



HAMILTON-WENHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

School Committee Meeting
Virtual Zoom Meeting¹
Wednesday, March 18, 2020
5:30 - 9:00 PM

Present via Zoom:

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

Also Present:

Thomas Geary, *Director of Maintenance, Facilities, & Operations*
Dorothy Presser, MASC representative
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent

1) Call to Order

5:30 PM

David Polito, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) New Business

A. Approval of 2020 Statement of Interest (SOI)

[Exhibit](#)

Thomas Geary, *Director of Maintenance, Facilities, & Operations*, explains the SOI process, status of application, and an overview of important aspects of the applications for each of the elementary schools, as detailed in the [Exhibit](#). Mr. Geary notes that identifying a priority school building is a necessary component of the SOI, and recommends the School Committee select Cutler elementary for that purpose. At this point in the SOI application process, the School Committee will need to vote to authorize Dr. Kukenberger to submit the SOI. Mr. Geary explains that the specific language necessary in the motion is shown on pages 1, 17, and 35 of the [Exhibit](#). Deadline for submitting the SOI is 04/08/2020.

RESOLVED: HAVING CONVENED IN AN OPEN MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2020, PRIOR TO THE SOI SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE, THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER, BY-LAWS, AND ORDINANCES, HAS VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM DATED MARCH 18, 2020 FOR THE WINTHROP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED AT 325 BAY RD. HAMILTON, MA WHICH DESCRIBES AND EXPLAINS THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES AND THE PRIORITY

¹ Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/179253443>; Meeting ID: 179 253 443

CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE FUTURE: FOR REPLACEMENT OF OR ADDITION TO OBSOLETE BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FULL RANGE OF PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND APPROVED LOCAL REQUIREMENTS; AND HEREBY FURTHER SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM, THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN NO WAY GUARANTEES THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION, THE AWARDED OF A GRANT OR ANY OTHER FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY, OR COMMITS THE CITY/TOWN/REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Bailey has questions regarding the Buker School application, but none regarding Winthrop school.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gene Lee	YES
Michelle Bailey	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES
Michelle Horgan	YES
Stacey Metternick	YES
Tai Pryjma	YES
David Polito	YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

RESOLVED: HAVING CONVENED IN AN OPEN MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2020, PRIOR TO THE SOI SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE, THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER, BY-LAWS, AND ORDINANCES, HAS VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM DATED MARCH 18, 2020 FOR THE BUKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED AT 1 SCHOOL ST. WENHAM, MA WHICH DESCRIBES AND EXPLAINS THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES AND THE PRIORITY CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE FUTURE: REPLACEMENT OF OR ADDITION TO OBSOLETE BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FULL RANGE OF PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND APPROVED LOCAL REQUIREMENTS; AND HEREBY FURTHER SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM, THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN NO WAY GUARANTEES THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION, THE AWARDED OF A GRANT OR ANY OTHER FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY, OR COMMITS THE CITY/TOWN/REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Bailey undersized gymnasium, surprising because it is the largest of the three schools. Mr. Geary will check accuracy. Discussion regarding adequacy of the gymnasium, needs of the schools, qualifying elements to define gymnasium, possible revision to reflect accuracy, etc.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Stacey Metternick	YES
Michelle Horgan	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES
Tai Pryjma	YES
Gene Lee	YES
Michelle Bailey	YES
David Polito	YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

RESOLVED: HAVING CONVENED IN AN OPEN MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2020, PRIOR TO THE SOI SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE, THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER, BY-LAWS, AND ORDINANCES, HAS VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM DATED MARCH 18, 2020 FOR THE CUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED AT 237 ASBURY ST. HAMILTON, MA WHICH DESCRIBES AND EXPLAINS THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES AND THE PRIORITY CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE FUTURE: FOR REPLACEMENT OF OR ADDITION TO OBSOLETE BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FULL RANGE OF PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND APPROVED LOCAL REQUIREMENTS; AND HEREBY FURTHER SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM, THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN NO WAY GUARANTEES THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION, THE AWARDING OF A GRANT OR ANY OTHER FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY, OR COMMITS THE CITY/TOWN/REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Ms. Bailey asks for clarification in submitting the SOI with minutes/ signature from the chairperson enclosed Mr. Geary explains that the Chairperson will need to sign off on the application, and the meeting minutes will be submitted along with the application. Discussion surrounding the School Committee's concerns with the timeliness of receiving meeting minutes from the recording secretary, highlighting the potential barrier this may pose to the SOI application. Mr. Geary will inquire as to whether draft minutes are acceptable for this purpose.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Michelle Bailey	YES
Stacey Metternick	YES
Michelle Horgan	YES
Gene Lee	YES
Tai Pryjma	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES
David Polito	YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

School Committee thanks Mr. Geary for his extensive work in the SOI application process.

B. Superintendent Search

[Exhibit](#)

Dorothy Presser, MASC representative, appears in the Zoom meeting to review the Superintendent Search process.

Discussion regarding School Committee site visits to the candidate's district. Janelle Carleo confirms that the site visit meeting with Mary Beth Banios is scheduled for this Saturday, 03/21/2020 at 11:00 am. The site visit with Daniel Richards happened this morning, 03/18/2020.

Discussion regarding site visit, social-distancing, safety concerns, current concerns regarding health and gatherings, potential for third party meeting hosts, etc. School Committee members talk about whether the virtual platform prevents or encourages open and honest communication from those providing feedback in the site visits.

Upcoming site visits also include this Thursday, 03/19/2020, at 12:00pm with Phillip Conrad via Google Hangouts, as well as this Friday, 03/20/2020, at 12:00pm with Dr. Julie Kukenberger. Mr. Conrad has provided the list of participants, Dr. Kukenberger's list is anticipated soon.

Ms. Metternick, communicating on behalf of Buker School principal Ben Schersten, asks why the School Committee cannot host their own Zoom/Google meeting, in order to manage participants more effectively. Ms. Presser explains that candidates were responsible for setting up the meetings in their own districts. Discussion regarding most effective strategy in conducting these visits on virtual platforms. Discussion surrounding potential obstacles with Zoom platform, including inability to host more than one meeting at a time, and suggested remedies to these issues.

Discussion regarding superintendent candidate interview scheduling, including the two interviews scheduled Monday, 03/24/2020 with Dr. Julie Kukenberger and Phillip Conrad (6:00pm, 7:30pm, respectively), as well as the one interview Tuesday, 03/25/2020 with Daniel Richards.

Discussion regarding dissemination of data collected from Survey Monkey responses, and community meetings to engage with candidates. Mr. Leone notes that he ended up asking the majority of questions in the last community meeting, as participants from the community were not actively participating in asking questions. Mr. Schersten explains that the host computer was separate from the computer Mr. Leone was operating from, resulting in participants attempting to, but failing to communicate their questions to Mr. Leone. Further discussion surrounding technical obstacles, structural and procedural elements of the meetings, School Committee's presence in meetings, etc. School Committee members ultimately agree that during these meetings, the questions presented by community members will be visible to all those in the meeting (more closely aligning with expectations during in-person meetings).

Ms. Bailey suggests creating a separate meeting for district personnel, and keeping the community meetings as planned and advertised. Mr. Leone agrees to email Ms. Presser with the link to the new meeting after he has created that meeting. Ms. Presser will then email the new link to candidates.

Ms. Horgan would like to assure the community that the search for a Hamilton Wenham Regional School District Superintendent is a legitimate search process, with members of the School

Committee working hard to hire the best person for the job. Further discussion regarding complexities inherent in this search, including community concerns about Dr. Kukenberger's candidacy.

Mr. Leone points out that the links to site-visit meetings were perhaps made available to the public through the School Committee's posted agenda. Mr. Polito will look into this and remedy if necessary.

Discussion regarding virtual meeting challenges during a time of increased fear and anxiety in response to COVID-19 global pandemic.

School Committee members express their gratitude to the Superintendent Search Committee for meeting with 22 applicants and investing a significant amount of their time and abilities to serve their community in this regard.

