



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

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Webinar ID: 973 4693 3406

Passcode: 656652

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (before and after the Joint meeting with Towns BOS/FINCOM)

Present:

Michelle Bailey, Chairperson

Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson

Dana Allara, Secretary

Anna Siedzik, Vice Secretary

David Polito

Peter Wolczik (late arrival, approximately 6:10 PM)

Julia Campbell

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

6:00 PM

With a quorum present (6 members), Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. This meeting is being held remotely per emergency orders of the Governor, and recorded by HWCAM.

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.

Jennifer Carr, 5 Meridian Rd., Wenham: Dr. Carr thanks Superintendent Banios for allowing her the opportunity to present her findings tomorrow morning to the district. However, she would like the School Committee and parents to hear this presentation as well.

Superintendent Banios clarifies that Dr. Carr will present tomorrow morning to the district leadership team. Further, she notes that she has sent the community a link to that presentation, and with Dr. Carr's permission, the meeting will be recorded.

There are no other citizen comments at this time. The chat function in Zoom is turned off at this time..

3. New Business

A. Student Opportunity Act (SOA) Plan - Next Steps

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Superintendent Banios presents the details, as shown in the exhibit. There was a lengthy discussion at the last School Committee meeting, where the School Committee ultimately voted against submitting the SOA as presented.

Mr. Polito inquires about the changes made to the SOA, as he feels there have not been any notable changes made despite the feedback received.

Ms. Siedzik agrees with Mr. Polito, noting that the plan has not changed from last week. She references the SOA plan from last year, that indicated a specific subgroup of students. Ms. Siedzik states that she is disappointed and would like to see more time and effort to conform the SOA to the legislation.

Ms. Campbell points out that she is uncomfortable voting to approve the same SOA rejected last week. Further, she is concerned about the community engagement aspect outlined in the plan, and would like to see specific strategies detailed in this regard.

There is discussion about procedure moving forward, including verification that the district plans to follow up with the School Committee every couple of months.

There is discussion regarding the subgroup targeted in the SOA as presented, as well as the amount of detail required/allowed in the DESE form.

Discussion regarding proceeding with vote; next steps; and changes the School Committee would like to see to the SOA. There is a lengthy conversation about the changes to the SOA and discussion about the importance of early literacy.

Ms. Banios recommends that the School Committee vote to approve the SOA with the changes discussed this evening. Mr. Polito shares his concerns given that the SOA was not changed from last week's presentation.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECESS THE CURRENT MEETING, AND RECONVENE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE JOINT MEETING WITH THE TOWNS BOARDS OF SELECTMEN AND FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Dana Allara.

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

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

The School Committee meeting recesses at 7:00 PM in order to meet with Hamilton and Wenham BOS and FINCOM groups.

The School Committee meeting reconvenes at approximately 8:55 PM.

Continued discussion regarding SOA; focus on early literacy; comparison to last year's plan; focus on subgroup; community engagement; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESCIND THE VOTE ON THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT AS VOTED AT LAST WEEK’S SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING (02/03/2021 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

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

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE STUDENT OPPORTUNITY ACT PLAN AS PRESENTED THIS EVENING AND REFLECTED ON THE AGENDA, WITH THE EDITS AS DISCUSSED THROUGHOUT THIS MEETING: (1) REMOVE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE METRIC AND REPLACING THIS WITH THE THIRD GRADE ELA PROFICIENCY METRIC; (2) ADDITION OF INTERVENTION DESIGN WORK PLANNED FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2021; AND (3) THAT A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS AND INTENTIONAL OUTREACH TO OUR FAMILIES WILL BE DETAILED.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik reminds the School Committee about the legal certification included in the SOA submission. She notes that the School Committee would be affirming action that has not actually been taken. There is brief discussion regarding community engagement and DESE guidelines/feedback.

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

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROCEED WITH THE MEETING, AS SET FORTH IN THE AGENDA, AND ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:30 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

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

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

4. Superintendent's Report

A. Enrollment Report

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios directs the School Committee to the enrollment report, as detailed in the agenda's [exhibit](#).

B. 2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration

Superintendent Banios provides an update to the School Committee regarding Kindergarten Registration. Teams are working together to determine the best approach (most likely a virtual application and submission). In addition, students returning to the district will be offered a returning student registration later in March.

5. Consent Agenda (originally 6)

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 18
- Voucher No. 1034
- Voucher No. 1036
- Voucher No. 1038
- Voucher No. 1039
- Voucher No. 2968
- Voucher No. 2972
- Voucher No. 2973
- Voucher No. 2974

B. Minutes

- November 18, 2020
- December 9, 2020
- December 16, 2020
- December 17, 2020 Joint Boards Meeting
- January 6, 2021
- January 12, 2021

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING THE WARRANTS AND MINUTES AS LISTED IN THE AGENDA; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

6. Committee Reports (originally 5)

A. Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee

The next Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for 02/22/2021.

B. Policy Subcommittee

The next Policy Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for 03/04/2021.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

The Negotiations Subcommittee will report updates at the next School Committee meeting.

7. Topics for Future Meetings

Next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:00 PM.

There is a brief discussion about the Google Forms document used to track agenda topics for upcoming meetings.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADD REEXAMINATION OF OUR SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENT TO THE SCHEDULED 02/17/2021 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING, SPECIFICALLY INVITING DR. JENNIFER CARR TO PRESENT HER FINDINGS OF OUR SPACE UTILIZATION.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Discussion: Superintendent Banios will prepare a report of her findings after Dr. Carr’s presentation, and present this to the School Committee. There is some discussion about allowing community members time on the agenda.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO REFLECT THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL HEAR THE LEADERSHIP TEAM’S ASSESSMENT/REPORT OF DR. CARR’S FINDINGS; AND HAVE DR. JENNIFER CARR PRESENT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IF NECESSARY.

MOTION by Peter Wolczik; SECONDED by Dana Allara.

Discussion: The School Committee would make Dr. Jennifer Carr’s report available through an exhibit on the agenda.

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

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

Original motion:

Discussion: There is further discussion regarding creating an agenda item for Dr. Carr to present her report.

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

Michelle Bailey YES.

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

- District reopening plan (per request of Mr. Wolczik)
 - Ms. Bailey says this topic is planned for executive session discussion. Superintendent Banios provides a brief overview of the district's problem solving to ensure a full return to school.

8. Vote to Adjourn

The meeting adjourns at 10:30 PM, per the earlier motion passed by majority (5:2) vote (see page 3).

Respectfully submitted February 25, 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: 986 6052 7109 Passcode: 628360. 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.