

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
APRIL 7, 2016  
7:15 PM**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:**     **Larry Swartz** called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm in the Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.
- Present:                   Jeanise Bertrand, Deborah Evans, Hannah Fraley, Dennis Hurley, Stacey Metternick, Larry Swartz.
- Also present:           Michael Harvey  
                              Jeff Sands  
                              Kerrienne Heppner, student representative  
                              Nancy Bergner, (Secretary)

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

III. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments

IV. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Theater Workshop Wins States!**

Bravo to the HWRHS Theater Workshop who won at the State Festival of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild last weekend in Boston for their one-act play W.A.S.P. The Theater Workshop will perform their play at the New England Drama Council Festival at Old Saybrook High School in Connecticut from April 20 through April 22. "Break a leg" and "good skill" at New England! Congratulations to HWRHS Drama Teacher Chris Shailor for his work in leading this program. We're all proud of you!

**Annual Town Meeting & Budget Book**

Thank you to the voters of Hamilton and Wenham Town Meeting who passed the HWRSD FY17 Budget last Saturday. Our FY17 Annual Report and Budget Book is available on the HWRSD Website.

**Cape Ann League Superintendents meet on High School Start Times**

On Tuesday, a group of Cape Ann League Superintendents and Principals met in North Reading. Eric Tracy attended in my place at this meeting. The meeting was an opportunity to share information around the recent events in the Middlesex League relative to moving the start times at the secondary level later to better align with the sleep rhythms of adolescents. Some of the potential issues discussed were the impact on transportation, changes to middle and elementary start times, impact on extra-curricular activities and athletics. The group has agreed to study these issues and will meet again in June.

### **MASC Policies on Opioid Law**

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees' has released a Legislative Bulletin relative to policy changes necessary for the District to be in compliance with the new Opioid Legislation (Bill H.4056), which was recently signed by Governor Baker. The Policy Working Group will need to review the District's Policies in light of these new requirements and recommend necessary amendments. One of the requirements of the new law is to place the District Substance Abuse Policy on the website and to notify parents of its location. The HWRSD Policy H8023 "Tobacco, Drugs and Alcohol" is located here.

### **Director of Curriculum Search Update**

The Screening Committee has narrowed the applicants for the position of Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction down to two. The two finalists were in the District on Wednesday, March 30 and Monday, April 4. Each candidate had individual interviews with members of the Leadership Team and Curriculum Leaders and completed their visit by meeting with faculty in an "open forum" session. Faculty members who attended sessions with the finalists were asked to submit feedback of their impressions of each candidate. I will use these feedback forms to help inform my final decision regarding the best candidate for the HWRSD. I expect to make an offer to my preferred candidate by the beginning of next week.

The finalists are:

*Jennifer Clifford*, Principal of the Cutler Elementary School, HWRSD. Jenn has been the Principal of Cutler Elementary School since 2006. Prior to coming to Hamilton-Wenham, Jenn was an assistant principal and classroom teacher at the elementary level. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Studio Art from Bowdoin College and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Lesley University.

*Margaret (Peggy) McElhinney*, High School Curriculum Director, Danvers Public Schools. Peggy has been the High School Curriculum Director at Danvers High School since 2007. In her career, she has also been a high school assistant principal and a high school English teacher. Peggy holds a Bachelor's Degree in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Boston College, and a Master's Degree in School Leadership from Harvard University.

I would also like to thank the members of our Screening Committee, led by Jeff Sands, Kathy Harris, and composed of Lydia Austin, Kristen Borges, Vanessa Reed, Stephanie Rogal, Eric Tracy, and Kim Ubaldo for lending their time and expertise to this important process.

### **SC Meeting on Monday Evening**

Voting is taking place for the four open school committee seats today, April 7, 2016. Polls are located at the Winthrop Elementary School in Hamilton and Wenham Town Hall. Polls will close at 8:00 PM this evening. As per the Regional Agreement:

"After the votes cast in a member town have been counted, the town clerk of such town shall certify the results of the election to the Committee which shall tabulate such results at a meeting of

the Committee; and the chairman of the Committee shall thereupon announce the names of the persons elected to membership on the Committee.”

The Town Clerks have notified me that they will have “official” election results certified by Friday, April 8th. The current School Committee will meet on Monday, April 11 at 7:15 PM to tabulate the election results and announce the names of those who are elected to the School Committee. Newly elected members will need to meet with their respective town clerk or with the District secretary to be sworn in. The School Committee’s next meeting after April 11th will be on Thursday, May 5th. At this meeting, the School Committee will reorganize through electing its officers for 2016-2017.

