

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional School District
School Committee Meeting
Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:00 PM**

Present:

Michelle Bailey
David Polito, Chairperson
Gene Lee, Vice Chairperson
Kerry Gertz
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

Deb Evans, 5212 Porter St., Wenham: (1) Thanks Dr. Harvey for his tireless efforts to lead district in the right direction. Hopes the leadership team Dr. Harvey has established will fill his enormous shoes upon his transfer to Masconomet. (2) District Budget: Ms. Evans notes that the budget is one of the most important roles of the School Committee, and members are thus responsible for communication surrounding the budget as well as efforts to ensure the budget passes. The Wenham Town Meeting operational override for the school *only* was a complete shock to her, as it was a departure from past approaches. Although this is not the responsibility of School Committee, it *is* their responsibility to seek help and communicate to the best of their ability. Though there were 4 School Committee members at Wenham Town Meeting, only one spoke. Ms. Evans believes this silence represented a failure of the School Committee to correct misinformation and provide an appropriate education to townspeople. She is disappointed, and urges members to start communicating, as they were elected to do so.

4. Chair's Report

As this may be his last meeting, David Polito thanks everyone for support in electing him to the School Committee, and election as Committee Chair this past year.

5. Superintendent's Report

- *National History Day Competition:* Congratulations to all of the 2019 Massachusetts State History Day winners! On 04/06/2019, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and Miles River Middle School students competed against 52 other Massachusetts schools. Three Projects are advancing to the National History Day contest, held at the University of Maryland in June. This year's theme is "Triumph and Tragedy" in History. A special thank you to all of the teachers who have worked closely with students on their research:

Kristen Borges, Vinnie Bucci, Brett Burnett, Johann Knets, and Tyler Walker. Winners are listed on the Superintendent's Blog.

- *Election Day in Hamilton & Wenham*: Hamilton and Wenham Town Elections will be held on 04/11/2019. Voting in Hamilton will take place at the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Center, 16 Union St in Hamilton. Voting will be held in Wenham at Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main St, Wenham. Polls will be open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Included on the ballot are candidates for three seats on the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee, and, in Wenham, a Ballot Question on a Proposition 2 ½ Override to fund the FY20 HWRSD Operating Budget. Please remember to vote!

6. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes

- February 27, 2019 Exhibit A
- March 13, 2019 Exhibit B

B. Warrants

- March 29, 2019 Exhibit C

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING MINUTES FROM 02/27/2019 (EXHIBIT A), MINUTES FROM 03/13/2019 (EXHIBIT B), AND WARRANTS FROM 03/29/2019 (EXHIBIT C); 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. Winter Sports Recognition

Craig Genualdo, athletic director: Provides introduction to tonight's event, stating this year's recognition is a slight departure from the norm: recognition not just of teams, but individual athletes who are emblematic of their teams.

Calvin Dalton, wrestler: Participates through cooperative agreement with Salem High School. Division 2 North Sectional, as well as Division 2 Statewide winner. Calvin plans to keep wrestling, and thanks everyone for the recognition.

Clint Gourdeau, Senior, Soccer, Hockey, and Boys Lacrosse: Clint is one of the founding members of the hockey program and has played all 5 years. MIAA Statewide Sportsmanship and received recognition before a Bruins game. Clint says he is going to Union college next year where he will continue playing lacrosse. Offers thanks to his parents, coaches, and for the recognition tonight.

Billy Whelan, basketball: Billy has played an extraordinary leadership role, and is the first player in over 25 years to score more than 1,000 points. Salem Evening News Hamilton Wenham Representative for Student Athlete of the Year. Billy says he is going to Hampton School next year, where he will be playing basketball and tennis. Billy thanks Mr. Genualdo for his support over the last 4 years; thanks, the School Committee for their tireless work; and offers a special thanks to Dr. Harvey for his leadership!

Gymnastics Team: Coach **Chris Way** thanks Mr. Genualdo for his inspiration and support. Present this evening are Ms. Abbey Benack, Freshman, and Tess Richards, Sophomore.

Acknowledges Gymnastics Team members Annica Dahlin, Rose Wosepka, Avari Litka, Rachel Lee, Ellie Pitkin, Audrey Fusco. Thanks Rich Healey, Iron Rail, for his continued effort to make this program possible by offering time and use of facilities.

Craig Genualdo: Thank you for taking time out of your evening for us!

B. Brad Hill - FY20 State Budget Update

State Representative Brad Hill updates the School Committee on the State Budget and impacts on district. He is happy to report some changes, as the State budget just came out today, and it shows education is a top priority.

