



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

School Committee Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)
Webinar ID: 953 5714 9894
Passcode: 096761
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
7:00 PM - 9:35 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
Stacy Bucyk, Director of Student Services
Maureen Smith, Elementary Special Education Coordinator
Ryan Roth, Secondary Special Education Coordinator
Craig Hovey, Principal, Miles River Middle School
Eric Tracy, Principal, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting is held remotely, per the emergency order of the Governor, and is recorded by HWCAM.

In honor of the transition of power today, those in attendance rise/recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Ms. Bailey requests that all comments regarding School Choice are held until the public hearing opens.

There are no citizens wishing to speak at this time.

3. Public Hearing on School Choice for 2021-2022 School Year

[Exhibit](#)

The Public Hearing on School Choice for the 2021-2022 School Year opens at approximately 7:04 PM.

Superintendent Banios reviews the school choice recommendation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#): “We recommend that we do not open school choice slots for grades 6-8 this year. We would recommend that we continue the school choice for the HS only, specifically grade 9.”

Mr. Tracy and Mr. Hovey present additional details that led to the school choice recommendation, above.

Pamela Millman-Stein, 135 Lynn St., Peabody: Ms. Millman-Stein’s family participates in the school choice program. She is grateful for the opportunity to have her children in the district, and seeks additional explanation about the process involved.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE CONTINUATION OF THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: School Committee members discuss the school choice program; potential revenue increases; weighing pros and cons; other complexities regarding enrollment and the school choice program. After some discussion regarding the school choice policy and past action from the school committee, Mr. Polito refers back to the [01/22/2020 school committee minutes](#), where the following motions were made and approved unanimously:

- (1) *I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE SCHOOL CHOICE FOR GRADES 6-12, AND NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING GRADE 6-8 CANDIDATES. (MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan).*
- (2) *I MOVE TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO REMOVE THE LANGUAGE “AND NOT ACTIVELY SEEKING GRADE 6-8 CANDIDATES”. (MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Gene Lee).*

There is a lengthy discussion regarding the language of motions; intent of district; history of the program; etc. The School Committee agrees that the motions will reflect that the district will not take specific action to seek school choice candidates for middle school, but that the slots remain open for sibling candidates and those already in the program.

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

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE CONTINUATION OF THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Enrollment numbers year by year; siblings; lottery format; etc.

David Polito	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;

Anna Siedzik YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

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

4. New Business

5. Finance and Operations

A. Special Education

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Bucyk provides details of the Special Education presentation, as shown in the [exhibit](#). She thanks the Special Education team, including Ms. Smith and Mr. Roth who are present this evening. There is a lengthy discussion regarding the district's programming; student needs; evaluations and timeline; preschool structure/enrollment; next steps; etc.

6. Policy

A. Second Reading Public Comment Policy

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik reviews the history of the Public Comment policy; there have been no changes since the first reading. There is some confusion and clarification regarding duplicate policies, replacing older policies, approving the policy *in form* versus approval *now*, etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY: APPROVE THE PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY AS WRITTEN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) AS POLICY B2002; REVOKE POLICY B2010; AND FINALLY APPROVE POLICY BEDH *IN FORM*.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

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

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

B. Second Reading Weapons Policy

[Exhibit](#)

The *Weapons Policy* will return to the subcommittee for revision regarding law enforcement.

7. Chair's Report

- Due to resignation of two Wenham Board of Selectmen members, the board has only one standing member, Gary Cheeseman;
- Ms. Bailey and Ms. Horgan attended Hamilton meetings, where there was discussion regarding the Regional agreement, budget allocation, OPEB funding liability, etc.;
- Brad Hill will come to the next school committee meeting, 02/03/21 to discuss Chapter 70 and additional state funding, FY21 and FY22 budgets; school testing; etc.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Update on K-1 In-Person Learning

Superintendent Banios shares an update about K-1 in-person learning.

Mr. Wolczik notes that the teachers have communicated concerns about cleanliness. There is a discussion regarding how to address any potential issues, with Mr. Geary asking staff to reach out to him directly with any concerns. The discussion continues. Superintendent Banios suggests that the building principals, the teachers' union or Mr. Geary can all help to address those issues.

Ms. Siedzik asks about the potential for bringing grades 2-5 back for in-person learning and the space analysis request sent through email. Superintendent Banios and Mr. Geary reiterate that this work has already been completed. Mr. Geary does not believe this is the best use of district resources.

B. Updates on COVID Vaccines & FLU Vaccines

Superintendent Banios reviews the details of the COVID vaccines schedules; the website as currently presented can be found preserved in the current form at this [link](#). The flu vaccine requirement has been rescinded, and the district is no longer requiring this. Discussion regarding COVID vaccination; teaching staff interest/survey; percentage of population to reconsider/revisit the structure of in-person learning; district plans; etc.

C. COVID Pool Testing

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding Pooled Testing and potential impact on the district resources. More information will be obtained at a webinar scheduled for this upcoming Friday. There is a detailed discussion regarding the potential challenges in pooled testing; state funding for the project; and other considerations for the testing procedure.

9. Committee Reports

A. Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee

The *Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee* will meet next Monday, 01/25/2021.

B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* will meet 03/04/2021 to continue reviewing district/MASC policies.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

The *Negotiations Subcommittee* will meet tomorrow, 01/21/2021. There are numerous other scheduled meetings for ongoing negotiations with unions.

10. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 2969
- Voucher No. 1035
- Voucher No. 2971
- Voucher No. 2970

B. Minutes

- December 2, 2020

[Exhibit](#)

C. Accept Donations

- Winthrop Elementary School

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN ABOVE, INCLUDING PART (A) AND (B), AND EXCLUDING PART (C) DONATIONS; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA PART (C), DONATIONS FROM TWO FAMILIES TO WINTHROP, AS DETAILED ABOVE; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik thank you also asks about air purifier usability in other buildings.

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

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

11. Topics for Future Meetings

Next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7:00 PM.

- Ms. Bailey and Ms. Horgan present a Google Form/Drive that could streamline the organization of requested agenda topics. There is a lengthy discussion regarding the details of this method. Ms. Siedzik would still like the topics brought in public meeting, for transparency and accountability with the public. There is some discussion about the potential challenges. Ms. Bailey will send the link to the Form the day after each School Committee meeting (including tomorrow).
- Pooled testing: hiring/ volunteering for testing (per request of Ms. Siedzik);
- Revisit space at high school (per request of Ms. Siedzik);

Carried over:

- Craig Genuardo presentation re: District Athletics;
- Tom Geary presentation re: maintenance and facilities;
- Brad Hill to present: Chapter 70, MCAS testing, etc.;
- General's Logo (will be addressed in May 2021);
- Notice of indigenous land usage (per request of Ms. Siedzik)
- DEI audit (per request of Ms. Siedzik);
- Formal HW personnel training (per request of Ms. Siedzik);
- LMS system (per request of Mr. Wolczik).

12. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 01/20/2020 MEETING AT 10:23 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

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

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

Respectfully submitted February 10, 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](https://zoom.us) 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: 953 5714 9894, Passcode: 096761. 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](https://www.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.