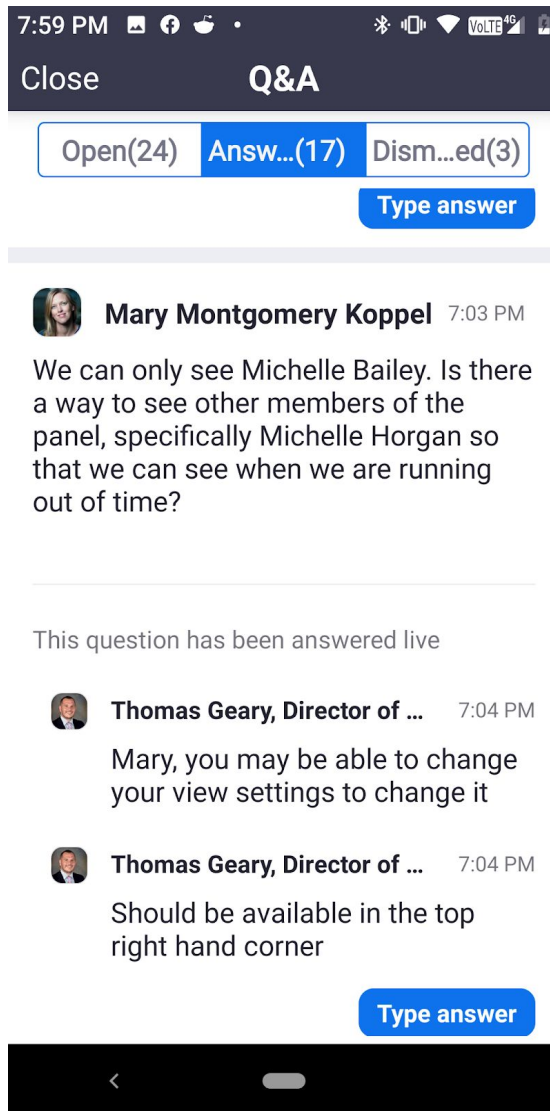
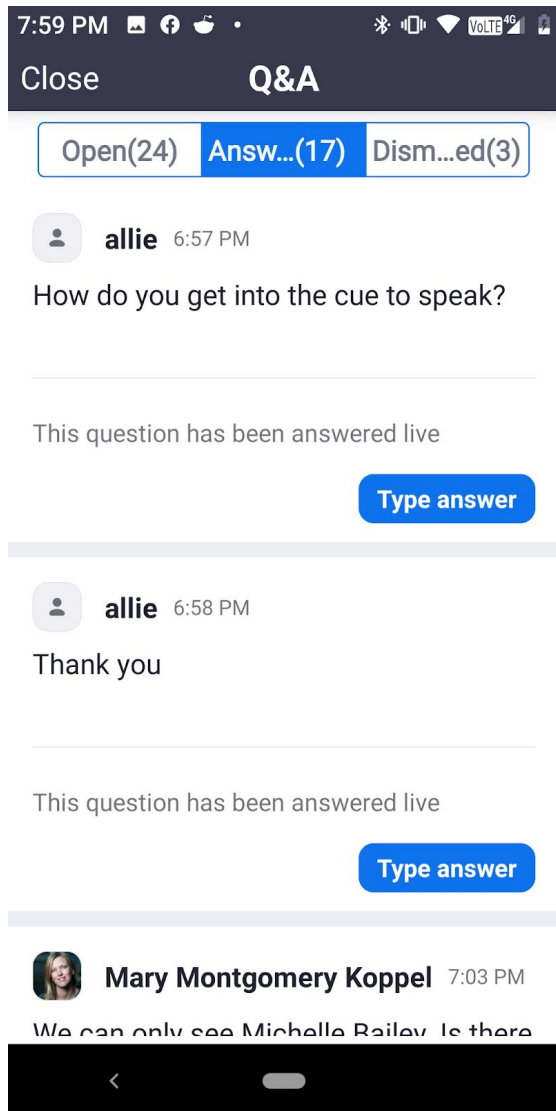


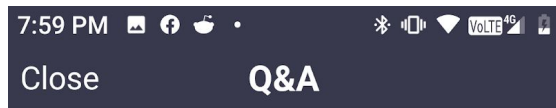












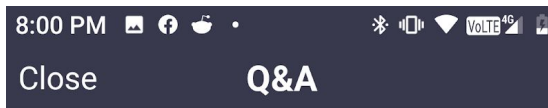
**Stacey Metternick** 7:05 PM  
Attendees don't have capability to change view. Only Panelists can, or the person running the meeting

