

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional School District
School Committee Meeting
Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:00 PM**

Present:

Kerry Gertz
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
Lauren Verge, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

David Polito calls the Hamilton Wenham School Committee meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens' Comments

Jeanise Bertrand, 28 Perkins St. Wenham: Ms. Bertrand states that it has been her pleasure to serve on the School Committee, and an honor to have been twice elected for the role. She thanks Deb Evans, Roger Kuebel, Sheila MacDonald for the welcoming she received; Dr. Michael Harvey and Jeff Sands for never dismissing her contributions; and Donna Bunk for her help over the years. Ms. Bertrand expresses her concern over the departure of Superintendent Dr. Michael Harvey, and urges the committee to reflect on the events leading up to this situation. Opines that the committee has backtracked, with many members carrying out personal agendas. She further states that although the Chairman has the best intentions, she believes he has been far too lenient and nice in response to the actions of certain members. She hopes the committee can get back on a track looking forward. Ms. Bertrand wishes the School Committee the best.

Scott Maddern, 12 Old Cart Rd., Hamilton: Appears as Hamilton Board of Selectmen member, announcing a call for applicants to the new 5-member Capital Committee. This committee will guide several capital expenditures, helping Hamilton Town Manager build budgets for coming years. Ideally, members of this committee would hold knowledge of the towns and/or experience with multimillion dollar project management/fiscal planning/appropriation/town meeting procedure. Appointments to the committee are expected in early April.

4. Chair's Report

- Thank you to Jeanise Bertrand for commendable service to the District and remarkable achievements during her 2 election terms.

5. Superintendent's Report

- *North Shore National History Day Winners:* On Sunday March 3rd, HWRHS students competed against six other Massachusetts high schools. This year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy in History." All 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will represent Hamilton-Wenham at the Massachusetts History Day state competition, Saturday, April 6th at Winchester High School. A special thank you to the teachers who worked closely with our students since September on their research projects: Kristen Borges, Brett Burnett, Vinnie Bucci, and Johann Knets. In addition, a HUGE thank you to Anne Page and her AP US History class for volunteering their time to help make the day's events go smoothly! History Day winners listed on the [Superintendent's Blog](#).
- *DECA National Conference:* DECA Advisor Laura Wheeler reports the Hamilton Wenham DECA Chapter returned home triumphant on Saturday, March 9, from the 60th annual Massachusetts DECA State Career Development Conference (SCDC) at the Marriott Copley and Hynes Convention Center in Boston with 17 students qualifying for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando, FL.
 - Eighty-two Hamilton Wenham students joined over 3,000 students, advisors, and business professionals attending the conference where students compete in over 50 categories of marketing, hospitality, finance and entrepreneurship topics.
 - Hamilton Wenham received 9 trophies for 1st–5th place (qualifying for ICDC), 7 top 10 plaques, and 6 medallions for 1st–3rd place in an event. Congratulations to all HWRHS DECA Members who participated in the State Conference. Students qualifying for ICDC are listed on [HWRWHS Principal Eric Tracy's Blog](#).
- *League of Women Voters' Annual Civics Bee:* On March 14th, the Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters will present their 4th Annual Civics Bee at Miles River Middle School at 7:00 PM. For more information and to sign up to participate, please go to www.tinyurl.com/civicsbee2019
- *Kindergarten Orientation and Registration:* Kindergarten Information Night will be held on Monday, March 18th at 6:30 PM in the Buker School Multi-Purpose Room. Registration will be held at the HWRSD District Offices, 5 School St., Wenham on Monday April 1st through Friday April 5th from 9:00 AM to noon. Additionally, registrations will be taken from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 6th. Registration information and the required forms are available on the [District Website](#).
- *Program on Vaping at HWRHS:* "The New Look of Nicotine Addiction: Vaping and e-cigarettes Discussion for Parents" will be presented on April 2, 2019 at the HWRHS Library at 7:00 PM. The program will feature "Hidden in Plain Sight" - a mock-up of a teenager's bedroom for parents (with the Hamilton Police Department). Doors will open for the "Hidden in Plain Sight" program at 5:30 pm.
- Principal Eric Tracy's [blog](#) highlights recent High School athletic achievements.
- Michelle Bailey adds the event: 03/23/19 Ping Pong Tournament at True North.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes - Executive Sessions

- Minutes
- Warrants February 27, 2019

Exhibit A

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA (WITHOUT MINUTES) WITH WARRANTS FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2019 (EXHIBIT A).

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

7. New Business

A. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Program Report Exhibit B
Presentation by Peggy McElhinney, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction; Christine Fichera, Elementary Math Coordinator; and Jennifer Sauriol, Grades 6-12 Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator. Presentation details found in Exhibit B of the [School Committee Packet](#), pages 8-16.

Ms. McElhinney provides an introduction to tonight's presentation to include Current Curriculum & Instruction Priorities: overview of history, implementation, choices in curriculum, etc. Reviews Social-Emotional Learning, Inclusive Practices, and K-8 math curriculum resource implementation.

Christine Fichera provides an overview and update on new elementary math curriculum, Investigations 3. Ms. Fichera offers sample curriculum activity designed for 5th grade: School Committee members reconstruct an image of a block structure that briefly flashes on the overhead, then discuss their strategies and challenges. Ms. Fichera highlights the flexibility inherent in the program curriculum.

