

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional School District  
School Committee Meeting  
Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room  
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 6:30 PM**

**Present:**

Jeanise Bertrand  
David Polito, Chairperson  
Gene Lee, Vice Chairperson  
Michelle Bailey  
Stacey Metternick, Secretary  
Peter Wolczik, Assistant Secretary

**Also Present:**

Michael Harvey, Superintendent  
Jeffrey Sands, Assistant Superintendent (6:40 pm arrival)  
Lauren Verge, Student Government Representative

**1. Call to Order - Public Hearing on School Choice 6:30pm**

David Polito calls the Public Hearing on School Choice to order at 6:35 pm, opening the floor to citizen comments (none).

Dr. Michael Harvey provides an overview of the HW School Choice program, open to students in grades 6-12.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
VOTE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SCHOOL CHOICE.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Gene Lee.  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

David Polito closes the Public Hearing on School Choice at 6:45 pm.  
David Polito calls the Hamilton Wenham School Committee meeting to order at 6:45 pm.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

All in attendance rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Approval of Warrants**

Present: David Polito, Gene Lee, Stacey Metternick, Peter Wolczik

Also present: Don Gallant, HWRSD Treasurer; Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

The following warrants were approved (6:46 pm - 6:57 pm):

Voucher #	Amount
2667	\$246,323.03
16	\$10,442.31
1030	\$776,254.96
1029	\$373,893.13
2665	\$12,112.41
2666	\$6,355.20
2668	\$72,280.23

**4. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**5. Chair's Report**

None.

**6. Superintendent's Report**

- First set of ALICE drills occurred at the Middle and High Schools. Faculty received further training regarding ALICE techniques. Dr. Harvey recognizes the Hamilton and Wenham Police and Fire departments for their assistance with organizing and carrying out these drills.
- The second Joint meeting (HW FINCOMS, BOS, and HWRSD) is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2019 at 7:00pm.

**7. Consent Agenda**

A. Minutes

December 4, 2018	Exhibit A
December 5, 2018	Exhibit B
December 19, 2018	Exhibit C
January 2, 2019	Exhibit D
January 16, 2019	Exhibit E

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 4, 2018; DECEMBER 5, 2018; DECEMBER 19, 2018; JANUARY 2, 2019; AND JANUARY 16, 2019; THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THESE ITEMS.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

**8. New Business**

A. Smoking By-Law – Bryan Menegoni

Exhibit F

Bryan Menegoni presents *HWRHS Response to Vaping*:

- What is a vape? Reviews common terminology, concerns with changing state laws regarding marijuana, increasing access, etc.;
- What is a Juul? A Juul is the most common device found in the high school; the small size allows for covert usage and storage; Mr. Menegoni expresses concern regarding possible sales during school hours and on school property;
- What are the statistics on vaping? Overview of national/local statistics, highlighting 2018 reporting of 48.5% students “trying a vape”;
- Why are we concerned about vaping? Mr. Menegoni details the health concerns surrounding nicotine, aerosol, nicotine exposure, and the potential for marijuana consumption. Highlights the health concern particularly concerning education: students use and distribute vapes in school; withdrawal effects impact learning; and use of school restrooms takes valuable time away from learning (both from students vaping and from students reporting avoidance of restrooms);
- What is our current response? The student handbook guides current response, however there is a need to develop a response that better addresses the health and learning concerns as well as a detailed disciplinary method aligning with state law. Mr. Menegoni recognizes the parents, school administration, town board of health, wellness committee, and other community members involved;
- What response are we developing?
  - No distinction between possession or use;
  - Education: (1) nicotine cessation program; (2) high school health curriculum enhancements;
  - Discipline: (1) detention; (2) multiple offenses result in in-school suspension;
  - Fine System;
  - Boards of Health seeking bylaws at town meeting;
  - Prohibit possession or use of nicotine/tobacco products on school property;
  - Extracurricular consequences;
  - Going beyond MIAA minimum penalty;
  - Include athletics, clubs/activities, extracurricular events

Discussion regarding a fine system, strategies regarding enactment of fines, MIAA guidelines, distinction between use, possession, and sale of the products.

Discussion regarding athletic consequences and involvement from the Board of Health. Michelle Bailey states that the “mandatory” athletic meetings are not mandatory. Further, inquires as to why the proposal is higher than MIA standard, pointing to the fact that inclusion in team activities may be a crucial component of recovery for some students. Michelle asks for details regarding the collection of fines including who collects the fines, where funds are deposited, and what the cessation education entails.

Discussion regarding the importance of athletics and the use of involvement as a deterrent. Mr. Menegoni details the suggested athletic participation consequences and states that the fines are directed to Town Hall, but he is unsure how the money is handled after that. Dr. Giselle Perez, representing the Hamilton Board of Health, speaks about athletic participation as an effective deterrent, and further explains the cessation program which encompasses research and approaches surrounding addiction, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and education.

Discussion regarding disciplinary measures, ethical concerns in determining “guilt” of student, and the regulatory authority of various entities enforcing/collecting fines.

Andrew Ting, Wenham Board of Health Chair, details the discussions between Hamilton/Wenham Boards of Health regarding the fine system, policies discussed, and current understanding of regulatory language needed regarding vaping in schools.

Discussion regarding surrounding area approaches to similar concerns.

Lauren Verge asks about distinction between nicotine and marijuana possession/use of vaping, with Mr. Menegoni stating that state law regulates marijuana use/possession.