**Michelle Bailey** 7:11 PM  
Private answer  
Can the cohost change it while the meeting is running?

**David Polito** 7:13 PM  
Private answer  
you should be able to

Type answer

**3 -John Pagliuca** 7:10 PM  
Mary Beth just glossed over the fact

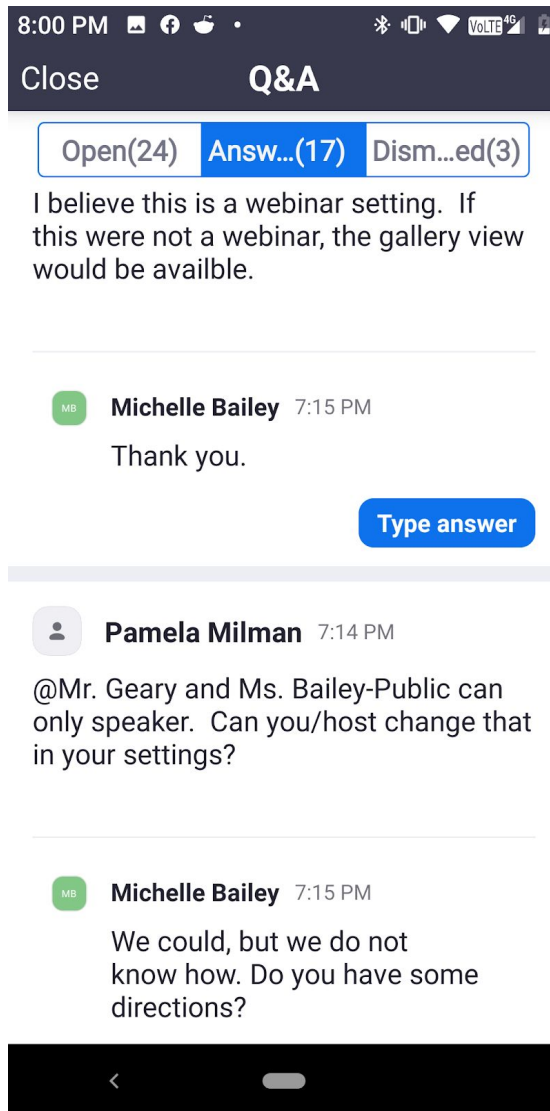
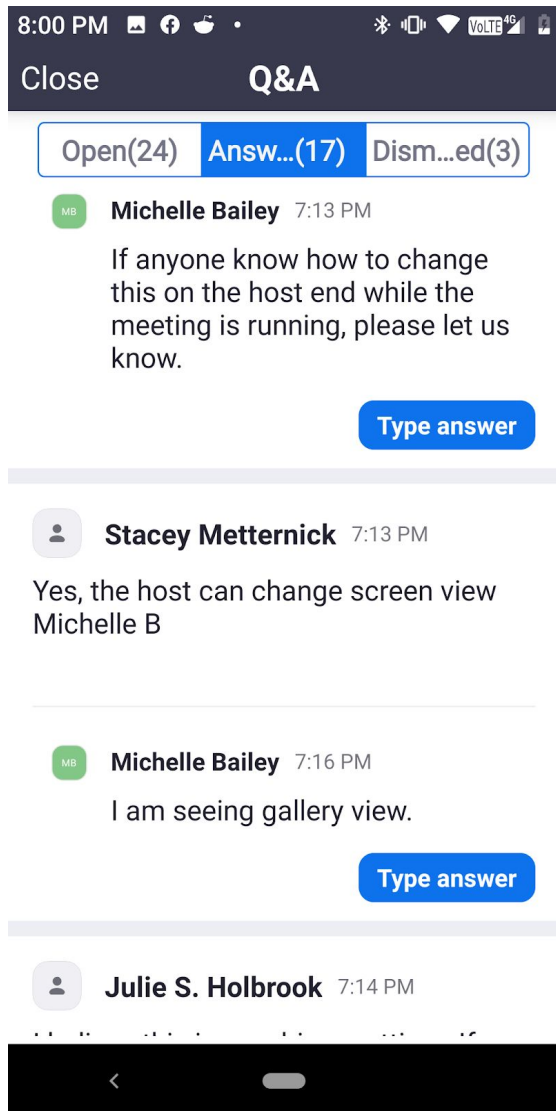


**3 -John Pagliuca** 7:10 PM  
Mary Beth just glossed over the fact that someone in the advisory group is "tracking" anything regarding any kids. What is this about?