- Chapter 70 - \$3.6 increased to \$3.7 million; 25 million beyond governor's proposal;
- Transportation - reimbursed at 80%; Brad and others have sent a letter requesting 100%, but this is unlikely to happen in the near future. Thanks to advocacy from superintendent Michael Harvey, and his participation in the North Shore Superintendent's Roundtable.
- Special Education Circuit Breaker - This year funding is 100% of the 75% funding rate.

Mr. Hill highlights the misinformation being communicated about Chapter 70. Many of the circulating proposals would harm regional school districts, and as such, urges the School Committee to exercise caution when examining proposals.

Michelle Bailey asks about the process in directing casino money towards schools, and potential advocacy to take on. Mr. Hill responds that this is an ongoing approach, and he will provide a list of people to advocate to.

Michelle asks how to support Mr. Hill in changing laws. Mr. Hill recommends reaching out to Triton School District (Nerissa Wallen) who is extremely knowledgeable and may be willing to educate HW School Committee. Mr. Hill would appreciate more attendance at hearings with support and a voice for suburban districts. Urges members to join with fellow regional school districts and scream at representatives that this will harm them.

Ongoing discussion regarding potential harm done with proposals presented as beneficial to school districts. Mr. Hill encourages School Committee to attend Transportation Commission Meeting (date TBD, Mr. Hill will communicate as he finds out information).

Michelle Bailey notes that there doesn't appear to be a lot of bidding for transportation. Mr. Hill states that this is a major driver for state costs. Jeff Sands clarifies that despite there being no competition, the provider for Hamilton-Wenham has remained reasonable and reliable.

Mr. Hill states he may return in a few weeks with updates, but urges members to send letters in the meantime.

C. 2019 ATM Follow-Up

Discussion regarding town meetings and School Committee's approach moving forward.

Wenham voted down OPEB funding. The override needs to pass tomorrow. David Polito asks for members' thoughts.

Stacey Metternick notes that despite sending out her annual letter, the turnout at Wenham town meeting was extremely disappointing. Schools didn't have the parent support that is so necessary, and those at the meeting were the regular attendees.

Discussion: OPEB funding and Town of Wenham's approach in moving district OPEB funding to levy. Michelle Bailey speaks about fair share OPEB funding, noting that she doesn't think the message was received, partly due to lack of a tagline. Jeff Sands says that it didn't seem like anyone else was supportive of OPEB funding, or even communicating information about it. He further states Wenham got everything they needed, and now the district is suffering.

Jeff Sands states that he was the only one to send communication to Wenham Fincom budget meeting, and this was sent on behalf of administration. This communication challenged their presentation of the articles. School Committee members did not attend/did not communicate.

Dr. Harvey made a presentation at the start of the Hamilton Town Meeting. There was no hold on the budget at Hamilton Town meeting (through Phil Stearns, FINCOM) did criticize the School Committee for their lack of a capital plan, as well as the committee and administration's approach in COLA negotiations.

David Polito notes that School Committee members did not represent the district budget well, and failed to communicate important issues and why a favorable vote is needed. David would have appreciated more support with gaining Wenham's vote. Although the budget was approved unanimously, no members spoke up during this meeting. David reiterates that the override needs approval, and there is still time remaining to communicate in favor of such.

Peter Wolczik observed that most townspeople do not understand parliamentary procedure. Mr. Wolczik was also disappointed with OPEB comments, and explains why he has voted in favor of OPEB in the past. Mr. Wolczik thinks talking points for the meeting would have been helpful and encouraging. David Polito appreciates recommendation about talking points, and believes Mr. Wolczik's comments given this evening would have been incredibly useful at the Town Meeting.

Gene Lee states that though OPEB is complex, it is a fundamental component of the district's budget. He is surprised that no one felt compelled to speak to the general nature and benefits of OPEB approval.

Michelle Bailey states that there was not an opportunity to speak, further explaining that the motion to move monies from the levy to the warrant confused the meeting and prevented comments. She also stated when asked by David Polite to address a question, she did speak to the question and answered.

a. Reconsider FY20 Operating Budget

Exhibit F

Jeff Sands encourages School Committee members to focus on securing the level service budget. He recommends that in advance of the vote tomorrow, the School Committee approve a revised operating budget. Dr. Michael Harvey and Jeff Sands recommend a motion to approve budget, which will need 5 votes from members. Discussion regarding purpose of motion, benefits of following recommendation, etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES AN FY20 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET OF \$33,945,132. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES (AFTER OFFSETS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,546,760 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 4/10/2019.

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

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTES TO ASSESS THE TOWNS OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM A COMBINED TOTAL OF \$29,573,119 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 7 DAYS OF THIS DATE.

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

Jeff Sands will recertify budget tomorrow morning, and inform members when he has done so.

D. MSBA SOI Submissions

Exhibit D

The Cutler School submission begins on page 22, and Winthrop School begins on page 45 of the School Committee Packet.

