



School Committee Meeting ([Agenda](#))

Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Webinar ID: 934 5526 9283

Passcode: 375852

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

6:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m

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
Craig Genuardo, Athletic Director

1. Call to Order

6:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. This meeting is being held remotely per emergency orders of the Governor, and recorded by HWCAM. Members in attendance are as follows: Julia Campbell, Michelle Bailey, Anna Siedzik, Dana Allara, David Polito, Michelle Horgan, and Peter Wolczik.

Ms. Bailey notes the changes to tonight's agenda: the athletic recognition will take place after the public hearing. Ms. Bailey states that the School Committee does not anticipate voting on the return to in person learning plan at the meeting this evening. However, there will be an additional School Committee meeting scheduled for next week where this item will be addressed.

2. Second Public Hearing - FY22 Budget

[Exhibit 1](#) [Exhibit 2](#)
[Exhibit 3](#) [Exhibit 4](#)

- A. In accordance with customary hearing procedures, statements and supporting information will be presented first by the Committee, or by others for the Committee; to comment, citizens must be recognized by the Chair, and all remarks must be addressed to the Chair and be germane to the topic.
- B. To assure that all who wish get a chance to speak, the Chair will recognize persons who have not commented previously during the hearing before recognizing persons who wish to remark a second time.

Superintendent Banios and Mr. Leone present the FY22 Budget, as presented in exhibits 1-4, as listed above. Ms. Banios addresses some of the community concerns she has heard, including the 6th grade world language program

Superintendent Banios stresses the critical nature of teaching and learning structure within the district, comparing to districts DESE has determined as comparable K-12 districts.

Shawn Farrell, Chair Hamilton Board of Selectmen: On behalf of Hamilton BOS, Mr. Farrell thanks the district for the level of collaboration and for the budget reductions presented. There is an ongoing concern about the budget increases, especially in light of the increased financial hardships from the pandemic. Mr. Farrell hopes to continue the dialogue to develop budgets and avoid overrides in the future.

Jennifer Carr, 5 Meridian Rd., Wenham: Ms. Carr is concerned about the central office administrator positions, and the perceived removal of teaching positions. Ms. Carr and Superintendent Banios discuss the restructuring of the budget, with Ms. Banios explaining that there is no reduction of classroom teachers.

There are no other comments at this time.

Public Hearing ends at approximately 6:30 PM.

Superintendent Banios recommends that citizen's comments take place now, as student athletes had planned to arrive at the meeting at 6:45 PM. There are no objections to this suggestion.

3. 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.

Lori Bouchard [no address provided]: Ms. Bouchard expresses her concerns regarding the timing of the return to in-person learning. She believes it would make more sense to have the return scheduled after April vacation, allowing teaching staff to receive both doses of the vaccine.

Ryan Monahan, HWRHS Football Captain: Mr. Monahan hopes the district can accommodate fans at the home and away games, as he would like his parents to attend his games. He details the various evidence that supports his request, and recommends the district lead the way in the Cape Ann League by allowing fans.

Marty Cooke, HWRHS Athlete: Mr. Cooke is here to voice his support, alongside Mr. Monahan, in encouraging the district to accommodate at least 2 fans per athlete.

Jack Mulvihill, HWRHS Athlete: Alongside Mr. Cooke and Mr. Monahan, Mr. Mulvihill appears to urge the School Committee to consider allowing fans at the sporting events.

Update on Fall 2 Season (originally New Business C)

Mr. Genuardo provides an update regarding the Fall 2 Season, or "wedge" season. He notes that unfortunately there were not enough participants for cheerleading or indoor track teams. Mr. Genuardo further details the participation in this sports "wedge" season.

Recognition of Winter Athletics (originally New Business B)

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Genuardo appears and recognizes the winter athletes and teams, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

There is discussion about accommodating fans at sporting events, with Mr. Genualdo explaining that there are many misconceptions surrounding this issue. He elaborates the numerous challenges, including the task of monitoring fan social distancing at sporting events. The School Committee discusses the best course of action, and what is best for students and their families. There is discussion about the language necessary in a motion to reflect the School Committee's decision.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE EMPOWER AND SUPPORT CRAIG GENUALDO, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, AND ERIC TRACY, HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, WITH RESPECT TO MAKING OPERATIONAL DECISIONS REGARDING FANS AND STUDENTS AT SPORTING EVENTS DURING THIS AND ALL REMAINING SEASONS FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

David Polito	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Julia Campbell	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 MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:27 FOR PURPOSE 3, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH HWEA; HAVING SUCH DISCUSSIONS IN PUBLIC SESSION WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NEGOTIATING POSITION OF THE DISTRICT; AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by David Polito.

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

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

Open meeting adjourns at 7:34 PM. Open Meeting reconvenes at 8:52 PM.

4. New Business

A. Vote on Return to Full In-Person Learning

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios presents the return to full in-person learning, as presented in the [exhibit](#). Ms. Banios reads a statement regarding the vaccination clinic originally scheduled for 03/13/2021, which was unfortunately cancelled as of 4:07 PM this afternoon. School Committee members express their gratitude and commend the administration for their work to secure the vaccination clinic, despite it not coming to fruition.

