

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional School District
School Committee Meeting
Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
Wednesday, March 27, 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 7:05 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens' Comments

None.

4. Chair's Report

A. Open Meeting Law Complaint dated March 6, 2019

03/06/2019 Open Meeting Law Complaint regarding 12/27/2018 Capital Sub-Committee discussion which complainant Jeanise Bertrand argues: Ms. Bertrand was present at the meeting; the Sub-Committee was not charged with discussing the issues brought up; and issues discussed were not posted per requirement.

Michelle Bailey argues that complaint is untimely.

Stacey Metternick reads her drafted response letter. David Polito does not agree with the entirety of the letter, but is willing to send to OML board if other members agree. Peter Wolczik adds that complaint is factually inaccurate. Further discussion regarding the alleged violation, date of alleged violation, facts surrounding the incident, OML violations and procedures, etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESPOND TO THE 03/06/2019 OPEN MEETING LAW VIOLATION, STATING THAT COMPLAINT FAILED TO MEET THE TIMELINESS STANDARDS; ATTORNEY NAOMI STONBERG WILL DRAFT THIS CORRESPONDENCE.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

5. Superintendent's Report

- *Kindergarten Orientation and Registration*: Registration will be held at the HWRSD District Offices, 5 School St., Wenham 04/01/2019 - 04/05/2019 from 9:00AM-12:00PM, and on 04/06/2019 from 2:00PM - 6:00PM. Information and forms are available on the District Website.
- *League of Women Voters' Candidates Night*: The Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters will host its annual Candidates' Night on Wednesday, 04/03/2019 at 7:00PM in the Multipurpose Room at the Buker Elementary School. Candidates who are up for election on April 11th will be present.
- *Program on Vaping at HWRHS*: "The New Look of Nicotine Addiction: Vaping and e-cigarettes Discussion for Parents" at 7:00PM on 04/02/2019 at the HWRHS Library. The program will feature Hamilton Police Department's "Hidden in Plain Sight" at 5:30PM which allows adults to explore a mock-up of a teenager's bedroom aimed at education and awareness of potential dangers.
- *Childcare for Annual Town Meeting*: Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School's Chapter of the National Honor Society will be offering childcare services (K-5) during Annual Town Meeting on 04/06/2019 in the H-W Recreation Center adjoining the Public Library. Hamilton's meeting begins at 9:00AM in the Ferrini Auditorium at HWRHS. Wenham's meeting begins at 1:00PM in the Buker School Gymnasium. To sign up for childcare visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ba9a72ba4fd0-april>
- *Miles River Middle School Arts Night*: The Fine and Performing Arts Department of Miles River Middle School invites the public to join them on Tuesday 4/9/2019 from 6:30-8:00PM for annual Arts Night. The evening's program will feature performances from the school's choral and instrumental groups, a school-wide art exhibition, and an excerpt from a student-created one-act play.
- *Heney Wins Congressional Art Competition*: Congratulations to HWRHS Senior Aiden Heney for winning this year's Massachusetts 6th District Congressional Art Competition. The competition is sponsored by the Congressional Institute "to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the Nation and in each congressional district." Winners are recognized in their home district and at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

- February 5, 2019

Exhibit A

B. Warrants

- March 13, 2019

Exhibit A1

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING MINUTES FROM 02/05/2019 (EXHIBIT A) AND WARRANTS FROM 03/13/2019 (EXHIBIT A1) - THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THESE DOCUMENTS.

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

7. New Business

A. Rockland Trust – OPEB Trust Fund Presentation

Exhibit B

Jeff Sands introduces tonight's presentation, which was initially scheduled to more closely align with administration's 01/02/2019 OPEB presentation.

Margaret Vose and Matthew Roddy, from Rockland Trust review OPEB funding details, outlined in Exhibit B of the School Committee Packet, pages 11- 28:

- Relationship Team;
- Overview: Rockland Trust Company;
- Overview: Investment Management Group;
- Team Coverage;
- Investment Process;
- Investment Performance.

