

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional School District
School Committee Meeting
Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room
Tuesday, May 8, 2019 7:00 PM**

Present:

Michelle Horgan, Assistant Secretary
Gene Lee
David Polito, Chairperson
Kerry Gertz, Vice Chairperson
Stacey Metternick, Secretary
Peter Wolczik
Michelle Bailey (via telephone)

Also Present:

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary
Dorothy Presser, MASC representative

1. Call to Order

David Polito calls the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All in attendance rise for the pledge of allegiance.

3. New Business

School Committee members discuss finalist Herbert Levine's derogatory statements.

Stacey Metternick opines Mr. Levine should be given the chance to explain his side of the story. She believes the committee should proceed.

Kerry Gertz and David Polito both express their disagreement, explicitly stating they are uncomfortable in moving Mr. Levine forward in light of his comments. The School District has values and expectations that do not align in any way with the language Mr. Levine chose. Under any context, the language is inappropriate.

Stacey Metternick states that local news is not always accurate. The article never stated exactly what was said and should be given a chance to give a statement. She knows first hand about false news, as was an article that gave accusations with no back up information which was given by David Polito (the Chair at the time). This can ruin a reputation.

Peter Wolczik supports the interview taking place this evening, adding that Mr. Levine should have opportunity to defend himself. Peter elaborates that he himself suffered from inaccurate representations put forth by local media, and therefore believe Mr. Levine has every right to explain himself, offering a counterclaim.

Heated discussion regarding contextual factors, factual basis, specific language, etc.

Michelle Horgan opines that the language, regardless of context, points to his judgment, noting that Mr. Levine did not have to use the language he chose. Michelle Horgan adds that the Committee is the face of the schools and members are tasked with representing children - every value and every lesson in school contradicts the language of Mr. Levine.

Discussion continues regarding specific language used, contextual basis for language, argument surrounding whether it is ever appropriate for a person in a leadership position to use this language.

Gene Lee states that he cannot be present in an argument attempting to defend use of that word in the particular.

Michelle Bailey (telephonic) asks for clarification on whether the School Committee is trying to amend the agenda, noting that should this be the case, the motion would need a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in support.

- a. ~~Interview Interim Superintendent Finalist Herbert Levine @ 7:00-7:40pm — Exhibit A~~
Finalist not interviewed based on School Committee's above discussion.
- b. ~~Interview Interim Superintendent Finalist Jeffrey Sands @ 7:50-8:30pm — Exhibit B~~
Finalist withdrew
- c. ~~Interview Interim Superintendent Finalist William McAlduff @ 8:40-9:20pm — Exhibit C~~
Finalist withdrew

I MOVE TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND ELMINATE THE INTERVIEWS.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Gene Lee.

Michelle Horgan: Yes

Gene Lee: Yes

David Polito: Yes

Kerry Gertz: Yes

Stacey Metternick: No

Peter Wolczik: No

Michelle Bailey: No

Motion failed, needs 2/3 vote to pass.

David Polito and Kerry Gertz state that they are not willing to be present for the interview.

David Polito leaves at 7:20pm

Kerry Gertz leaves at 7:20pm

Stacey Metternick states that we need to vote in a Chair for this meeting to move forward.

Gene Lee leaves at 7:22pm

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE TAKE A 10-MINUTE RECESS AT 7:23PM.

MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

APPROVED by 2 members Stacey Metternick, Peter Wolczik; OPPOSED by 1 member, Michelle Horgan.

Stacey Metternick attempts to reach Michelle Bailey by telephone at 7:33pm, 7:34pm, 7:35pm. Michelle Horgan notes her intention to leave.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN AT 7:35 PM.

**MOTION by Stacey Metternick; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.
Unanimously approved by 3 members present.**

Respectfully submitted May 11, 2019 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.