

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional
School District
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 7:00 pm
Buker School Multipurpose Room**

Present:

Stacey Metternick
David Polito
Kerry Gertz
Gene Lee
Michelle Bailey (late arrival 7:05pm)
Joshua Liebow, Chair

Also Present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
James Goudie, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

Joshua Liebow calls the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Comments

(none)

4. Chair's Report

- No chair report other than this is Josh Liebow's last meeting. Thanks committee and community.

5. Superintendent's Report

- Thank you to Hamilton and Wenham voters at Town Meetings who supported district's FY19 operating budget and debt authorization for installation of Winthrop's fire protection system. Both items need to be approved at the ballot tomorrow, Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:00 am - 8:00 pm (Hamilton - Rec Center & Wenham - Town Hall). Polls will also be open to vote for School Committee candidates: Stacey Metternick and Peter Wolczik.
- Congratulations to Middle and High School students who competed in the Massachusetts State History Day Competition. Fifty four schools competed, with six Hamilton/Wenham projects moving on to the National History Day Competition at the University of Maryland in June. Dr. Harvey offers congratulations and appreciation to teachers helping with these projects. Students and titles of winning projects are listed. Congratulations to all!

- Miles River Middle School hosted their annual Arts Night on 04/10/18 which included musical performances as well as student artwork displayed throughout halls. Thank you to Hamilton/Wenham teachers for instilling a passion for the arts in our students!
- MSBA Statement of Interest to replace Cutler Elementary School was submitted on April 6th. Copies of the SOI were sent to chairs of Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen, the Hamilton Town Manager, as well as the Wenham Town Administrator. Although the MSBA website does not list a timeline for decisions, Dr. Harvey anticipates a response in 6-7 months. Next steps would then include an invitation to the 270 day eligibility period, and, next, an invitation to conduct a feasibility study. Michelle Bailey inquires about attending MSBA meetings, with Dr. Harvey clarifying that these meetings typically take place much later on in the process.
- High School will host a presentation *How to Talk to Your Kids about Vaping and E-Cigarettes* by Diane Knight, RN, Director of the Northeast Tobacco-Free Community Partnership. Presentation to take place on the Middle/High School Library on Tuesday, May 8 at 6:30 pm.

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

- March 28, 2018

Exhibit A

B. Minutes

- March 14, 2018
- March 28th 2018

Exhibit B

Stacey Metternick asks to pull the 3/28/2018 minutes.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING WARRANTS FROM MARCH 28, 2018 (EXHIBIT A) AND MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2018 (EXHIBIT B).

MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by David Polito.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

MOTION PASSES

Stacey Metternick requests that the 03/28/2018 minutes include more detail surrounding her repeated requests over 4 years time for an IT plan in the budget.

Stacey Metternick requests that the 03/28/2018 minutes include more detail about her request for more information regarding bonds being affected by the MSBA SOI for Cutler School.

Committee members point out those details are included on the following page.

Michelle Bailey and Stacey Metternick discuss correct spelling of community member Elysa Grecco (03/28/2018 minutes, page 1). Name will remain spelled phonetically as no confirmation of correct spelling has been obtained.

Minutes from 3/28/18 will be revised according to Stacey Metternick's request for detail on IT discussion. Committee will vote to approve 03/28/2018 minutes at the next School Committee Meeting.

7. New Business

A. Winter Sports Recognition Exhibit D

Craig Genualdo, Athletic Director: Congratulates Hamilton/Wenham sports teams in their continued excellence and dedication. Details the impressive strides teams have taken to become successful despite many obstacles. Highlights the Hamilton/ Wenham Hockey Team, Girls' Basketball Team, Boys' Basketball Team, and Gymnastics.

Rob Ryan, Boys' Ice Hockey Coach: Speaks of the extraordinary students on the Ice Hockey team and highlights two players present this evening: Kit Shaw and Jack Gebhardt. Both have had an immediate positive impact on the team, and exhibit great character and sportsmanship.

Chris Way, Gymnastics Coach: Thank you to the School Committee, Craig Genualdo, and parents for ongoing support. A special thank you to Rich Healey for allowing use of the Iron Rail facility, as well as marketing efforts. Highlights the two outstanding gymnasts present: Tess Richards, MVP for team, and Team Captain Annika Dahlin. Also recognizes team members not present: Rose Wosepka, Ellie Pitkin, Avari Litka, and Rachel Lee. Thank you for this opportunity!

Craig Genualdo, Athletic Director: Introduces Coach Flanagan's assistants, all present: Mark Cole, Meghan Cole, and Erica Pasquarelli. Assistants joined early in the season and helped to make a positive and memorable experience for the team.

Jon Flanagan, Girls' Basketball Coach: Thank you for this opportunity. Coaching team came together after years apart, and entered into a great deal of adversity in the beginning of the season. Through the help and support of Craig, coaching team, parents, and players, the team set their goals high and worked hard to win the first League Title since 1994. Thank you to our seniors (not present): Jacqueline Fibbe, Cecily Szady, and Lauren Flynn.

Mike DiMarino, Boys' Basketball Coach: Thank you for this opportunity. Honors players present: James Lustig and Jake Lanciani, both named Conference All-Stars and Salem News All-Stars. Coach DiMarino highlights the importance of academics. Looking forward to many more year of success.

School Committee Members thank the athletes and coaches for attending and offer congratulations.

B. Policy update

Policy Subcommittee scheduled to meet tomorrow night, 04/12/2018. No update as of now.

C. Financial Forecast

Exhibit E

Dr. Harvey presents financial forecast which incorporates district salaries and operating costs through the end of March. Forecast ends the FY \$15,000 (.05%) favorable to the budget.

Dr. Harvey provides overview of line items impacting forecast, in particular: increase in custodial overtime costs; increasing healthcare costs; professional development; transportation costs; addition of Kindergarten teacher; out-of-district placement fluctuation; and special education testing.

Discussion regarding extended evaluations: district budgeted for 37 students; 47 students are receiving this extended testing. Discussion regarding circuit breaker budgeting cycle. Jeff Sands will do 3 additional financial forecasts before fiscal year ends (relying on data from 4/31, 5/31, and 6/15). Stacey Metternick inquires about out of district fluctuation and the impact this has on budget.

D. School Choice update

Exhibit F

Dr. Harvey presents a school choice update detailing interest and enrollment. Discussion regarding marketing strategies specific to School Choice openings in Middle School.

Stacey Metternick requests that the applications and announcement of School Choice opening to Middle School applicants be featured on the front page of HW District website. Dr. Harvey indicates that this was done. Discussion regarding historical trends surrounding the interest in School Choice program, other district strategies, Hamilton/Wenham capacity, future strategic planning, etc.

E. 2018 Town Meeting Recap and Next Steps

This topic was added as a placeholder to discuss next steps if the results of Town Meetings warranted such discussion. Committee members discuss Town Meeting budget presentation given by Josh Liebow and Gene Lee, with Michelle Bailey reading an email expressing appreciation for their presentation and author's support of the School District. School Committee recaps influential comments given at Town Meetings, and thank all townspeople who showed up and voted.

F. Custodial Grievance Update

District Administration (Jeff Sands and Dr. Harvey) and representatives of Custodial Union met with the arbitrator on 4/5/2018 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Custodian Union representatives presented their side of their grievance regarding the district's use of substitute custodians. Administration will present their side of the grievance at the next scheduled meeting, 05/08/2018. After this hearing, counsel for both sides will submit briefs, the arbitrator will review in a 30 day period, and a ruling will be issued (likely in June). Dr. Harvey points out that the bargaining process is beginning and the language surrounding the custodial agreement is being reworked.

8. Other

Stacey Metternick announces that *Charting the Course* is coming up on May 19th. Discussion amongst School Committee Members about invoicing and overall relevance of course.

Stacey Metternick brings up the changeover meeting and asks committee about interest in determining the interest in various subcommittee positions.

Dr. Harvey states that polling the Committee is an Open Meeting Law violation.

Discussion regarding OML, new positions of chair, vice-chair, and subcommittees.

a) Topics for next meeting

1. Hearing results of town elections;
2. Presentation: Kevan Sano, Seal of Bi-Literacy;
3. Reorganization of HWRSD School Committee Subcommittees;
4. Executive session re: teachers' contract negotiations.

Discussion regarding timing of executive session and Diane Bucco swearing in new members. Dr. Harvey clarifies that executive session takes place at the end of the meeting. Dr. Harvey clarifies that the meeting will open with hearing the election results, reading vote tallies, and swearing in new seated members. The rest of the meeting will then take place. Michelle Bailey mentions that pictures are often taken, and suggests Committee consider including these in report.

David Polito mentions elementary "special" lunches. Dr. Harvey agrees to research further.

Discussion regarding the absence/lateness of the School Committee mailer sent before elections (4,000 mailed). School Committee members discuss bulk mailing and strategies for next year.

School Committee members and Dr. Harvey thank Joshua Liebow for his service as chair!

9. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURN AT 8:05PM.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Gene Lee.

Unanimously approved by 6 members present.

MOTION PASSES

Respectfully submitted, April 18, 2018, Mahala Lettvin