



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

**School Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)**  
**Webinar ID: 893 7867 0542**  
**Password: 885035**  
**Thursday, May 14, 2020**  
**4:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Present:**

David Polito, Chairperson  
Gene Lee, Assistant Secretary  
Michelle Horgan, Secretary  
Michelle Bailey, Vice Chairperson  
Peter Wolczik  
Stacey Metternick  
Tai Pryjma (5:00 PM arrival)

**Also Present:**

Julie Kukenberger, Interim Superintendent  
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance & Administration  
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary  
Joseph Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Manager  
Mary Beth Banios, Incoming Superintendent

4:00 PM

**1. Call to Order**

David Polito calls the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

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**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Citizens' Comments**

None at this time.

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**4. Student Representative Report**

**5. New Business**

A. FY21 Budget Reductions

Dr. Kukenberger and Mr. Leone review information included in the [Budget Reductions presentation](#). The items included are not recommendations by administration, but rather a necessary response based on the 05/06/20 request to plan for a 20% reduction to the FY21 State Aid for public schools. Dr. Kukenberger explains that reductions were developed based on 3 guiding questions:

1. What staffing supports will our students need most as we navigate the COVID-19 crisis and return to school (whatever that may look like) in fall?
2. How can we protect or preserve the classroom? What resources have the most direct impact on students' emotional, physical, mental, and academic well-being?
3. How will we keep equity at the forefront of each decision?

Dr. Kukenberger and Mr. Leone provide an overview of the [reductions](#), as well as the implications of those reductions. Discussion regarding the unknown costs associated with opening schools back up in the fall, including whether schedules will need to stagger schedules, and whether substantial investments will be needed to provide hand sanitizing stations and other such equipment in response to COVID-19. Discussion

regarding federal funding; state funding; CARES act; contract positions; athletic user fee percentages; long term impacts of changes; Town Meeting/Town response; voter education; etc.

Discussion regarding strategy moving forward; i.e. whether to vote on reduction this evening. Further discussion regarding the role of the Towns, debt exclusion, continuing capital requests, etc.

Lengthy discussion surrounding some of the reductions, including TAs, importance of early intervention, and the “teacher in charge” role with \$10,000 stipend. Dr. Kukenberger reminds the committee that equity was kept at the forefront of these tough decisions, and it is important to keep students’ new needs in the forefront of all these discussions.

Discussion regarding other potential cost savings, with Ms. Metternick asking whether consideration has been given to consolidating the High School and Middle School. Dr. Kukenberger recommends that changes like this wait until after the public health crisis ends, allowing thorough discussion and thoughtful deliberations.

Dr. Kukenberger explains that if further reductions are called for, the district will need to begin cutting chorus/band/foreign language, and essentially offer only what is necessary for students to meet the minimum graduation requirements. Discussion regarding potential creative/unconventional solutions. Discussion regarding level-service; level-funding; out-of-district placement; etc.

#### B. TURF/HWRSD MOU

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding the TURF/HWRSD Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Bailey explains that she did not review the MOU due to a misunderstanding about the agenda this evening. Ms. Metternick explains some of the changes made to the MOU, which has been approved by legal counsel.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE MOU BETWEEN THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE HAMILTON - WENHAM TOWNS UNITED FOR RECREATIONAL FIELDS, AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).**

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

*Discussion:* History of this project, changing need and scope of the project, and overall benefit to the schools and towns Ms. Bailey asks if this vote is urgent, as she would abstain during a vote held this evening. There are no objections to tabling this vote until next week’s meeting.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TABLE THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR.**

**MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Gene Lee.**

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

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote.**

## 6. **Chair’s Report**

No report.

## 7. **Committee Reports**

### A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

- No other updates other than what has been covered in detail throughout the meeting.
- B. Policy Subcommittee
- Public Hearing regarding religious observation policy will be held next week, 05/20/20.
- C. Negotiations Subcommittee
- Ms. Horgan reports that the Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on 05/18/20 with the custodial union, and on 05/21/20 with the education association.

**8. Consent Agenda**

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 1052
- Voucher No. 27
- Voucher No.2894
- Voucher No, 2895

B. Vote to approve prior meeting minutes:

- January 8, 2020
- February 12, 2020

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN THIS AGENDA INCLUDING THE WARRANTS AND PRIOR MEETING MINUTES AS LISTED ABOVE; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.**

**MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Gene Lee.**

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

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

**9. Other**

A. Topics for Future Meetings

- Nomination of EDFUND to the MASC Outstanding School Partner Award;
- Discussion regarding potential return of private school students;
- Public Hearing: Religious Observance Policy;
- Public Hearing: FY21 Budget Reductions;
- Q&A session/strategy for public meetings/community input.
- High School Principal Eric Tracy update regarding Q3 options.

**10. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:05 PM 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; AND ALSO FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #3 - TO DISCUSS STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO ALL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING GROUPS; AND NOT TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.**

**MOTION by David Polito.**

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

**MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call (Ms. Horgan has exited the meeting).**

*Respectfully submitted June 1, 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 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](#) 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 meeting id: 893 7867 0542; password: 885035. 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](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.