

Approved 4.11.18

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional
School District
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:00 pm
Buker School Multipurpose Room**

Present:

Stacey Metternick
David Polito
Kerry Gertz
Gene Lee
Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand

Also Present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent
James Goudie, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

Gene Lee calls the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Comments

Gene Lee opens the floor to citizen comments.

Chris Lee, 165 Cherry St., Wenham: Last April she posed a question to the School Committee about safety, and would continue encouraging reconsideration of school safety protocols ultimately resulting in adoption of the ALICE program.

Jenn Flynn, Miles River Road: Encourages School Committee to adopt ALICE program. Also encourages School Committee to keep the last day of school as scheduled on June 23rd.

Heather Tripp, Postgate Rd: Asks Dr. Harvey to speak about the process and provide status update on implementation of ALICE program. Speaks about the dangers presented in lockdown situations.

Michael Harvey explains enhanced lockdown system, explicit training involved, and the complexities involved in undertaking a new program.

Discussion regarding police force collaboration, next steps, resources, etc. Jeff Sands will present long list of priorities to School Committee at the next meeting, and explains that the ALICE program involves infrastructure and training components.

Heather Tripp asks if other school districts who have implemented the program would agree with the amount of time taken to implement. Jeff Sands believes they would. Further discussion on frustrations, priorities, and implementation of safety programs.

Gene Lee reminds committee and community of the 3-minute time limit per citizen comment. Various community members express frustration with this rule, and encourage Heather to continue speaking.

Michelle Bailey points out that ALICE was on the agenda and was dropped, which is why so many community members are attending tonight's meeting.

Discussion regarding collaboration with local agencies, and support of the program. Heather voices concern regarding collaboration and movement forward.

Sharon Esker, 18 Alan Rd. Hamilton: Believes we should give teachers and students more tools and resources. She would like to see a gap analysis between what is currently being done and what could be done. Asks if there is something that could speed up implementation, or address certain pieces of the program to implement immediately.

David Polito points out that citizens' comments do not usually entail a back and forth conversation, and encourages community to come back in 2 weeks. Clarifies that there has been movement, and there may be something lost in semantics. The budget includes implementation for safety and security and we all share same concerns.

Sharon Esker reiterates the speed needed to implement the program.

Dave Lee, 165 Cherry St., Wenham: Dave, the community, and the police department clearly do not agree that the current safety protocols are sufficient, as suggested in Dr. Harvey's recent blog post. Dave states Dr. Harvey is being dishonest and repeatedly encourages Dr. Harvey to stop pulling a veil over the community. Dave does not appreciate misinformation being communicated. Points out police have identified 40 people in this community capable of carrying out a similar act of violence.

Leah Guenther, Day Ave, Hamilton: Asks how much ALICE costs and whether the costs is prohibitive. Dr. Harvey states that it is not.

Leah Guenther asks for clarification on actions between now and the next meeting to move the community and safety plan forward.

Jeff Sands explains the next meeting will entail conversation about a long list of items and prioritization. When questioned about whether ALICE will be discussed, Jeff further elaborates about the process and the committee's responsibility to direct administration's priorities.

Michelle Bailey and Stacey Metternick state that the committee has indeed asked for ALICE to be a priority in the past. Discussion regarding committee decisions, priorities, miscommunication, etc. Jeff Sands states that clarification is needed from School Committee for

direction moving forward. With comments from community members still seated about implementing the program immediately, Jeff Sands responds that the Superintendent never wants to make a decision of this magnitude without the committee's vote and direction. Many seated community members express their anger about this process and demand answers about the program and perceived lack of movement.

Lena Winston, Lake Drive, Hamilton: Acknowledges the tough job of School Committee and administration. Asks if there is anything that can be done more immediately and what community members can do to support this process and increase safety.

David Polito encourages town meeting attendance and a vote for the adoption of the school district budget. Gene Lee elaborates about items in the budget directly relating to school security. States that the committee is dedicated to protecting and preventing as well as responding and recovering. There are many aspects of school safety in the budget; the community's vote to approve are necessary to move forward.

