

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional
School Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017 7:00pm
Buker School Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

David Polito
Kerry Gertz
Joshua Liebow, Chair
Gene Lee
Michelle Bailey (late arrival 7:10)
Jeanise Bertrand (telephonic appearance)

Also Present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeffrey Sands, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration
James Goudie, Student Government Representative (late arrival 7:10pm)

1. Call to Order

Joshua Liebow called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizens' Comments

None

4. Chair's Report

None

5. Superintendent's Report

- Congratulations to the National History Day Competitors. High School students had great projects and committee is encouraged to check them out;
- No vote and no meeting on School Choice this evening due to quorum. Tentative new meeting will be January 21st at 7:00pm with regular committee meeting at 7:30 (depending on committee's availability);
- Meeting for Joint Finance Committee tomorrow night at 6:30 pm to forecast town budget and associated issues;
- Upcoming events:
 - Elementary holiday concert 12/11/17 at 6:30 pm, Buker Gym;
 - Holiday Art Show 12/13/17 at 6:00 pm, High School;
 - High School Holiday Concert 12/13/17, 7:00 pm;
 - Middle School Holiday Concert 12/19 at 7:00 pm, High School Auditorium.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants November 21, 2017 (exhibit A)

B. Minutes November 21, 2017 (exhibit B)

Michelle Bailey requests to remove 11/21/17 minutes.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, EXCLUDING 11/21/2017 MINUTES

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by David Polito.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present, with Jeanise Bertrand approving via roll call vote.

Michelle Bailey asks for typographical errors in the 11/21/2017 minutes to be corrected. "Ask" should be "as". Inquires about redaction on the executive session minutes.

Michael Harvey states that counsel redacts.

Michelle Bailey states that we are not eligible to withhold anything since committee did not enter into executive session correctly.

Page 18, 10B policy "David Polito, Michelle Bailey, need to contact Brad Hill". Clarified: Michelle and David comment that contact is to be made with Brad Hill, not necessarily that they will be the ones to contact him.

Typographical errors to be corrected: "Ask" corrected to "as", and include "S" at the end of Jeff Sands' name.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 11/21/17 MINUTES, EXCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by David Polito.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present, with Jeanise Bertrand approving via roll call vote.

7. New Business

A. Fall 2017 Athletic Team Recognition

Successful 2017 Fall Season. Welcome Craig Genuardo.

Craig Genuardo, Director of Athletics. We had a successful Fall Season. We don't define success solely by awards, but we should recognize amazing efforts to receive those awards. Golf team could not be present. Introduction to: Coach Pugh, football; Coach Sawyer, Girls' Cross Country Team; Coach Flynn, volleyball.

Coach Pugh: Introduces 2 Football captains, Morgan Liphardt & Cam Peach, as well as Alec McDonald (volunteer to take Phil Durgan's spot). Talks about the year, won the first 9 games, and lost Thanksgiving game. Players thank the community for the support they have offered, as well as Coach Pugh for his guidance.

Coach Sawyer: four team captains, Luce Brandt, Rebecca Erhard, Gabriel Hebert, Anna Cassidento. Introduce themselves. Grace Moroney could not be here, but is also a captain. Players talk about their appreciation of the team and community, especially the family-like atmosphere of the team. Sawyer talks more about commitment of athletes, definition of success and commitment.

Coach Flynn: 2 Volleyball captains Katie Hankin, last season's captain; Vanessa Brown, next season's captain introduce themselves. Two captains, Cecily Szady and Lauren Flynn could not be present. Coach Flynn thanks the school committee and thanks for the support for athletics and arts. Huge thank you to the community. Players are recognized in the community and that is a huge booster for both self-esteem and continued success.

Thank you and congratulations on great seasons!

B. Treasurer's Report (Exhibit C)

Donald Gallant talks about the report which takes the same format as previous years. Overview of items on the report.

Provides summary of grants received to date. Explains the way grants came in and what FY they are used in.

Michelle Bailey inquires about school choice number being met with any outgoing funds.

Donald Gallant believes there is about \$7,000 a month outgoing over a 12-month charge.

Debt service update. When Middle School was built and High School renovated, district received MSBA funds. Explains payments made and schedule of future payments. FY19 will be final payment in this agreement. District has received approximately 63%.

Donald Gallant asks to be advised if any changes need to be made to the format or information in the report.

Michelle Bailey states that the committee is supposed to approve a list of student activities.

Jeff Sands states that this is not the Treasurer's responsibility.

Discussion re: policy, specificity of language, general versus specific breakdown of school club accounts, auditor's needs, etc.

Jeff Sands suggest that if there is a requirement written in the school committee's policy, that the policy subcommittee revise and revisit such language.

Discussion re: policy and implications. Discussion re: request being made and who takes responsibility. Michelle reads policy to committee.

David Polito states intention and value in reworking specific policy.

Michelle Bailey reiterates her understanding of the policy.

