



School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

In-Person Meeting at Buker Elementary School, Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

6:30 PM - 9:50 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
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary
Kevan Sano, World Language Director
Eric Tracy, Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School Principal
Don Gallant, District Treasurer

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at approximately 6:32 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Attendees rise for the Pledge of Allegiance; Ms. Siedzik remains seated.

3. 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.

Link below is for Public Comment Only:

<https://zoom.us/j/95237657816?pwd=Y1ZSakNlKoptQXpXTWYwdm9GQTRTdzo9>

Meeting ID: 952 3765 7816; Passcode: 324247

Pamela Millman-Stein, 135 Lynn St., Peabody: (appearing in-person) Offers a comment regarding diversity training, urging the School Committee to hire an outside consultant to guide their efforts.

4. New Business

A. World Language Strategy Discussion (*originally C*)

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Kevan Sano, *District World Language Director*, reviews her presentation, as detailed above in [Exhibit 1](#). Ms. Sano reviews the district's history with the world language curriculum, including details about

languages offered; fluctuating interest in languages; history of the district's language curriculum; and the importance of prioritizing this program.

Superintendent Banios reviews the district's plan moving forward, as detailed in [Exhibit 2](#). She clarifies that the recommendation of the district is to move forward with no changes to FY22 budget/programs, and engage in discussions beginning in Fall 2021 to implement language program changes. to the FY23 budget to accommodate changes to the program. Discussion regarding communication strategy with district families; decision making; vote of the School Committee; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE REINSTATE THE 6TH GRADE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROGRAM, AND ENGAGE IN DISTRICT-WIDE STRATEGIC PLANNING/ VISIONING PROCESS REGARDING THIS REINSTATEMENT IN THE YEARS TO COME.

MOTION by Anna Siedzic; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding the motion on the floor and the changes necessary to the district's budget. There is some tension, with Ms. Bailey reminding the School Committee that in remaining with professional protocols, all motions should be presented to the chair beforehand. There is discussion regarding staffing changes; strategic planning; district's priorities; etc.

I MOVE TO VOTE.

MOTION by Dana Allara.

MOTION PASSES (4:1) through five (5) voting members (Peter Wolczik abstains due to confusion about the motion on the floor).

Original Motion

MOTION FAILS (3:3) through six (6) members present.

There is continued disagreement about the motion; plan moving forward; and the roles, responsibilities, and protocols of the School Committee.

B. MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence (originally A)

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios presents MASS (Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents) Certificate of Academic Excellence, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Student Grant Landon accepts the award and thanks those that have offered their support to him.

C. Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing Awards (originally B)

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, awarded to Troy Hargrove and Amanda Lannon, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

D. HWRHS End of Year Activities

[Exhibit](#)

Eric Tracy, *Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School Principal*, reviews the end of the year activities, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

E. Treasurer's Report & Vote to Approve List of Student Activity Clubs

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

Don Gallant, *District Treasurer*, reviews the treasurer reports, as detailed in the exhibits above.

There is discussion regarding Student Activity Clubs, with both Mr. Gallant and Mr. Leone providing details regarding the School Committee motion and what actions the vote authorizes.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HIGH SCHOOL SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTS AS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBIT.

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by six (6) members present.**

F. Hamilton Town Hall Endorsement

[Exhibit](#)

There is discussion about the details contained in the letter, as presented in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE RECOMMEND FAVORABLE ACTION TO THE HAMILTON TOWN HALL RENOVATION PROJECT.

**MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by six (6) members present.**

Ms. Bailey will send an email informing Hamilton BOS of this decision and stating the School Committee's desire to continue working collaboratively to plan long-term capital projects.

G. Vote 8th Grade Track Waiver

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE A WAIVER FOR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN TRACK AND FIELD FOR THE SPRING 2021 SEASON.