Shawn Farrell, Hamilton Ave, Hamilton: Has been emailing Dr. Harvey for 3 years regarding ALICE and importance of implementing in schools. Recently spoke with Chief Stevens who stated that Dr. Harvey could enact this immediately. Shawn wants ALICE enacted immediately.

Michelle Bailey states that there are needs to be addressed in order to successfully implement the ALICE program. Many needs are addressed through the debt exclusions coming up at Town Meeting.

Sue Cooke, 4 Puritan Rd. Wenham: Suggests that the room is full of community members from private sector and thus accustomed to deadlines. Believes working together to help get this program implemented soon is best practice.

Gayle Bendoris, 219 Topsfield Rd: Frustrated about the security and drills as they have so many holes. The environment of fear is unhealthy and we as a community could do more.

Chris Lee, Cherry St.: Discussion regarding special needs children. Says she has heard teachers say they are not in agreement about the lockdown procedure. She has heard parents tell their children not to listen to teachers. It is time to adapt quickly, lockdown is outdated and harmful.

John Trujillo (phonetic spelling), 756 Bay Rd.: Transferred to Hamilton/Wenham schools from the inner-city. Understands the fear and concerns around school shootings. States his old high school had metal detectors as well as on-duty cop at all times, and suggests similar approach. He runs camera at many town and local government meetings and suggests that the community members show up if they want to be heard and see change.

4. Chair's Report

None

5. Superintendent's Report

- Recognizes students who participate in DECA competition. Six students qualified for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, GA. Forty-six Hamilton-Wenham students participated in all. List of awards can be found on Principal Tracy's blog: <https://hwgenerals.wordpress.com/author/etracy2013/>
- The League of Women Voters will again host their Civics Bee on Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 pm.
- Kindergarten orientation is rescheduled to Tuesday 3/20/2018 from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Kindergarten registration will be held from 9:00-noon from March 19-23 and from 2:00-6:00 PM on March 21. Registration to take place at Administration Building, 5 School St., Wenham. List of required documents and application found on the Hamilton/Wenham website.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

- February 28, 2018 Exhibit A

B. Minutes

- February 7, 2018 Exhibit B
- February 28, 2018 Exhibit C
- Field Trip Request - Peru Exhibit D

Michelle Bailey asks to pull 2/07 and 2/28 minutes; Stacey Metternick asks to pull 2/28 warrants.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF THE FIELD TRIP REQUEST TO PERU FOR 2019.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present.

MOTION PASSES

Stacey asks to add the first page of the warrants to the minutes and to continue for future warrants.

[Discussion with community regarding the process and what the current conversation entails].

Michelle Bailey states that according to Open Meeting Law, the minutes from February 7th must include a list of "exhibits" or documents (including report from Wenham, report from Hamilton, a letter from the Town of Hamilton, as well as the budget handout for Michael Harvey and Jeff Sands). List of documents to be added to minutes.

Stacey Metternick requests that the minutes on February 28th include correct spelling of School Committee candidates, Peter Wolczik and Stacey Metternick (page 12). Minutes to be amended.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 28 2018 MINUTES WITH THE CORRECT SPELLING OF STACEY METTERNICK AND PETER WOLCZIK.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.
Unanimously approved by 5 members present.
MOTION PASSES**

7. New Business

A. Friends of Buker Playground Update Exhibit E
Lisa Bial, Monument Street, Wenham: Provides status update for funds and questions the naming policies in the playground honoring Jennifer Mayo's memory. States June 2016 request was granted, but **Rule B 2011** prohibits the naming of school property in memory or honor of a deceased.

Discussion regarding whether policy was changed, discretion of School Committee, and the policy's intentions.

Michelle Bailey reads the policy aloud to include definition of "a living memorial," to clarify the committee is not responsible for replacing the memorial in event of destruction.

Discussion regarding plaque, understanding of living memorial, potential complications in naming playground, etc. Lisa will propose plaque only (no naming of playground) to group of volunteers and report back.

B. Student Activities Subsidiary Account Review Exhibit F
Principal Tracy & Vinny are here to go through each subsidiary account.

Jeff Sands explains subsidiary accounts and the responsibility of the School Committee. There are 38 accounts, which should each include a specific funding source. If eliminated, the funds from the account are distributed proportionally throughout the other accounts.

Principal Tracy provides overview of subsidiary accounts listed on pages 52-53 of school committee packet.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VOTE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL SUBSIDIARY ACCOUNTS:**

- **A CAPELLA**
- **ART DEPT FIELD TRIPS**
- **CLASS OF 2018**
- **CLASS OF 2019**
- **CLASS OF 2020**
- **CLASS OF 2021**
- **CONCESSION STAND EQUIPMENT, RESERVE**
- **DECA**
- **ENGLISH DEPT FIELD TRIPS**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB**
- **FINE ARTS (VOCAL) TO COMBINE WITH A CAPELLA**
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE FIELD TRIPS**

- **FROSH**
- **INTERACT CLUB**
- **LGBTQSA**
- **MATH DEPARTMENT FIELD TRIPS**
- **MODEL UN**
- **MUSIC (MUSICAL)**
- **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**
- **PE/WELLNESS FIELD TRIPS**
- **RECYCLING CLUB**
- **SCIENCE CLUB**
- **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FIELD TRIPS**
- **SIX FLAGS FIELD TRIP**
- **SKI CLUB**
- **STUDENT FUNDS INTEREST**
- **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**
- **THE GENERAL'S STORE**
- **THEATRE WORKSHOP**
- **TRIP TO PERU**
- **YEARBOOK**

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present.

MOTION PASSES

Discussion regarding policy of School Committee and future approval of these accounts.

Eric Tracy expresses concern regarding the accounts from student groups wishing to donate to charity, with Jeff Sands stating that policy does not and will not prevent donations to charity.

Thank you!

C. Review of ATM 2019 Communication Plans

Exhibit J

Dr. Harvey provides an overview of responsible parties and required tasks to communicate issues presented at the Annual Town Meeting. Review of Exhibit J and Committee members' roles.

David Polito has submitted a list of talking points. Discussion regarding the flyer Jeff Sands has handed out. Discussion regarding graphic design, clear communication of numbers reflected as well as their implications, and the purpose of the mailer.

D. Donations

Exhibit G

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS FROM THE FRIENDS OF CUTLER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$396 FOR HELP WITH THE 4TH GRADE FIELD TRIP, AS WELL AS THE FRIENDS OF THE ARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 FOR BOSTON PLAYWRIGHT'S THEATRE WORKSHOP.

**MOTION BY Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.
Unanimous by 4 present (David Polito momentarily absent).
MOTION PASSES**

E. Discussion of Last day of school Exhibit H

HWRSD has used 8 snow days so far this school year. School Committee discusses options for last day to include: reconsideration of holidays, reworking professional development days, options for half days, and vacation rescheduling/consolidation. Discussion regarding strategy for preventing similar situations in the future (implementation of Blizzard Bags, consolidate school vacations, etc.). Plan to attend school until 6/26/18.

F. Discussion of Ballot Questions in Hamilton Exhibit I

Town of Hamilton decided not to put district's debt exclusions on the ballot, as they will not exclude the debt. If debt exclusions passed, Hamilton would pay for 2 debt exclusion projects from their regular tax bills (information from Michael Lombardo). Discussion regarding timing of Town Meeting, decision of the Town actions, implications, and expectations.

8. Other

a) Topics for next meeting, Wednesday 03/28/18:

- Report from McKibbon on student enrollment
 - Dr. Harvey has invited Board of Selectmen and Fincom from Wenham (attending);
- Submit *Statement of Interest* on Winthrop and Cutler schools;
- Review administration's priority list;
- Financial forecast- (will provide to committee but not discuss in detail);
- Student government presentation.

Discussion regarding agendas for future meetings.

Discussion regarding whether Diane Bucco could attend meeting and and swear in new members on the 25th after committee hears results.

9. Vote to Adjourn

9:30 pm

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING ADJOURN AT 9:33 PM.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.
Unanimously approved by 5 members present.
MOTION PASSES**

Respectfully submitted, March 28, 2018, Mahala Lettvin