Discussion re: policy revision and whether the policy was in action during the last treasurer's report.

Jeff Sands: States that the first treasurer's report was last May, where no feedback was given. Jeff Sands will produce an additional slide that will share all student activity account with beginning and ending balances. Jeff suggests the Policy Subcommittee review policy. January 3, 17, or 31st to review list.

Thank you Don!

C. Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report (Exhibit E)

Dr. Kristen Lazzaro, Director of Counseling for the district. Presenting results of the Youth At-Risk Survey from Spring, 2017.

In collaboration with CBC, MA Dept of Public Health. Hamilton/Wenham thought it would be beneficial to survey all students (in addition to those chosen by the state), for a clearer view of overall student wellbeing. Modeled the survey after the YRSB.

Dr. Lazzaro: Items I will highlight in this presentation are the more profound concerns. We are working closely with adolescents to ensure mental health. This was a passive survey, with parents being given the option to opt their child out.

- Background information;
- 436 response: 53% female, 45% male, and 2% no binary;
- Statistics of 436 responses with statistics about risky behavior and mental health indicators;
- Statistics reviewed re: risky behavior with driving, sexual assault, bullying, depression, suicide; drug & alcohol use & abuse;
- Other health related topics: overwhelming majority are "very often" of "fairly often" stressed

Schools have started to address concerns with steps including:

1. Investigate Social Emotional Learning;
2. Speaker Series: drugs, stress, Bill Phillips (addiction);
3. Presentations: Yellow Dress, Remote Control;

4. Trainings including: SOS (Signs of Suicide); Break Free from Depression; Collaboration with Police- Hidden in Plain Sight program

Discussion on above strategies to create a healthier student body and the success of the programs in other areas. Talks about implementation of these programs and why we are using them to help students.

Josh talks about the serious concerns of suicide and bullying and planned activities to educate students and families. Dr. Lazzaro talks about the need to train our faculty and talk about it more often

Discussion re: comparative data and value in detailed analysis; administration of survey; wording of questions; length of test; information provided to parents and community; specifics of trainings and programs to address concerns; etc.

D. FY18 Financial Forecast (Exhibit D)

Jeff Sands presents financial forecast. This forecast is fluid, as there are many moving parts and we still have the majority of the year ahead of us. Overview and explanation of each slide in Exhibit D.

Michelle asks about money being there for Circuit Breaker Capital account. Jeff Sands explains this.

Thank you!

E. Warrant for School Committee Elections (Exhibit F)

Michael Harvey says that the committee needs to sign the exhibit stating elections for school committee members. Warrant needs to be approved.

Kerry Gertz reads aloud Warrant for Election of Members of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee (Exhibit F).

Discussion re: posting timeline and procedure, publication, form, etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WARRANT FOR ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present with Jeanise Bertrand abstaining via roll call vote.

F. School Committee Vote on School Choice for FY19

Removed from agenda and will occur at a date TBD.

H. Donations (Exhibit G)

- A. EdFund \$32,356.99 for Pop Up MakerSpaces**
- B. HWRHS/ MS Friends Club \$750 to defray field trip costs to freedom trail**
- C. Friends of Buker \$941.70 to defray costs of Holiday**

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM EDFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,356.99, HWRHS/FRIENDS OF MS FOR \$750, AND FRIENDS OF BUKER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$941.70.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by David Polito.
Unanimously approved by 5 members present with Jeanise Bertrand abstaining via roll call vote.**

G. Statement of Interest Discussion

Josh Liebow thinks this is the right thing to do for the schools. Josh suggests moving forward with with the SOI, but invites committee members to opine.

David Polito is in favor as well.

Michelle Bailey says she looks at the other schools that were on the list. I think we should be looking at what needs to be in the pipeline. Where it needs to be is a separate question. I thought one of our biggest concerns in 3 elementary schools, it is inefficient the way it run now. I would move forward

Gene Lee does not have anything to add, and is in favor of moving forward with SOI.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE DIRECT THE SUPERINTENDENT TO GO FORWARD WITH THE STATEMENT OF INTEREST ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT TO EXPLORE OPTIONS IN GETTING NEW SCHOOLS,

Discussion re: process of SOI. Jeff Sands talks about process in the past. A draft would likely need to be completed by March 5th.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by David Polito.
Unanimously approved by 5 members present, with Jeanise Bertrand abstaining via roll call vote.**

Gene Lee brings up reprioritization of administration to do list.

Discussion re: priorities, enrollment study, capital projects, etc.

8. Other

Topics for next meeting

1. Student government presentation;
2. Superintendents recommended FY19 budget;
3. Capital Project is part of above.

Kerry comments about the Winthrop Holiday Boutique. It was great to see the business model practiced that DECA had talked about at last meeting.

EdFund has Christmas trees for sale at Patton Park!

9. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURN AT 8:44 PM.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Gene Lee.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present, with Jeanise Bertrand abstaining via roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted Mahala Lettvin