



School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Webinar ID: 966 5690 3034

Passcode: 682539

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Present:

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

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, and Operations
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary
Lea Tabenkin, District Nurse Leader, High School Nurse
Maribeth Ting, Wenham Public Health Nurse

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 being held remotely per emergency orders of the Governor, and recorded by HWCAM. School Committee members in attendance include: Julia Campbell, Michelle Bailey, Anna Siedzik, Dana Allara, Michelle Horgan, and Peter Wolczik. David Polito will be joining the meeting shortly.

2. Citizens 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.

Rosemary Kennedy, Hamilton Board of Selectmen member: Ms. Kennedy offers a comment regarding the district's budget and the encouraging results of last night's joint meeting. She is also happy to hear about the recent government decisions surrounding vaccinations of educators.

Kevan Sano, Teacher/ Department Head: World Language: Ms. Sano asks the district to reconsider adding 6th grade world language back into the budget. She reviews the history of the language program in the district, and stresses the importance of the program.

Allie Moffett, 2 Smithwood Terrace, Hamilton: Ms. Moffett is grateful for the district's continued efforts. However, she remains concerned about misrepresentation of data. In particular, Ms. Moffett is concerned about the recent parent survey and asks that the district recirculate the survey reflecting accurate

information. She also notes the district's misrepresentation of industry research regarding literacy. She asks that the district start making decisions and creating action plans that are rooted in evidence based practice, and asks for clear communication regarding this.

Mary Koppel, 40 Perkins St., Wenham: Ms. Koppel offers a comment about the plan to return to in-person learning. She commends the district for their dedication to formulating the detailed plan; and further for organizing the district's vaccination clinic. She stresses the importance of in-person learning. She expresses her gratitude to all involved.

There are no further comments at this time; the chat feature is turned off.

3. Student Representative's Report

A. Student Government Update

Ethan Howell, student government representative, provides an update to the School Committee, reviewing the status of various fundraising activities; junior/senior prom; Spirit Week; etc.

On 03/16/2021 the Juniors will host a fundraiser at Bertucci's restaurant.

Mr. Polito asks for the agenda to be amended in order to enter into the executive session now.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AMEND TONIGHT'S AGENDA IN ORDER TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION NOW, BEFORE NEW BUSINESS, AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER TO CONTINUE THE MEETING AS PLANNED.

MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Discussion: Information and (vague) details about the reason to amend the agenda to accomodate an executive session earlier in the meeting.

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

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:25 PM, FOR PURPOSE #3, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OR LITIGATION WITH HWEA, AS AN OPEN DISCUSSION WOULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE DISTRICT'S BARGAINING POSITION, AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| David Polito | YES; |
| Peter Wolczik | YES; |
| Julia Campbell | YES; |
| Michelle Horgan | YES; |
| Anna Siedzik | YES; |

Dana Allara YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

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

Executive Session 7:27 PM - 8:04 PM.

Open Session reconvenes at 8:07 PM.

4. New Business

A. Vote on Pooled Testing [Exhibit](#)

Lea Tabenkin, District Nurse Leader/High School Nurse and Maribeth Ting, Wenham Public Health Nurse are promoted to panelists. Mr. Geary presents the information detailed in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding resources available to the district; courier services; anticipated obstacles; DESE deadlines and application process; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE DISTRICT IN MOVING FORWARD AND ENGAGING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE) POOL TESTING INITIATIVE.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Tabenkin, Ms. Ting, and Mr. Geary provide additional details surrounding the Pool Testing procedure, and answer questions from School Committee members.

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

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

B. Survey Results for 6 ft Physical Distancing [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the survey results regarding the 6 (six) foot social distancing within the schools, as detailed in the [Exhibit](#). This survey was distributed the week after February vacation, and has helped inform the structure of the return to school plan, referenced in more detail, below. Mr. Geary reviews the survey data, noting that there were multiple entries in some cases. There is discussion regarding the use of the survey; data collected; and district's actions/ other considerations based on this survey.

C. Vote on Vaccination Advocacy Letters [Exhibit](#)

D. Planning for Return to Full In-Person Learning [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the district's plan to return to full in-person learning, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). In partnership with *Pediatric Associates of Greater Salem*, the district will offer a vaccination clinic on 03/13/21.

There is lengthy discussion regarding the details of the plan, including concerns about social distancing; consent form administration; reducing transmission when returning to in-person learning; timeline in school return; district administration's recommendation; etc. There is some discussion regarding

additional mitigation strategies, such as plexiglass barriers. Ms. Siedzik inquires about the efficacy of barriers, however, the School Committee does not offer a majority support for this request.

The School Committee would like more information about potential mitigating strategies the district could employ. There will be more information provided at the School Committee meeting next week.

E. Vote 2020-2021 Calendar Change

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios explains that the amended calendar reflects the following changes:

- 03/15/2021 will be a full school day;
- 04/01/2021 will become a teacher development day.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CHANGE IN THE 2020-2021 CALENDAR, AS DETAILED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE AGENDA. THE CHANGES ARE REFLECTED AS NOTED ABOVE.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding balancing the time on learning between cohorts and further considerations in the calendar changes.

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

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

5. Finance and Operations

A. Revised FY22 Budget

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

[Exhibit 4](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the revised FY22 budget, as detailed in Exhibits 1-4, listed above. There is a lengthy (1+hour) discussion regarding the budget revisions, with Superintendent Banios offering additional clarification as needed. The discussion spans numerous topics including instructional coaches; reading specialists; budget reductions; budget restructuring; positions needed/added in the district; culture of district; professionalism and trust within the committee; etc.

B. FY21 Budget Transfer Request

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone explains the purpose of the budget transfer request is to purchase desks necessary for social distancing in light of a full in-person learning return.

Mr. Leone explains that future transfers may be necessary, however, he does not recommend making those transfers at this time, and instead wait until further information is received.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES THE FY21 OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$86,328 FROM INSURANCE, RETIREMENT, OTHER TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: There is discussion about the current and future need of the desks being purchased with the budget transfer.

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

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

6. — Policy

7. — Chair's Report

- ~~School Committee Protocols~~
- ~~School Committee Workshop 3/17/21~~

8. Superintendent's Report

- ~~School Committee Nomination Deadline~~ [Exhibit](#)
- ~~Final FY22 Budget Hearing~~

- Welcome Karen Hartley

Superintendent Banios welcomes Karen Hartley to the district, taking over for Mr. Ben Schersten while he is paternity leave.

- Kindergarten Orientation & Registration [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios provides an overview of the district's kindergarten orientation and registration process, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

9. — Committee Reports

- A. ~~Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee~~
- B. ~~Policy Subcommittee~~
- C. ~~Negotiations Subcommittee~~

10. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 20
- Voucher No. 1042
- Voucher No. 1043
- Voucher No. 1044
- Voucher No. 2980
- Voucher No. 2981
- Voucher No. 2982
- Voucher No. 2983

B. Minutes

- February 10, 2021 [Exhibit](#)
- February 10, 2021 Joint Boards Meeting [Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA PART A, WARRANTS, AND PART B, MINUTES, AS PRESENTED ABOVE ON THE AGENDA; NO FURTHER CHANGES SHALL BE MADE.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

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

11. Topics for Future Meetings

The School Committee will meet in Executive Session at their next scheduled regular School Committee meeting on 03/10/21. Items skipped during this meeting will be addressed at a future meeting.

12. Vote to Adjourn into Executive Session

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 03/03/2021 MEETING AT 12:07 AM (on 03/04/2021).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

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

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

Respectfully submitted March 13, 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: 966 5690 3034; Passcode: 682539. 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.