Michelle Bailey notes she has never felt more informed about structures of the schools, and appreciates the work put into these submissions. Stacey Metternick also appreciates the work, and clarifies process in providing minutes upon submission of the SOI.

RESOLVED: HAVING CONVENED IN AN OPEN MEETING ON APRIL 10, 2019, PRIOR TO THE SOI SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE, THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER, BY-LAWS, AND ORDINANCES, HAS VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM DATED APRIL 3, 2019 FOR THE CUTLER SCHOOL LOCATED AT 237 ASBURY ST., SOUTH HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS WHICH DESCRIBES AND EXPLAINS THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES AND THE PRIORITY CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE FUTURE: PRIORITY 7. REPLACEMENT OF OR ADDITION TO OBSOLETE BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FULL RANGE OF PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND APPROVED LOCAL REQUIREMENTS. THE PHYSICAL DEFICIENCIES OF THE CUTLER SCHOOL AS OUTLINED IN THE SOI DEMONSTRATE THAT THE BUILDING DOES NOT MEET THE HWRSD'S MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY, AND SECURITY. FURTHERMORE, THE PHYSICAL DESIGN OF THE CUTLER SCHOOL DOES NOT SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S MISSION OF PROVIDING AN EDUCATION THAT PREPARES ALL STUDENTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS; AND HEREBY FURTHER SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM, THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN NO WAY GUARANTEES THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION,

THE AWARDING OF A GRANT OR ANY OTHER FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY, OR COMMITS THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Michelle Bailey: appreciates the comment in SOI about accessibility and how all students suffer, (those who need accommodations, and the rest who don't get to engage with those who need accommodations).

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

RESOLVED: HAVING CONVENED IN AN OPEN MEETING ON APRIL 10, 2019, PRIOR TO THE SOI SUBMISSION CLOSING DATE, THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CHARTER, BY-LAWS, AND ORDINANCES, HAS VOTED TO AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO SUBMIT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM DATED APRIL 3, 2019 FOR THE WINTHROP SCHOOL LOCATED AT 325 BAY RD., SOUTH HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS WHICH DESCRIBES AND EXPLAINS THE FOLLOWING DEFICIENCIES AND THE PRIORITY CATEGORY(S) FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN THE FUTURE: PRIORITY 7. REPLACEMENT OF OR ADDITION TO OBSOLETE BUILDINGS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A FULL RANGE OF PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH STATE AND APPROVED LOCAL REQUIREMENTS. THE PHYSICAL DEFICIENCIES OF THE WINTHROP SCHOOL AS OUTLINED IN THE SOI DEMONSTRATE THAT THE WINTHROP SCHOOL DOES NOT SUPPORT THE DISTRICT'S MISSION OF PROVIDING AN EDUCATION THAT PREPARES ALL STUDENTS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS. FURTHERMORE, THE BUILDING DOES NOT MEET THE HWRSD'S MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR SECURITY; AND HEREBY FURTHER SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BY SUBMITTING THIS STATEMENT OF INTEREST FORM, THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY IN NO WAY GUARANTEES THE ACCEPTANCE OR THE APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION, THE AWARDED OF A GRANT OR ANY OTHER FUNDING COMMITMENT FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY, OR COMMITS THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO FILING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

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

E. Donations

Exhibit E

Hamilton-Wenham Little League - \$9,700.00

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM HAMILTON-WENHAM LITTLE LEAGUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,700.00 TO IMPROVE THE BASEBALL FIELDS AT BUKER, CUTLER, & WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.

Discussion regarding Baseball fields and improvements needed.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

Thank you to the Hamilton-Wenham Little League for this generous donation!

Iron Tree Service - \$9,600.00

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM IRON TREE SERVICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,600.00 TO IMPROVE THE BASEBALL FIELDS AT BUKER AND WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

Thank you Iron Tree Service, for this generous donation of labor!

8. Other

A. Topics for Next Meeting

Discussion regarding policy subcommittee meeting and Craig Genualdo attendance at May 6, 2019 meeting.

- Nominate EdFund: Friends of Education/ MASC award;
- Hear town election results;
- Reorganization of school committee/election of officers;
- Reorganize subcommittee structure;
- School Committee school liaison assignments;
- Review school committee goals/ begin discussing new goals;
- Select interim superintendent semi-finalists;
 - Gene Lee will ensure candidate information is provided to Donna Bunk for availability on Dropbox.
- FY19 budget;
- FY20 budget placeholder;
- (Future meeting) MASC Resolution: needs to be provided by June 1st.

9. Vote to Adjourn

9:30pm

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ADJOURN AT 9:07 PM.**

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Kerry Gertz.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

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