There is discussion regarding the in-person learning plan, including the results of the family survey; pooled testing; availability of full in person or full hybrid learning; guidance from DESE; etc. Ms. Banios hopes to have the MOA completed by 03/17/2021 and outlines the timeline planned for numerous other important dates and deadlines, including pool testing implementation and Q&A sessions with school principals.

Nurse Ting offers further details regarding the safety surrounding the return to in-person learning and the mechanics of pool testing. There is further discussion about the importance of pool testing and uniting as a community. There is a lengthy discussion regarding the details of the proposed plan.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE RETURN TO FULL IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN, AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT ON THE AGENDA](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: There is a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed plan; remote learning platform Edgenuity; pool testing; vaccination clinic; district's efforts; student mental health needs; etc.

Ms. Bailey hopes the community has seen what an integral role the schools play in the community - this pandemic has taught the entire nation that schools are critical in creating citizens. Ms. Bailey encourages the community to support the teachers and continue to be flexible. Finally, she explains her frustration with the leadership exhibited at the state level, and thanks the towns, Boards of Health, and district administration for their continued dedication and collaboration.

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

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

B. Vote on 2020-2021 Calendar (originally D) [Exhibit](#)

5. Finance and Operations

A. Adopt Final FY22 Budget [Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the FY22 Budget as presented in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADOPT THE FY22 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET OF \$37,510,386. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES (AFTER OFFSETS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,934,892 AND GENERAL FUND DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$575,494. FURTHERMORE, THE GROSS OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT (BEFORE OFFSETS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,738,975 HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE DESE DEFINED CHART OF ACCOUNTS ACCORDING TO THE "SUMMARY BY DESE CATEGORY" CHART INCLUDED IN THIS BUDGET PRESENTATION DATED 03/10/2021.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding the FY22 Budget as presented, including topics not limited to: teaching staff; LMS; budget reductions; focus on literacy program; family liaison support position; instructional coach positions; town revenue issues; student mental health needs (anticipated); timing of certain budget additions; etc.

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

MOTION PASSES through at least 2/3 majority (5:2) roll call vote of seven (7) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ASSESS THE TOWNS OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM A COMBINED TOTAL OF \$33,367,759 AS THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE DISTRICT, AS WELL AS PAY DEBT SERVICE, FOR FY22. THE DISTRICT’S ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT APPORTIONED TO EACH TOWN, AND THE DISTRICT’S TREASURER SHALL CERTIFY SUCH AMOUNTS TO THE RESPECTIVE TREASURERS OF EACH TOWN.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Bailey explains the purpose of the motion, and Mr. Wolczik expresses his concern about the detrimental impact.

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

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

6. Policy

There is discussion regarding the urgency of these matters. School Committee members agree to move this agenda topic to the next School Committee meeting.

- A. ~~3rd Reading & Vote Weapons Policy (JIC)~~ [Exhibit](#)
- B. ~~1st Reading & Vote Executive Session Minutes Policy & Procedures (BEC)~~ [Exhibit](#)
- C. ~~1st Reading & Vote School Sponsored Trips (IJOA)~~ [Exhibit](#)
- D. ~~1st Reading & Vote Community Resources/Speakers (IJO)~~ [Exhibit](#)

7. Chair’s Report

- School Committee Protocols

School Committee Protocols will be addressed in detail at the 03/17/2021 workshop.

- School Committee Workshop 3/17/21

The School Committee Workshop is scheduled for 7:00 PM on 03/17/2021 at the High School, and will address School Committee Protocols and the Superintendent's formative assessment/presentation of evidence and/or artifacts. There will be no public comment at this meeting.

8. Superintendent's Report

- School Committee Nomination Deadline

[Exhibit](#)

The nomination papers for those running for the open seat on the School Committee are due no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, 03/18/2021.

- Update on Pooled Testing

[Exhibit](#)

Explained in detail above.

9. ~~Committee Reports~~

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

10. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes

- February 3, 2021

[Exhibit](#)

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

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

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

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

11. Topics for Future Meetings

- Mr. Polito had requested a timeline of plans and implementations since, but believes the administration's time would be better spent elsewhere;
- Land acknowledgement
 - Ms. Siedzik states that this presentation is ready to go and independent from what the towns do/do not decide to do. She requests this item appear on the agenda at the next meeting following the workshop.
- Mascot change;
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion goals/integration into district goals;
- Guidance to Policy/Legislative Subcommittee to develop policy/procedure regarding School Committee meeting length (per request of Michelle Horgan);

Following the workshop, the next School Committee meeting will be on 04/07/2021.

There is discussion regarding the workshop agenda and a letter the School Committee received.

12. Vote to Adjourn into Executive Session for Purpose #3

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 03/10/2021 MEETING AT 10:58 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by David Polito.

David Polito	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	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: 934 5526 9283; Passcode: 375852. 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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWRSD) link the next day.