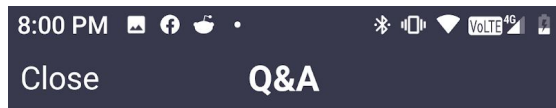
**Michelle Bailey** 7:11 PM  
Please raise your hand to ask.  
Thank you.

Type answer

**Tracey Westgate** 7:10 PM  
Hmm... I am on a computer and there is no option to see gallery view. My friend is on her iphone and is having the same issue.







 **Jennifer Carr** 7:14 PM

She should be able to change it by clicking in the upper right corner. It looks like 6 - 9 squares stacked next to each other.

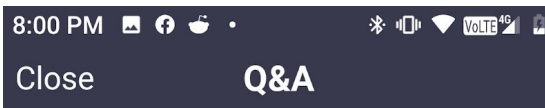
 **Michelle Bailey** 7:16 PM

We are in speaker view on our side.

Type answer


 **Stacey Metternick** 7:17 PM

You want gallery view instead of speaker view. Upper right hand corner. Pull down



 **Michelle Gilpin** 7:22 PM

I was told by my child's principal that parents weren't allowed to sub at your child's school. Is that a true statement?

 David Polito is typing an answer...

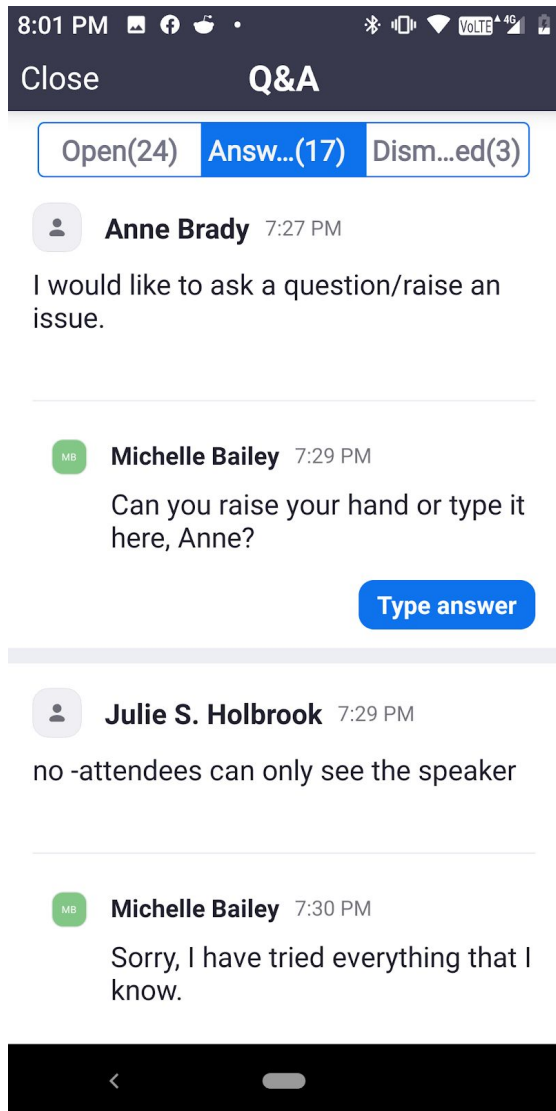
Type answer

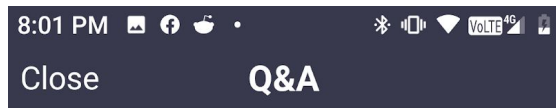
 **Anne Brady** 7:27 PM

I would like to ask a question/raise an issue.

 **Michelle Bailey** 7:29 PM







It's a webinar setting. I'm not sure it can be changed, but if it can be, it would probably need to be done when the webinar is set up rather than during the event.



**Michelle Bailey** 7:34 PM

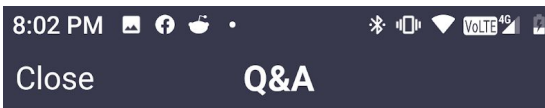
Okay. Thanks, sorry. When we do this again, I'll ask the set-up be check.

Type answer



**Anonymous attendee** 7:33 PM

Why are desks in high school so close together? I know that they're measured 6ft from back of chair to back of chair, but in reality it's closer to 4.5ft. It feels risky to have desks so close together in the one space where all kids take their masks off and talk/shout to each other.



this again, I'll ask the set-up be check.

Type answer



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**Michelle Bailey** 7:34 PM

Please change your name if you would like your questions answered or to speak.

Type answer