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
Discussion: There is discussion regarding practice location; risks associated; etc.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by six (6) members present.**

~~5. Finance and Operations~~

6. Policy

A. 3rd Reading & Vote Weapons Policy (JICI)

[Exhibit](#)

Review of the Weapons Policy (JICI), as presented in the [exhibit](#), and the change per advice of legal counsel to reflect the exception for law enforcement.

I MOVE THAT THE THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS (JICI) POLICY IN FORM, AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by six (6) members present.**

B. 1st Reading & Vote Executive Sessions (BEC)

[Exhibit](#)

Review of the Executive Sessions (BEC) policy, as presented in the [exhibit](#). The second reading of the Executive Session (BEC) policy is scheduled for the 05/05/2021 School Committee meeting.

C. 1st Reading & Vote School-Sponsored Trips (IJOA)

[Exhibit](#)

Review of School-Sponsored Trips (IJOA) as presented in the [exhibit](#). The Policy/Legislative Subcommittee will need to revise to clarify language surrounding the School Committee's authority to approve overnight trips; as well as clarification about the language surrounding acceptable transportation to school sponsored events.

D. 1st Reading & Vote Community Resources/Speakers (IJOB)

[Exhibit](#)

Review of Community Resources/Speakers (IJOB), as presented in the [exhibit](#). The second reading of the Community Resources/Speakers (IJOB) policy is scheduled for the 05/05/2021 School Committee meeting.

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* will revisit and revise the School-Sponsored field trips policy as discussed this evening. All other policies presented are ready to move forward.

7. Chair's Report

Ms. Bailey notes that Gary Cheeseman, *Wenham Board of Selectmen*, has written a letter in support of better funding for Chapter 70. On 05/05/2021, the School Committee will discuss reciprocal action.

8. Superintendent's Report

A. Wenham BOS School Funding Advocacy Letter

[Exhibit](#)

(addressed briefly above).

9. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

Mr. Geary has sent out a letter requesting Steering Committee members. *The Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* will continue to provide updates as they become available.

B. Policy Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* anticipates bringing batches of policies forward for approval and publication.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

Update forthcoming in executive session meeting.

10. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 23
- Voucher No. 1049
- Voucher No. 1050
- Voucher No. 2986
- Voucher No. 2990
- Voucher No. 2991
- Voucher No. 2992

B. Minutes

- March 17, 2021 Workshop

[Exhibit](#)

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

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by six (6) members present.**

11. Topics for Next Meeting

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Facilitator:* Ms. Siedzik brings this topic forward, as brought up by Ms. Stein earlier this evening.
 - Ms. Horgan will reach out to MASC to inquire about additional resources;
 - Recommendations from School Committee members will be sent to administration;
 - Common themes of definitions will be reviewed at a future meeting;
 - Ms. Banios suggests that the 06/16/2021 workshop be a joint meeting with district administrators, with a potential presentation from the leadership team.
- *Learning Management System:* Mr. Wolczik requests that the School Committee discuss a LMS (with a similar level of detail demonstrated in the above discussion regarding DEI).
- *World Language:* Mr. Wolczik requests clarification regarding the motions regarding the world language curriculum. He does not recall the School Committee moving to accept the administration's recommendation.
- *Long term planning:* Mr. Wolczik requests a discussion regarding long-term accountability, specifically in holding future Superintendents responsible for goals established now.

Mr. Wolczik apologizes for his earlier comment about School Committee members not voting in the best interest of students (during World Language discussion). He does *not* believe any School Committee member is consciously voting against students.

There is discussion regarding next steps surrounding World Language and whether the School Committee needs to make any additional motions (no).

12. Vote to Adjourn Into Executive Session

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:45 PM FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #3, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE HAMILTON-WENHAM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER. TO HOLD THIS CONVERSATION IN PUBLIC WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE DISTRICT'S BARGAINING OR LITIGATION STRATEGY.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Dana Allara.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

** Respectfully submitted April 19, 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

*** Amended based on 05/05/2021 School Committee meeting discussion; respectfully resubmitted May 5, 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*