District will take action needed to adopt OPEB funding plan with a consistent funding source. Discussion regarding next steps, benefits of funding OPEB, community support, developing appropriate language, etc. Ms. Vose and Mr. Roddy are happy to return to a future meeting to provide additional details, strategize, and address concerns, should these services be needed.

B. School Resource Officer Document Review and Approval

Exhibit C
Exhibit C1

Jeff Sands provides synopsis of the School Resource Officer program, including previous discussions and actions taken by the School Committee. Tom Mullens, a municipal law expert referred to the district by Naomi Stonberg, has reviewed and approved the document. The Town of Hamilton, Board of Selectmen, Chief, Lieutenant Janes, and the Town of Hamilton signed the IMA - *Intermunicipal Agreement Between the Town of Hamilton and the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District: School Resource Officer*, Exhibit C, School Committee Packet, pages 38-41, and the Agreement now awaits School Committee signature. Model MOU prepared by State's Attorney General's Office, exhibit C1 in the School Committee Packet, pages 42-53, requires no action on behalf of the School Committee, but is provided for review.

Discussion regarding funding of SRO, accountability, continued funding, details of agreement, program benefits, disciplinary procedures, standards of the position, and terms of agreement.

Lieutenant Janes explains how the position will be posted, hiring process and any complaints made against any Hamilton Police Officers. He further explains dedication to ensuring the best fit possible in the hiring for this position.

Michelle Bailey inquires about the "teaching/training" component of the position, noting the lack of language specifying this in the documents.

Discussion: Buker is *not* included in the District and Town of Hamilton Agreement, however Buker is included in the SRO program. Further discussion regarding jurisdiction, Hamilton MOU, Wenham's responsibilities (for Buker), and next steps. Discussion regarding depth of document, safety as priority, working relationships, collaborations, coverage of position, and other concerns of School Committee members. Stacey Metternick was concerned about Buker not being part of the MOU for the SRO. Parents will not be happy to find that Buker will be left out. Originally it seemed the SRO was full the whole District not just Hamilton Schools only.

Shawn Farrell, Hamilton Board of Selectmen, notes minor language changes in Agreement. Mr. Farrell is looking forward to the program beginning, and urges School Committee to vote in favor of this Agreement.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ACCEPT THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HAMILTON AND THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AS SHOWN IN EXHIBIT C.

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.
APPROVED by 5 members; 1 member abstaining; MOTION PASSES.**

C. Amend School Committee's Adopted FY20 Budget to Reflect School Budget to reflect a School Resource Officer Agreement

Exhibit D

Jeff Sands recommends revising the budget (adopted by School Committee on 02/13/2019), due to the Town of Hamilton funding the SRO program in its entirety. Mr. Sands presents slides with amended information, reflecting a reduction of the \$73,000.00 placeholder initially in place. Mr. Sands details the changes made in this revision, explaining the motion needs 3/5 support, or 5 members voting in favor.

THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES AN FY20 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET OF \$34,195,132. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES (AFTER OFFSETS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,796,760 AND GENERAL FUND DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$398,372. FURTHERMORE, THE GROSS OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT (BEFORE OFFSETS) HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE DESE-DEFINED ACCOUNTS ACCORDING TO THE "SUMMARY BY DESE CATEGORY" CHART INCLUDED IN THIS BUDGET PRESENTATION DATED 3/27/2019.

Michelle Bailey notes the numbers in the motion above are different from the those listed in the Agreement. Jeff Sands and Dr. Michael Harvey explain that the amounts differ due to calculating before and after offset, as detailed in Exhibit D of the School Committee Packet, page 55.