Jennifer Sauriol provides an overview and update on new secondary math curriculum, Illustrative Mathematics by Open up Resources. Ms. Sauriol provides a sample activity, "Guess my Rule," a strategy testing and strategy discussion activity, as well as "Info Gap," an activity centered in communicating, strategizing and valuing different approaches.

Ms. McElhinney summarizes the progress made, highlighting that the ultimate goal is always to help students enjoy math, as members did this evening.

B. MASC - Superintendent Search - Glenn Koocher
Glenn Koocher, MASC hands out information to think about for Superintendent search:

1. 03/13/2019 Memorandum, Finding an Interim Superintendent for the Next Year and Restarting the Search Process at the Start of the Next School Year.
2. A Vacancy in the Superintendency: Key Decisions for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee.

Mr. Koocher provides an overview of key issues to consider: search beginning later in the year; interim position; candidate preferences for confidentiality; Executive Session not permitted; possible challenges including interested parties (faculty, media); designation of search committee; etc.

Mr. Koocher outlines the MASC services including consulting, attending interviews, advising around strength of candidates, and delivering information to candidates. The costs of these services vary, but MASC services are significantly lower (\$9,500) than others.

Discussion regarding language to be included in position description. Members agree to include:

- Superintendents license *required*
- Regional district experience *preferred*
- Advanced degree *preferred*

Further discussion regarding whether or not to specify whether interim candidates can apply for full term position.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MOVE FORWARD WITH POSTING HWRSD INTERIM POSITION FOR SUPERINTENDENT, AND LATER ENGAGING IN THE PROCESS OF POSTING HWRSD FULL TERM SUPERINTENDENT POSITION.

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

David Polito seeks clarity for permission to develop posting description language. School Committee members agree that David Polito proceed in doing so.

C. SC Budget Communication Plan

David Polito passes around a sample flyer he designed, "HWRSD Annual Town Meeting Budget Request". Discussion regarding last year's mailing and aspects relating to developing cohesive strategy for 2019 communication. Jeff Sands points out Annual Town Meetings are approaching on 04/06/2019, so communication plan requires resolution this evening.

Discussion regarding changes needed to content, design, language, and grammar in draft flyer. David Polito and Gene Lee will finalize the document, and Jeff Sands offers final review of language (SRO, OPEB) before printing.

I MOVE THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE DIRECT DAVID POLITO AND GENE LEE TO FINISH THE COMMUNICATION PLAN FLYER, ENSURE ACCURACY, AND DISTRIBUTE TO TOWNSPEOPLE.

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

D. Vote Office Personnel Contract

Exhibit C

I MOVE THAT HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE OFFICE PERSONNEL CONTRACT AS IN EXHIBIT C.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.

Discussion: School Committee discusses the *Agreement between Hamilton-Wenham School Committee and Hamilton-Wenham Office Personnel* (as found in Exhibit C of the [School Committee Packet](#), pages 18 - 52). Michelle Bailey notes that discussions on teachers contract took place in Executive Session, and this process is taking place in open session. Discussion surrounding secretary positions - working days, salary adjustment, etc. Prior HWRSD Superintendent failed to execute needed protections: one month was neglected in the previous contract. Changes to the contract in order for the contract to accurately and exactly reflect district actions, and includes the 1 month of pay they are entitled to, but had not previously been included in contract.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

E. Warrant Legal Notice for Election

Exhibit D

I MOVE THAT HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WARRANT FOR ELECTIONS OF MEMBERS TO THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE, PURSUANT TO THE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGREEMENT.

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

F. Donations

Friends of Winthrop– Listed Items

Exhibit E
Exhibit E2

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM THE FRIENDS OF WINTHROP LISTED IN EXHIBIT E2: 4 PORTABLE LAP DESK/LAPTOP STAND/WRITING TABLES; 2 MANIPULATIVE CABINETS; 2 ROLLS OF CRAFT PAPER; LAMINATOR FILM; AND IPAD DOCUMENT CAMERA STAND.

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.
Thank you to the Friends of Winthrop!**

Friends of Buker – \$8,932.00

Exhibit E1

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF BUKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,932.00 : CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS LISTED IN EXHIBIT E1,.

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.
Thank you to the Friends of Buker!**

8. Other

A. Topics for Next Meeting

- Capital Plan prioritization;
- Rockland Trust- OPEB presentation;
- Superintendent search - review position posting;
- MOU, and intermunicipal
- Athletic Transportation;
- Cutler SOI vote -04/10/2019 meeting

Stacey Metternick brings up transportation issues, and asks for review of policy H8022 concerning this issue. Discussion regarding national shortage of busses, burden on athletic departments, persistence of issue, private vehicle/carpooling liability.

Policy subcommittee has an upcoming meeting with Dorothy Presser from MASC. Dr. Michael Harvey will add private transportation to the meeting agenda. Jeff Sands requests that Craig Genuardo, athletic director, is made aware/invited to any scheduled conversations about athletic transportation.

9. Vote to Adjourn

9:30pm

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ADJOURN AT 10:15 PM.**

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.