

Meeting of November 1, 2012

Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER:** Larry Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Winthrop Elementary School cafeteria.
- PRESENT:** Bill Dery, Kym Donnellan, Barbara Lawrence, Ann Minois, Larry Swartz (acting chair), and Bill Wilson (8:00 PM)
- ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Michael Harvey, Superintendent; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Celeste Bowler; Assistant Superintendent Peter Gray
- ABSENT:** Sean Condon, Roger Kuebel, Sheila MacDonald
- CITIZENS' CONCERNS:** The student representative to the Committee, Matt Chigas, said some students contacted him to say they would have liked to have received advance notice that following Monday's no-school day due to Hurricane Sandy, school would resume on Tuesday.
- SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Harvey said he was not involved in Town officials' decision to postpone trick-or-treating, which he said was based on uncertainty about whether any downed power lines might still be live following Hurricane Sandy. K. Donnellan said parents should have been informed of this hazard as it relates to students walking or biking to school.
- Dr. Harvey provided information about anti-bullying workshops for staff and the community.
- Dr. Bowler and L. Swartz thanked the Hamilton Conservation Commission for its contribution to defray the cost of the district's elementary environmental education program. The Wenham Conservation Commission did not contribute; Dr. Bowler said that Commission's spokesperson attributed this to insufficient discretionary funds. The Committee is to vote at a future meeting to formally accept the donation.
- Dr. Harvey announced agreement has been reached with the teachers' association for a one-year agreement to pilot the new state educator evaluation system. A group of teachers and administrators are to meet regularly this year to monitor implementation, evaluate it, and recommend a permanent negotiated agreement.
- CHAIR'S REPORT:** Committee vice-chair L. Swartz thanked Wenham Town Meeting voters for voting to accept capital projects proposed by the Committee,

and encouraged citizens to vote on Nov. 6; a bond issue that would fund the projects will be on the ballot.

CONSENT AGENDA:

At K. Donnellan's request, the minutes of Oct. 18, 2012 were removed from the consent agenda.

Oct. 11, 2012 minutes
June 15, 2012 minutes
June 18, 2012 minutes

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE ALL OF THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSION OR AMENDMENT OF THIS MOTION. BILL DERY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0-0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Oct. 18, 2012

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18, 2012. BARBARA LAWRENCE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 4-0-1. (K. Donnellan abstained because she was not present at that meeting.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No committees made substantive reports; some meetings were rescheduled due to the hurricane. Dates of upcoming meetings were announced.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation, School Improvement Plans

Building principals gave PowerPoint presentations about the 2012-13 School Improvement Plans and their stated goals in the areas of professional practice, and student learning and performance. (The PowerPoint slides are appended to these minutes.) The SIPs at all levels focus on anti-bullying measures and the district's introduction of the Olweus curriculum K-12. In addition, elementary principals spoke about curriculum assessment and mapping; the middle school principal talked about grade-level teams, developing consistent strategies for supporting students, and refining curriculum to move students from the proficient to advanced category on the MCAS; and the high school principal discussed 21st century skills, and student performance goals.

In response to Committee members' questions, the principals provided additional details about Olweus; who is invited to participate in anti-bullying training; the high school portfolio project; and privacy issues related to the new students records system.

Presentation, High School Testing Report

High school principal John Hughes and guidance director Frank Sullivan gave PowerPoint presentations on 2012 MCAS results and SAT/AP results, respectively. (The PowerPoint slides are appended to these minutes.) J. Hughes noted the array of statistical breakdowns available to administrators about student performance on the MCAS, and displayed slides showing multi-year trends. F. Sullivan spoke about the increasing number of students taking AP classes and tests, reported that 83% of HWRHS AP exam scores were 3 or better this year, and

displayed slides comparing this district's scores with state and national averages.

Committee members asked questions about issues including the impact of increasing AP class enrollment on class size and other course offerings; physics AP scores, which are lower than state and national averages; and PSAT tests and when they must be taken to qualify for National Merit awards and commendation.

Presentation, School Choice

J. Hughes reported on this year's School Choice enrollment and multi-year data. (The PowerPoint slides are appended to these minutes.) He briefed the Committee on recruitment efforts in spring and summer 2012 and factors that complicated that process, such as an increase in the number of 8th graders applying to private high schools, and some accepted school choice students' failure to update HWRHS about decisions to go enroll elsewhere. He said in the future he would recruit earlier and more aggressively, push for commitments, and explain the potential problems that go along with being a school choice student.

The Committee expressed concerns and questions about the school choice program and several members proposed extensive study of its impact, costs, and benefits to the district. B. Lawrence said she would vote to extend the program for one more year only if the Committee commits to such analysis. The Committee is to vote at a future meeting on whether to participate in the School Choice program in 2012-13.

MASC Resolutions

Committee members received in writing prior to these meeting the resolutions proposed by a committee of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, on which delegates are to vote at the MASC convention later in November.

L. Swartz objected to some aspects of Resolution 1's recommendations about reduction of state paperwork and regulations. A. Minois said similar objections may be raised when delegates consider this at the convention.

BARBARA LAWRENCE MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE MASC RESOLUTION #1 REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMISSION OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE STUDY OF MANDATED REPORTS AND DATA SUBMISSION FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS, WITHOUT THE PARAGRAPH ABOUT SETTING UP AN OFFICE OF PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY REDUCTION WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION. KYM DONNELLAN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 5-1-0. (Bill Dery voted no.)

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE MASC RESOLUTION #2 REGARDING MODIFICATION OF THE CIRCUIT BREAKER FORMULA. ANN MINOIS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 5-1-0. (Bill Dery voted no.)

Dr. Harvey explained the intent of Resolution 3. Currently, local districts pay the cost of some medical treatment of students in school; the resolution supports shifting some of those costs to students' insurance companies.

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE MASC RESOLUTION #3 REGARDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR MEDICALLY NECESSARY TREATMENT IN SCHOOL. BILL WILSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0-0).

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE MASC RESOLUTION #4 REGARDING FUNDING FOR EDUCATOR EVALUATION SYSTEM. ANN MINOIS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0-0).

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO SUPPORT THE MASC RESOLUTION #5 REGARDING ADEQUACY STUDY. THE MOTION PASSED 5-0-1. (B. Dery abstained.)

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

KYM DONNELLAN MADE A MOTION THAT THE HW REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN. BILL WILSON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0-0).

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS

Letter dated 10/23/2012 from Hamilton Conservation Commission
(1 page)
Hamilton-Wenham Environmental Education Proposal 2012-2013
(2 pages)
Report of the Resolutions Committee (Massachusetts Association
of School Committees) (3 pages)
School Improvement Plan PowerPoint presentation (24 slides)
2012 MCAS Results PowerPoint presentation (10 slides)
2012 SAT and AP test results PowerPoint presentation (18 slides)

USED AT THIS MEETING:

2012 School Choice PowerPoint presentation (2 slides)

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Sierks Smith, School Committee recording secretary