



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: 967 5224 6072

Passcode: 641177

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

7:45 PM - 8:45 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
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

7:45 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 7:47 PM. Ms. Bailey explains that the School Committee just heard a presentation from Dr. Kalise Wornum, and the purpose of this meeting is to reflect on that workshop.

2. Debrief on MACS Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Workshop

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios proposes a structure to debrief: “circle, square, triangle: a questions circling in your mind, something that squared with your beliefs, and three major points to take away

School Committee members offer their input and engage in a discussion regarding the MACS workshop. Mr. Wolczik opines that a district-wide Learning Management System could help tremendously with issues of equity, and he hopes to follow up with Dr. Kalise Wornum. There is discussion surrounding the timing of the School Committee adopting the work involved as well as lengthy discussion regarding what the necessary work might look like. There is discussion regarding aligning inclusion, diversity, and equity to the district’s larger strategic plan, mission, and vision. School Committee members posit additional questions they are thinking about.

School Committee members discuss their individual and collective values and how the workshop information spoke to those values. There is discussion regarding “implicit bias” and addressing this effectively throughout the district. There is further discussion regarding whether members believe the timing of such work is feasible, and/or whether the work should be prioritized in light of the pandemic and reopening schools. Further discussion regarding district values, explicit racism, and implicit bias.

The School Committee members offer their greatest “take-aways” from the workshop, including curriculum; educational equity; ensuring students thrive; history of district’s equity efforts; etc. There is

discussion about efficiency of forming a working group, with a general majority consensus that this is not the best course of action.

The School Committee agrees on the following timeline:

April, 2021: Work through and finalize “equity” definition;

May, 2021: Schedule an outside consultant/expert; first draft of goals incorporating equity/inclusion;

June, 2021: Finalize equity/inclusion 2021/2022 district goals.

Other action items: Ms. Horgan will reach out to MASC to inquire about an outside consultant to help facilitate the School Committee’s next steps. Superintendent Banios will continue working alongside Heather Maes, High School Special Education Teacher, who is conducting a staff survey on diversity, equity and inclusion in order to gauge staff’s bandwidth for engaging in this work.

Next School Committee meetings are scheduled for 03/03/2021, 03/10/2021, and 03/17/2021.

The 03/17/2021 meeting is currently serving as a placeholder for further budget discussions. However, should this budget discussion become unnecessary, the 03/17/21 meeting will be a workshop focused on developing the district goals for the 2021/2022 school year.

3. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 02/23/2021 MEETING AT 9:13 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Julia Campbell YES;

Anna Siedzik YES;

Dana Allara YES;

Peter Wolczik YES;

David Polito YES;

Michelle Bailey YES.

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

Respectfully submitted March 8 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: 967 5224 6072; passcode: 641177. 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.