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

THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTES TO ASSESS THE TOWNS OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM A COMBINED TOTAL OF \$29,823,119 AS THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE DISTRICT, AS WELL AS PAY DEBT SERVICE, FOR FY20. THE DISTRICT'S ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SHALL DETERMINE THE AMOUNT APPORTIONED TO EACH TOWN, AND THE DISTRICT'S TREASURER SHALL CERTIFY SUCH AMOUNTS TO THE RESPECTIVE TREASURERS OF EACH TOWN WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS OF THIS DATE.

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

D. Capital Plan Recommendation

Exhibit E

Discussion regarding capital projects, priorities, organization of list by category, strategy moving forward, potential for collaboration, fiduciary responsibility, etc. Stacey Metternick states that the working group put forth a recommendation and the Chair decided to dismiss the WG recommendation. So will move the Superintendent suggested Capital Plan forward to next committee.

Michelle Bailey states that many residents have complained to her regarding the state of school facilities, naming specific issues brought to light. Michelle suggests the School Committee tour

facilities in order to inventory the capital needs and priorities, as this would provide a clearer understanding. Chair, David Polito suggest issues regarding transparency, ethical considerations, strain on administration, and pros/cons of Michelle's suggestion.

Jeff Sands is willing to coordinate with committee members in order to tour school facilities during regular working hours. Moving forward, this will help the committee in understanding the capital needs requests, and developing a more comprehensive, effective approach to prioritization.

E. Superintendent Search Posting

David Polito explains that he reviewed approximately 4-6 interim position listings and drafted the posting as shown on pages 86-88 of the School Committee Packet (no exhibit, but provided in packet). Discussion regarding information in posting, time frame, qualifications, regional experience, interim eligibility for permanent role, etc.

Discussion regarding length and detail in position posting, with Stacey Metternick and Michelle Bailey agreeing that the document is too long, with too many qualifications. Stacey Metternick and Michelle Bailey agree that the School Committee would benefit from MASC services. Discussion regarding interviews, semi-finalist selection, timeline, and clarification of next steps/expectations with regards to moving forward.

School Committee will coordinate with MASC to enlist services to guide and support the district in this process. After considering the approaches, School Committee members decide to interview candidates as a full committee, rather than forming a sub-committee. Members agree that a sub-committee is not efficient, despite the negative consequence of the application process being made public. Application information and interviews will be available publicly, and this fact will be communicated clearly in the position posting.

Stacey Metternick will coordinate with MASC to enlist services (included in membership) hiring an interim superintendent. David Polito will forward posting to Jeff Sands for posting internally. Position will be posted with the MASC by 04/01/2019.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE POST THE POSITION OF INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MASC, TO BE COORDINATED BY STACEY METTERNICK, AND COMMUNICATED TO THE CHAIR AND TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, WITH THE DATE STIPULATED ON THE EXHIBIT (PAGES 86-88 OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE PACKET).

**MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

F. Donations
DECA -- \$1,425.00

Exhibit F
Exhibit F1

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM DECA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,425.00 TO HELP IN DEFRAYING THE COST OF PARTICIPANTS' TRIP TO BOSTON.

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

Thank you to the generous supporters and sponsors of the DECA program!

Edfund -- \$27,968.66

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE GRANT FROM EDFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,968.66 TO BE DIRECTED TOWARD SUPPORTING KINDERGARTEN CLASS FOR ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

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

Thank you, Ed Fund, for continued grants supporting today's Kindergarten Learners!

Friends of the Arts -- \$1,500.00

Exhibit F3

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500.00 TO SUPPORT THE BOSOMA IDENTITY WORKSHOP IN THE MRMS.

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

Thank you to the Friends of the Arts for funding the MRMS BoSoma identity workshop!

Hamilton-Wenham Girls Basketball Boosters -- \$1,452.00

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE HAMILTON-WENHAM GIRLS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,452.00 TO HELP WITH FUNDING A (0.5 FTE) ASSISTANT COACH.

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

Thank you to the Hamilton-Wenham Girls Basketball Boosters for this donation!