## **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

- |                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>A.</b> Minutes of March 17, 2016 | Exhibit B |
| <b>B.</b> Executive Session Minutes |           |
| • December 1, 2011                  | Exhibit C |
| • April 5, 2012                     | Exhibit E |
| • May 3, 2012                       | Exhibit F |
| • May 7, 2012                       | Exhibit G |
| • May 21, 2012                      | Exhibit H |
| • June 21, 2012                     | Exhibit I |
| • May 9, 2011                       | Exhibit J |

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE ALL THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSION NOR AMENDMENT OF THIS MOTION.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND.**

*Unanimously approved*

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Student Government Presentation
- Student Government president reported on Freshman class, Ping Pong Tournament, Round Robin Tennis Fundraiser on May 1, Film Fest on May 5.
  - Sophomore Class representative reported on fundraisers, Sound Off now renamed The General Consensus, moving to an online platform
  - Kerrienne Heppner reported on Junior and Senior classes, plans for junior and senior Prom, Volleyball Team’s fundraiser.
  - Ms. Rogal reported on Student Advisory Council representatives from H-WRSD, plans for elections of officers for 2016/2017
  - Update on Hall of Fame plans was presented, with documentation submitted to SC for review and approval.
- B.** Presentation of the Theater Workshop Cast & Crew
- C.** Operation Playground: Winthrop School
- Ms. Daniels and Ms. Littlehale offered a “thank you” to administration and voters at the town meeting for working seamlessly together to provide support for Operation Playground.

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE A GIFT OF \$107,500 FROM FRIENDS OF WINTHROP OPERATION-PLAYGROUND PURSUANT TO MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS CHAPTER 44 SECTION 55a TO BE USED FOR THE**

**DESIGNATED PURPOSE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE “WINTHROP PLAYGROUND PROJECT.” CONSISTENT WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY D4002 “PRIVATE FUNDING POLICY,” THE DISTRICT SHALL MAINTAIN COMPLETE CONTROL OVER SAID PROJECT AND SHALL ENSURE THAT SAID PROJECT COMPLIES WITH DISTRICT POLICIES AND STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by HANNAH FRALEY.**

*Unanimously approved*

**D. 8th Grade Girls to play JV Softball waiver request                      Exhibit K**

**MOTION:        I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE WAIVER TO ALLOW GRADE 8 GIRLS TO PLAY ON THE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DEBORAH EVANS**

*Unanimously approved*

**E. Policies 2nd Reading presented by Dennis Hurley**

**I. Relations with Nonpublic Schools    Exhibit L**

Discussion of DESE recommendations, Supreme Court rulings in reference to homeschools, private schools and the School Committee’s agency in regard to producing policy for relations with nonpublic schools. Concern expressed that all due diligence should be observed. Further discussion centered around regulations and policies in Exhibit L, particularly physical plant/safety  
Suggested amendment to the RELATIONS WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS Policy after the paragraph beginning *The Committee recognizes . . .*

**2. The private school is on notice that it is required to comply with or obtain the following in order to operate: [text of #2 under CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF A PRIVATE SCHOOL].”**

Michelle Bailey of Remington Road offered public comment, urging that the School Committee retain authority to approve, rather than delegating said approval to other boards or government agencies.

**MOTION:        I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE RELATIONS WITH NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS AS AMENDED IN EXHIBIT L .**

**• INSERT AFTER PARAGRAPH 3: THE PRIVATE SCHOOL IS ON NOTICE THAT IT IS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING IN ORDER TO OPERATE:**

- 1. CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY**
- 2. FIRE INSPECTION**
- 3. SAFETY INSPECTION**
- 4. ELEVATOR INSPECTION, IF APPLICABLE**
- 5. COMPLIANCE WITH LEAD PAINT POISONING PREVENTION FOR CHILDREN UNDER 8,**
- 6. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE HEALTH AND SAFETY. Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DEBORAH EVANS**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DEBORAH EVANS**

*Unanimously approved*

**F. Application from the academy at Penguin Hall presented by APH President Molly Martins**

- Discussion regarding NEASC accreditation and relationship with Nazareth Academy (Wakefield), including APH's relationship with Nazareth's Board of Directors. Michael Harvey presented his memo on APH, recommending the approval of APH's application to operate as a private school in Wenham.

**MOTION: I MOVE TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF THE ACADEMY AT PENGUIN HALL TO OPERATE AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN WENHAM BEGINNING IN THE AUTUMN OF 2016.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DEBORAH EVANS**

*Unanimously approved*

**G. Transition Summary from the Chair**

- On May 5, a report from the towns on the budget will be presented by Brad and perhaps Bruce.
- Regional discussions on school start time adjustments are gaining momentum. Stacey will provide an update at the next SC meeting
- Town Meetings again demonstrated strong support for the district.
- Reflection on the work of the last five years, with satisfaction expressed about changes in administrative leadership, full day kindergarten, and other educational enhancements.

**VII. VOTE TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND**

*Unanimously approved*

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner  
Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting