



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

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**  
**Meeting ID: 978-468-5310**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**  
**6:00PM - 8:00PM**

**Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Julie Kukenberger, Interim Superintendent  
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance & Administration  
Thomas Kaine, Student Government Representative  
Mahala Lettvin, Recording  
Brad Hill, Massachusetts State Representative

**1. Call to Order**

6:00 PM

David Polito, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Citizens' Comments**

Ms. Ba \_\_\_\_\_, raise their hands in a Zoom meeting if they would like to make a comment.

**4. Student Representative's Report**

Thomas Kaine, *Student Government Representative*, provides the School Committee with an update:

- Quarter 3 ended on the 13th, and quarter 4 will formally begin 04/06/20 with a pass/fail, credit/no credit issued for all classes. Final quarter grade will be credit or no credit.
- Thomas reports that students have been handling the change pretty well: students are realizing how much of their time is spent in school. He has noticed great student participation, and notes that the teachers have been handling new technology very well and are offering officer hours on Fridays..
- Review of the High School schedule, testing, AP courses, etc. Seniors facing disappointment regarding the cancelled senior events including graduation. Brief discussion regarding potential graduation alternatives.
- Discussion regarding community concern with students not appropriately engaged in social distancing practices. Thomas explains that he knows some students have been

getting together and hanging out while maintaining distance (on car roofs). He acknowledges the danger in engaging in this practice, but overall, he believes students have been doing a great job taking things seriously.

## 5. **New Business**

### A. FY21 Budget Process and Schedule of Town Meeting

Discussion regarding Town Meeting process in light of pandemic: 1/12 budget; possibility of lowering the quorum count or postponing the meeting; potential economic impacts; scheduling discussions/meetings with the Towns; Doodle survey; budget process; etc.

Mr. Leone explains that the next School Committee meeting is 04/15/20, however he would like to present the budget information on the 04/24/20 meeting in order to offer actual numbers.

### B. Approve Revised 2020-2021 Last Day of School

[Exhibit](#)

*After requests to join the meeting are granted, many participants begin cursing, laughing, making offensive/ derogatory comments, and generally making continuation of the meeting impossible. At 6:28 PM, Ms. Bailey ends the School Committee Zoom meeting, noting she will send participants follow-up communication with instructions on how to re-join the meeting. The meeting is reconvened at 6:39 PM. Ms. Bailey and Mr. Polito decided to only grant admission to participants whose names are recognizable. Discussion regarding the situation and whether follow up is needed with local law enforcement authorities.*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 2020-2021 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AS SHOWN IN THE REVISED 2020-2021 CALENDAR ([EXHIBIT](#)) AND SHOWN ON SCREEN (JUNE 11, 2020 WITH NO SNOW DAYS, OR AS JUNE 18, 2020 WITH 5 SNOW DAYS) .**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Gene Lee.**

*Discussion:* Ms. Bailey asks for clarification on what the motion is approving. Mr. Polito explains that the motion is seeking to revise the last day of school due for the 2020-2021 calendar, accounting for the parent-teacher conference days which count as half days.

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Michelle Bailey:   | YES; |
| Gene Lee:          | YES; |
| Stacey Metternick: | YES; |
| Michelle Horgan:   | YES; |
| Tai Pryjma:        | YES; |
| Peter Wolczik:     | YES; |
| David Polito:      | YES. |

**Unanimously approved via roll call vote of 7 members present.**

### C. Review 2019-2020 School Calendar: April Break and 185th Day

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding whether to cancel April vacation; calculations to determine the last day of school; Governor's orders; pros/cons of April break; etc.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AND APRIL BREAK AS SCHEDULED IN THE 2019-2020 CALENDAR. THE OFFICIAL LAST DAY OF SCHOOL WILL BE MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.**

Michelle Bailey: YES;  
Stacey Metternick: YES;  
Peter Wolczik: YES;  
Michelle Horgan: YES;  
Tai Pryjma: NO;  
Gene Lee: YES;  
David Polito: YES.

**MOTION APPROVED via majority roll call vote.**

Mr. Pryjmaz voted no, as he believes so much school has been missed already and is thus in favor of working through April vacation.

**D. Discussion with Representative Brad Hill regarding the legislation surrounding COVID-19 (originally agenda item H)**

Representative Brad Hill attends the meeting this evening to update the School Committee on COVID-19 and the impact throughout the Commonwealth. Representative Hill states Massachusetts faces dire economic trouble as a result of COVID-19. He details the potential impact this could have, including an estimated one billion dollar loss, which could potentially grow to three billion in FY21. Representative Hill provides an overview of the trends of the pandemic so far, as well as anticipated trends moving forward. He updates the School Committee regarding a bill that would move Town Meetings and elections past the normal dates.

Further discussion regarding potential 9C cuts; likelihood of budget approved by 06/30/2020; Student Opportunity Act; etc.

Representative Hill states that he will forward information to the School Committee as it becomes available.

Discussion regarding remote learning and district response to family's technological needs. Dr. Kukenberger details the district's multi-phase remote learning approach, including resources provided to families; launching of the remote learning website; needs of students/families including technology and other help; professional development; individualized education plans; developing social/emotional and trauma-informed responses; feedback forms; USDA nutritional guidelines; etc.

Brief discussion regarding MCAS testing.

**E. Human Resources' Support During Extended School Closure (originally agenda item D)**

Dr. Kukenberger updates the School Committee on the Human Resources support: she and Mr. Leone have been working to determine if any cost savings exist, however, the district continues to pay all their employees. She details the professional development that has been made available to staff. Dr. Kukenberger recommends continuing to pay employees, noting that many School Committees are holding a vote regarding this issue. Voting in favor of continuing to pay employees sends a strong message to the community.

Discussion regarding potential cost savings; transportation contract; potential reimbursement; school nurses; etc.

Discussion regarding the need/perception of the School Committee voting on this issue. Ms. Bailey would be more comfortable voting *not* to pay staff should that issue ever come up. Ms. Bailey and Ms. Metternick would like to see numbers before voting. Mr. Polito responds, noting that many of the details requested will come up later in the MOA discussion.

F. Class of 2020 Graduation Schedule  
(originally agenda item E)

[Exhibit](#)

Dr. Kukenberger reviews the schedule of events planned for High School graduation, with events initially planned for May and June of 2020 (detailed in the [Exhibit](#)). Discussion regarding the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic and what this means for Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School seniors who will now face cancelled or, at best, postponed graduation events. Dr. Kukenberger says although there is no action for the School Committee to take this evening, it is important to let the community know that the district is considering innovative and creative approaches to remedy this loss.

G. Postpone School Committee Elections Pursuant to Governor Baker's State of Emergency declaration

(originally agenda item F)

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO DELAY OUR ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 9 2020 TO A DATE INDEFINITE IN THE FUTURE DUE TO OUR BELIEF THAT WE WOULD NOT HAVE AN ADEQUATE NUMBER OF POLL WORKERS DUE TO THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY, WHICH WAS DECLARED BY GOVERNOR BAKER.**

**MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.**

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Stacey Metternick: | YES; |
| Tai Pryjma:        | YES; |
| Michelle Horgan:   | YES; |
| Gene Lee:          | YES; |
| Peter Wolczik:     | YES; |
| Michelle Bailey:   | YES; |
| David Polito:      | YES. |

**MOTION APPROVED via majority roll call of 7 members present.**

H. Donations

[Exhibit](#)

(originally agenda item G)

*Helene Pruszynski Scholarship Fund:*

*Richard and Carole Nossek - \$100/ Phillip and Barbara Arndt - \$200*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS TO THE HELENE PRUSZYNSKI SCHOLARSHIP FUND FROM RICHARD AND CAROLE NOSSEK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100, AND FROM PHILLIP AND BARBARA ARNDT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.**

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Tai Pryjma:        | YES; |
| Stacey Metternick: | YES; |
| Michelle Horgan:   | YES; |
| Michelle Bailey:   | YES; |

Peter Wolczik: YES;  
Gene Lee: YES;  
David Polito: YES.

**Unanimously approved via roll call vote of 7 members present.**

Thank you to Richard and Carole Nossek and Phillip and Barbara Arndt for their generous contributions in support of Hamilton-Wenham students.

**6. Superintendent's Report**

A. Celebrating Success in Winter Athletics

[Exhibit](#)

Dr. Kukenberger reads Craig Genualdo's 03/24/20 email [exhibit](#) acknowledging the following athletes and teams:

- Hamilton-Wenham Boys' Basketball, and Coach Mike DiMarino;
- Hamilton-Wenham Gymnastics team, including teammates from Penguin Hall and Manchester-Essex schools, as well as Coach Chris Way;
- Hamilton-Wenham Hockey;
- Hamilton-Wenham Girls's Basketball, and Coach Mark Cole;
- Senior Calvin Dalton, wrestler with Salem Co-Op, who was a league champ, State Finalist, New England Finalist, and qualified for the Nationals;
- Mr. Polito adds: Sophomore diver, Micah Katz won the Cape Anne League Diving Championship;
- Ms. Metternick adds: Madison Rivers, senior, point guard in basketball as reported by the Salem News.

B. Enrollment Report

[Exhibit](#)

Dr. Kukenberger reviews the data from the enrollment report, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

C. Kindergarten Registration

Dr. Kukenberger reviews the timeline for incoming Kindergarten student registration for the 2020-2021 school year, as well as potential for online registration.

D. School Choice Registration

Dr. Kukenberger reviews School Choice Registration for the 2020-2021 school year.

**7. Chair's Report**

(None).

**8. Committee Reports (continued)**

a. Capital/Financial Subcommittee

- Next Meeting Date: 04/07/2020

b. Policy Subcommittee

- First Reading of SC Policy G

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding new policy adopted from MASC model policy regarding employee fundraising including different scenarios, purpose of policy, etc. Further review of all policies making up Policy Section G, with particular attention paid to red lined items.

No feedback on Policy Section G.

- First Reading of SC Policy H

[Exhibit](#)

Review Policy Section H, including negotiations, third party negotiations, maintaining superintendent's position, etc.

No feedback on Policy Section H

- First Reading of SC Policy KCD - Gifts and Contributions [Exhibit](#)

Review of Policy KCD, which was initially Policy D4002. Ms. Bailey explains that this policy concerns gifts over \$50,000. Ms. Metternick confirms that this policy covers what was needed for developing the MOU with the Turf Field Committee.

Feedback: change “Manchester-Essex School District” to “Hamilton Wenham Regional School District”

- First Reading of SC Policy FFA - Memorials [Exhibit](#)

Ms. Bailey explains that this policy was updated: the first sentence is new, the second sentence was altered slightly.

No feedback on Policy Section FFA-Memorials

- First Reading of SC Policy FF - Naming Facilities [Exhibit](#)

Ms. Bailey explains that this policy ensures that there is a process in place for naming facilities.

No feedback on Policy Section FF- Naming Facilities

**All policies listed above will proceed to a second reading on the 04/15/20 School Committee meeting.**

- Next Meeting Date: April 15, 2020 @6:00 PM

c. Negotiations Subcommittee

- Next Meeting Date: April 7, 2020 @ 4:30 PM.

**9. Consent Agenda**

a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 23
- Voucher No. 1045
- Voucher No. 1046
- Voucher No. 1047
- Voucher No. 2883
- Voucher No. 2884
- Voucher No. 2885

b. Vote to approve prior meeting minutes

- December 18, 2019 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- January 14, 2020, Budget Workshop #1 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- January 15, 2020, Budget Workshop #2 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- January 16, 2020 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- January 22, 2020 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- March 11, 2020 Minutes [Exhibit](#)
- March 18, 2020 Minutes [Exhibit](#)

Ms. Metternick asks to pull voucher 2885. She also requests that School Committee members review the prior meeting minutes to help catch any typos/errors.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA LISTED ABOVE, EXCEPT FOR WARRANT #2885; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THESE DOCUMENTS.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.**

Tai Pryjma: YES;  
Stacey Metternick: YES;

Michelle Bailey: YES;  
Michelle Horgan: YES;  
Gene Lee: YES;  
Peter Wolczik: YES;  
David Polito: YES.

**Unanimously approved via roll call vote of 7 members present.**

*Discussion:* Voucher 2885 is not signed. Mr. Leone states that he and Ms. Horgan both signed this. This voucher will be tabled until a signed copy is produced.

## **10. Other**

### **A. Topics for Future Meetings**

- 06/01/20 deadline for Friends of the Public Education Award Nomination - nominating Hamilton-Wenham EDFUND;
- Update on Learning & Financial implications due to the State of Emergency (standing agenda item);
- Updates on Seniors' graduation, last day of school, and other senior-specific events.

Brief discussion regarding students retrieving musical instruments, including logistical challenges and efforts made so far.

## **11. Adjourn into Executive Session**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:58 PM FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #3, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE HAMILTON-WENHAM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION; NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION; AND ALSO FOR PURPOSE #2, TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS, OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, SUPERINTENDENT, MARY BETH BANIOS; NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION. DISCUSSION OF THESE TOPICS IN OPEN SESSION WOULD COMPROMISE THE DISTRICT'S POSITION IN NEGOTIATING THESE CONTRACTS.**

### **MOTION by David Polito**

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

**Unanimously approved via roll call vote of 7 members present.**

04/01/20 School Committee Open Meeting ends at 9:01 PM.

*Respectfully submitted May 29, 2020 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

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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

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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.