Thank you to Ms. Presser for joining this meeting (Ms. Presser leaves the meeting).

C. Approve Northshore Education Consortium Articles of Agreement Proposed Changes

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Metternick notes that there were 3 changes made to the Northshore Education Consortium Articles of Agreement, as detailed in the [Exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE NORTHSHORE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT PROPOSED CHANGES, AS SHOWN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Michelle Bailey	YES
Stacey Metternick	YES
Michelle Horgan	YES
Gene Lee	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES
Tai Pryjma	YES
David Polito	YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

D. Approve the HWRSD Student Opportunity Plan

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HWRSD STUDENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN AS SHOWN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#), and as presented by Mr. Leone.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Michelle Horgan	YES
Michelle Bailey	YES
Stacey Metternick	YES
Gene Lee	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES

Tai Pryjma YES
David Polito YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

E. Donations

- *Friends of HWRHS MS INC* \$750

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE FRIENDS OF HWRHS/MS INC TO SUPPORT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FREEDOM TRAIL FIELD TRIP for \$750.00.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Should this field trip be cancelled, the money would be returned to the Friends of HWRHS/MS, Inc. Brief discussion regarding travel concerns and uncertainty moving forward.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Michelle Bailey YES
Stacey Metternick YES
Michelle Horgan YES
Gene Lee YES
Tai Pryjma YES
Peter Wolczik YES
David Polito YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

- *Friends of Cutler* \$220

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF CUTLER FOR THE CALMING CORNER FOR \$220 AS WELL AS THE DONATION OF A MICROWAVE TO REPLACE THE CURRENT ONE IN THE TEACHER'S ROOM VALUED AT NO MORE THAN \$200.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Michelle Bailey YES
Stacey Metternick YES
Michelle Horgan YES
Gene Lee ABSTAIN
Tai Pryjma YES
Peter Wolczik YES
David Polito YES

Approved by 6 members present; 1 member, Gene Lee, abstaining.

Thank you to the Friends of Cutler and the Friends of HWRHS/MS, Inc. for their continued support of Hamilton-Wenham students!

F. Approve revised 2020-2021 last day of school

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone states that he has no information as to the reasons for changing the 2020-2021 last day of school. This item is tabled until further information is provided.

4) Chair's Report

Mr Polito thanks the District Leadership Team for their remarkable response and tireless efforts during the COVID-19 school closures and accompanying community response. Discussion about the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the district's areas for improvement, particularly in the area of technology. The community has made it clear that Hamilton-Wenham values distant learning, and Mr. Polito notes that the district will prioritize this and continue to make strides towards ensuring student success Further discussion regarding adapting to the enormous changes from the pandemic and the district's response.

5) Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 2879
- Voucher No. 2874
- Voucher No. 2875
- Voucher No. 22
- Voucher No. 1044
- Voucher No. 1043
- Voucher No. 2881
- Voucher No. 2880

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING THE WARRANTS LISTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#); THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THESE DOCUMENTS.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Bailey	YES
Stacey Metternick	YES
Michelle Horgan	YES
Gene Lee	YES
Tai Pryjma	YES
Peter Wolczik	YES
David Polito	YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

B. Other

C. Topics for Next Meeting

Next Meeting: 04/01/2020

- Review ongoing field trips, particularly DC field trip;
- Host Q&A regarding Corona Virus;
- Policy Group to review Policy D4002;
 - This policy impacts how the Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee proceeds with a pending MOU
- Conversation surrounding Town Meeting date changes

6) Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN AT 7:26 PM.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Bailey YES
Stacey Metternick YES
Michelle Horgan YES
Gene Lee YES
Tai Pryjma YES
Peter Wolczik YES
David Polito YES

Unanimously approved by 7 members present.

Respectfully submitted March 21, 2020 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.*

Members of the Public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#). If you subscribe to the channel, you will be notified when the meeting is being broadcast and when a new video is posted. In addition, the events will be rebroadcast on YouTube HWRSD almost immediately and approximately 3 hours later on HWCAM.org. The video also rebroadcasts on TV the following day on Verizon Channel 35 and Comcast Channel 99.