Hamilton-Wenham Boys Basketball Boosters -- \$1,452.00

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM THE HAMILTON-WENHAM BOYS BASKETBALL BOOSTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,452.00 TO HELP WITH FUNDING A (0.5 FTE) ASSISTANT COACH.

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

Thank you to the Hamilton-Wenham Boys Basketball Boosters for this donation!

Arbella Insurance Agency --\$300

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM ARBELLA INSURANCE AGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300.00 TO SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION TO BSO YOUTH CONCERT.

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

Thank you to the Arbella Insurance Agency for this generous donation!

- 8. Committee Reports**
 - Policy-Legislative

- Gene Lee reports continued deliberation regarding transportation issues as well as other current needs of the district;
- Michelle Bailey points out the group's decision to examine each policy section and present findings to School Committee for approval;
- Stacey Metternick inquires about transportation Policy H8002, with Kerry Gertz providing an update on deliberations: discussions include liability insurance, permission slips, and other strategies. This will not be resolved this season.
- Capital Planning-Finance & Turf Field
 - None, capital plan was discussed earlier.
- Negotiations
 - Executive Session this evening will address more details, however, David Polito notes the problems arising from the unexpected and abrupt interruption to negotiations with Custodial Union. This resulted in a number of negative consequences. Mr. Polito urges members and the Sub-Committee to move forward effectively; Jeff Sands told the Committee he took "copious notes" during Executive Session on 01/25/2018. Despite the minutes not reflecting the authorization, there was specific upper limits determined, ad person-by person (what does this mean?). Mr. Sands requested a statement be included for the record, that Dr. Harvey and Jeff Sands were authorized to negotiate with all three unions, and further the members provided specific directions regarding the threshold of each contract. Michelle Bailey states the issue was not voiced with intention of attacking administration. Jeff Sands reiterates the negativity put forth in the manner at which this was brought up. Stacey Metternick brings up that the SC only went into executive session for the purpose of negotiating teacher contracts. If we discussed and gave approval for any other contract negotiations, then it would be an OML Violation. David Polito explicitly states that administration is in a position of feeling attacked, feeling uncomfortable, and the unprofessional character attacks by members. David said this is not being resolved. Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Metternick restated the facts regarding this matter.
 - Jeff Sands and Dr. Harvey state their issue: cannot negotiate in good faith on behalf of THIS committee.
 - David Polito, Chair, directed to email district attorney Naomi Stonberg to negotiate the Custodial Union contract (expired 9 months ago). Negotiations working group will meet with Naomi to do this, no motion is needed
- Student Rep.
 - None
- Other-School Liaisons Updates
 - HS/MS friends group meeting Monday morning, 04/01/2019, 8:30AM.
 - SEPAC is considering 04/09/2019 meeting; Stacey Bucyk is working on a meeting invitation to send out.

9. Other

A. Topics for Next Meeting

- Winter sports recognition;
- (tentative) Brad Hill state budget update;
- Submission for Statements of Interest for Cutler & Winthrop.

Discussion regarding School Committee members swearing in - Dr. Harvey states Andrea Carlson and Diane Bucco, town clerks, will attend 04/24/2019 meeting to swear in School Committee Members.

10. Vote to Adjourn

9:30p

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:42PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING STRATEGY RELATIVE TO THE PURCHASE OF 1, 3, & 5 LONGMEADOW WAY, HAMILTON, MA. AN EXECUTIVE SESSION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE THE CHAIR HAS DETERMINED A DISCUSSION IN OPEN SESSION MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S NEGOTIATING POSITION (EXECUTIVE SESSION PURPOSE #6) AND NOT RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Peter Wolczik - Yes;

Stacey Metternick - Yes;

Kerry Gertz - Yes;

Gene Lee - Yes;

David Polito - Yes;

Michelle Bailey - Yes.

MOTION PASSES VIA UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

Respectfully submitted April 14, 2019 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.