

February 14, 2020

Dear Hamilton-Wenham School Committee,

The Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Mathematics department has spent some of our professional time this school year in deep reflection about our math curriculum. One result is the unanimous endorsement of the following change to our current practice: **We would like all freshmen to enter into a freshman year Geometry course.**

Our current practice is such that freshmen either go into Algebra 1 or Geometry. This change in practice would have two major benefits:

**#1 - Eliminate the loss of skill caused by the gap year in algebra study.** Currently students taking Algebra 1 their freshman year have a three-year mathematics progression: Algebra 1 - Geometry - Algebra 2. During the Geometry year, we see a regression in algebra content knowledge for many students, despite our efforts to maintain these skills. This proposal would change the progression to Geometry - Algebra 1 - Algebra 2 so that the Algebra 2 course is able to build directly on the Algebra 1 course.

**#2 - All freshmen will have a similar course schedule.** Currently all freshmen take Biology, English 9, World History, and Physical Education. Having all freshmen take Geometry would increase uniformity of the freshman experience, creating possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

We would like to amend the program of studies so that this change can be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year. Eric Tracy, Bryan Menegoni, and Peggy McElhinney all support this change. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Sauriol, Ph.D.

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District  
6-12 Mathematics Curriculum Leader

## Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District 2019 Annual Report

### Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District is to educate our children to become young adults who are of good character and demonstrate mastery of the knowledge and skills needed to be successful members of our global economy and engaged citizens of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### Goals Achieved in 2019

Goals achieved/large projects accomplished in 2019-2020 School Year:

- The School Committee adopted a new 2019-2025 Strategic Blueprint to guide the HWRSD's continuous improvement efforts as we seek to clearly define our beliefs about learning.
- Recruited and retained highly skilled professionals to fill 12 critical district-wide vacancies such as interim superintendent, assistant superintendent of finance, director of facilities, human resources, district account, and an elementary principal.
- Implemented the DESE's Educator Evaluation System and clear evaluation systems for principals, directors, and custodial/maintenance personnel.
- Fully implanted the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (A.L.I.C.E.) Crisis Response Protocols to ensure students and staff are using the most current, evidence-based practices to respond to unexpected situations situations and/or emergencies.

### Goals and Objectives for 2020 (4 - 5 bullet points)

- Establish a Guiding Coalition comprised of HWRSD employees, students, parents, community members, and a School Committee representative.
- Enhance in district special education programs in order to decrease the number of students requesting out of district placements by better meeting individual needs right here in their home district.
- Enhance district-wide safety and security by installing interior and exterior cameras, a digital visitor management system, and other components of a modernized security system.
- Engage various stakeholder groups in the development of an elementary education plan to accompany the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statement of Interest (SOI) process and provide a vision and clarity for future investments.
- Analyze and assess the effectiveness of the district's multi-tiered support system in order to determine which students we are serving well and whom we can better serve.

Significant statistics (if applicable, please feel free to include tables or charts if needed):

The HWRSD Currently serves 1,835 students in grades PreK-12, 1091 of these students are Hamilton Residents. Bessie Buker in Wenham and Cutler Elementary School, Hamilton, serve students in grades K-5 from both Towns. Our third elementary school, Winthrop, is also located in Hamilton and serves students in preschool through grade 5. Students in grades 6-8 attend Miles River Middle School and grade 9-12 students attend Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School.

To serve these students, the HWRSD is currently staffed with approximately 309 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions. Professional Teaching Staff, 176 total, makes up 57% of these

FTEs. Teaching assistants (52 FTE) make up the next largest group, with the remaining 81 positions distributed among administrators, nurses, administrative assistants, cafeteria workers, and custodial/maintenance functions.

The FY20 Total Expenditures Budget was approved by both Hamilton and Wenham Town Meeting for the amount of \$34,951,408. The FY21 Budget request will be presented in detail on the HWRSD Website: [www.hwschools.net](http://www.hwschools.net).

Personnel Changes and Acknowledgements (2-3 sentences): The HWRSD has filled 12 district level vacancies, some of which were promotions from within the District as well as some very knowledgeable, talented and experienced new hires.

**The HWRSD would like to recognize the retirements of the following employees:**

Vincent Bucci	Teacher	34 years	HW Regional High School
Donna Bunk	Executive Assistant	13 years	District
Heidi Hebert	Media Specialist	29 years	Cutler Elementary School
Kathleen Hughes	Adjustment Counselor	22 years	Buker Elementary School
Mary Lee	Teacher	19 years	Cutler Elementary School
Bonnie McGarrell	Teacher	16 years	Miles River Middle School
Eleanor Todd	Teacher	22 years	Miles River Middle School
Lauren Swartz	Teaching Assistant	17 years	Cutler Elementary School
Karen Cecilio	Data Specialist	5 years	District
Susan Clerkin	Teacher	15 years	Cutler Elementary
Jo Delia Giampaolo	Teacher	15 years	HW Regional High School

We thank them for their many years of service to the HWRSD!

Provide an up to date list of department staff (with title) and/or board/commission members (please note Chairs):

**School Committee Members:**

David Polito, Chairperson  
Michelle Bailey, Vice-Chairperson  
Stacey Metternick, Secretary  
Michelle Horgan, Assistant Secretary  
Gene Lee  
Peter Wolczik  
Tai Pryjma

**Department Staff:**

Julie R. Kukenberger, Ed. D., Interim Superintendent  
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration  
Thomas F. Geary III, Director of Facilities, Maintenance & Operations  
Stacy Bucyk, Director of Student Services  
Peggy McElhinney, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction  
Eric Tracy, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Principal  
Bryan Menegoni, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Associate Principal  
Craig Hovey, Miles River Middle School Principal

Elizabeth Lovell, Miles River Middle School Assistant Principal  
Ben Schersten, Buker Elementary Principal  
Jennifer Clifford, Cutler Elementary Principal  
Carolyn Shediak, Winthrop Elementary Principal

Please attach any pictures you would like considered for individual report pages or the cover page.