Mr. Menegoni details next steps involved in this process. Michelle Bailey asks when School Council would become involved, with Mr. Menegoni stating that the council must approve changes to the Student Handbook, but this happens later in the process. Michelle asks for names of members on the Council, with Mr. Tracy agreeing to email names of members and most recent meeting minutes.

Further discussion and questions regarding vaping, cultural aspects, statistics, best approaches, local community concerns, etc.

B. Vote on School Choice for FY20

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ACCEPT SCHOOL CHOICE FOR FY20 FOR GRADES 6-12.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey. Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

C. FY20 Budget Review

Exhibit G

- FY20 Operating Budget

Jeff Sands states that the vote to approve the FY20 operating budget is scheduled for the next School Committee meeting. He reviews the Superintendent's recommendation for FY20 Operating Budget as previously presented, as well as options available should the School Committee wish to reduce the operating budget.

David Polito & Gene Lee report on items regarding specific line items on the budget; strategy in decreasing budget/associated budget items; town support of OPEB; and details of OPEB funding.

Michelle Bailey points out that the athletic user fee reduction is disproportionate considering other extracurricular activity costs, and adds that she will not support the School Resource Officer as a part of the school district budget.

David Polito disagrees with the statement about athletic user fees, and further states that protesting the School Resource Officer creates issues that he would rather resolve through discussion this evening. He asks if Michelle would approve budget should the SRO be removed, with Michelle stating that this is a possibility depending on the town's reaction to OPEB on 02/02/2019 Joint Meeting.

Stacey Metternick states she is also uncomfortable with the School Resource Officer on the district budget.

Further discussion regarding the School Resource Officer costs and budget line item.

Discussion regarding other strategies in reducing budget, with Stacey Metternick suggesting a \$300,000 reduction in Special Education costs because of the inability to predict future year costs, the impact/suffering to regular education, etc. Discussion regarding legality of this suggestion, with Stacey arguing that this cut has been made in the past. Further discussion regarding this suggestion, and consideration of additional strategies, etc.

Jeff Sands asks that the School Committee answer the questions listed on page 57 of the [FY20 Budget Workshop](#). Michelle Bailey states she would have liked administration to have developed a budget showing a 3% increase, but understands it is too late to do so.

David Polito asks for the committee to focus on answering the questions detailed on page 57.

- Michelle Bailey is awaiting 02/02/2019 Joint Meeting for information concerning OPEB.
- Stacey Metternick is also awaiting 02/02/2019 Joint Meeting;
- Jeanise Bertrand supports the budget recommendation;
- David Polito supports the budget recommendation;
- Gene Lee supports the budget recommendation;
- Peter Wolczik states he is not overjoyed about the budget, but will do what is best for the students;

Based on feedback from School Committee members, Jeff Sands will not make any changes to the budget, and the vote for approval will occur 02/13/2019.

D. Donations (*moved item on agenda*)

Exhibit H

*DECA – Business Professional Donations \$2,970.00*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM DECA BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,970 (INDIVIDUAL DONOR NAMES AND AMOUNTS READ ALOUD, AS LISTED IN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PACKET, PAGES 74-75, EXHIBIT H1).**

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

**Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

Thank you to each sponsor who donated to this vital program!

*Friends of HWRHS/MS - \$1,000.00*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL & MILES RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 TO HELP WITH THE 6TH & 8TH GRADE FIELD TRIPS TO THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE.**

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

**Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

Thank you to the Friends for their generous support!

*Friends of Cutler - \$86.25*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF CUTLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86.25 TO HELP WITH THE COSTS OF FIELD TRIPS.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.  
Thank you to the Friends for their generous support!**

*Friends of the Arts - \$2,999.99*

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,625.92 FOR THE PURCHASE AND SHIPPING OF A NEW FULL-SIZED TUBA FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND.**

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.  
Thank you to the Friends of the Arts for this generous support!**

(C. continued - FY20 Budget Review)

- Adjourn into Executive Session

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF #1,#3, & #5 LONGMEADOW WAY AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. THE CHAIR HAS DETERMINED THAT DISCUSSING THIS POTENTIAL PURCHASE IN OPEN SESSION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE DISTRICT'S NEGOTIATING POSITION. (EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #6).**

**MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.**

Jeanise Bertrand -Yes

David Polito -Yes

Gene Lee -Yes

Michelle Bailey -Yes

Stacey Metternick -Yes

Peter Wolczik -Yes

**Unanimously approved via roll call vote at 9:34 pm.**

**School Committee returns to regularly scheduled meeting at 10:05 pm.**

- Longmeadow Update

School committee has authorized district leadership to proceed with negotiation on properties on Longmeadow Way.

## **9. Other**

### **A. Topics for Next Meeting**

- Michelle Bailey requests a more detailed explanation regarding the School Calendar either during the next meeting (02/13/2019) or following meeting (02/27/2019);
- HR217 - Appointment of School Committee member to approve warrants;
- Public Hearing & School Committee Vote: Adoption of FY20 Operating Budget;
- Approval of Executive Session minutes (already in dropbox);

- 03/27/2019 placeholder for OPEB speaker.

**10. Vote to Adjourn**

9:30pm

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT AND NOT RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. (EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #2) 10:10 PM.**

**MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand.**

Jeanise Bertrand -Yes  
David Polito -Yes  
Gene Lee -Yes  
Michelle Bailey -Yes  
Stacey Metternick -Yes  
Peter Wolczik -Yes

**Unanimously approved by 6 members roll call vote.**