



HAMILTON-WENHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting ID: 940 5663 9097

Passcode: 433963

Monday, November 2, 2020

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Present:

Anna Siedzik, Chairperson

Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson

Peter Wolczik, Secretary

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent

Dorothy Presser, MASC Representative

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Seidzik, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. This meeting is being recorded and held remotely per the Governor's emergency order.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- 11/20/2019
- 3/4/2020
- 4/15/2020

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE 11/20/2019, 03/04/2020, AND 04/15/2020 MINUTES AS WRITTEN IN THE EXHIBITS ABOVE; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik YES;

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik ABSTAIN.

MOTION PASSES through majority (2:3) roll call vote of three (3) members present.

3. Review policies in the following sections:

A. Second Reading & Vote Harassment (ACAB)

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding the district's language surrounding protected classes. Ms. Siedzik is concerned that the definition of protected classes is not consistent, but agrees to use the language "not limited to" to temporarily address the issue.

B. Religious Observances (IMDC)

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Discussion regarding the 05/08/2020 Public Meeting discussion surrounding the Religious Observances policy, with specific attention called to public feedback about strengthening the language “take into consideration” as well as discussion regarding the Good Friday holiday.

After some discussion surrounding the implications of the language used in the policy, the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* agrees that bullet point #5 will be revised as shown below:

Avoid whenever possible scheduling test preparation, tests, and due dates for long-term assignments, when these are within the purview of the District, in consideration of major religious and ethnic holidays.

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY, POLICY IMDC, FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE FULL SCHOOL COMMITTEE WITH THE CHANGES TO BULLET POINT NUMBER 5, AS DISCUSSED THIS EVENING AND WRITTEN ABOVE.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik YES;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Anna Siedzik YES..

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

Ms. Siedzik will revise the Religious Observance Policy before emailing the final copy to Superintendent Banios and Ms. Carleo to include in the 11/04/2020 School Committee meeting agenda.

C. Weapons

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding district’s Weapons Policy; historical policies; MASC recommendations; clarifying the definition of a weapon; exempt scenarios, if any; etc.

Ms. Siedzik will revise the Weapons Policy to reflect consistent language and work with Ms. Presser to include legal references. The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* will review these revisions at their next meeting, before bringing it to the full School Committee for approval.

D. MASC review (starting at IJND)

[Exhibit 1](#)
[Exhibit 2](#)

Ms. Presser explains that review of district policies will need to begin at IJND. Review will need to include discussion about district technology policies, including revision based on the current pandemic and the use of Zoom. [Exhibit 2](#) reflects the original language, and [Exhibit 1](#) shows the markup of changes.

By the next subcommittee meeting, members will have read the documents and forwarded any questions to Superintendent Banios.

4. Other items unanticipated by the Chair

Ms. Allara has asked the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* to include an agenda item to allow her to attend as a guest to discuss policies surrounding Executive Session meeting minutes. There is a brief discussion surrounding the guidance Ms. Allara is seeking. Ms. Presser states that she will follow up with Ms. Allara, and if still needed, her visit will be coordinated for a future subcommittee meeting.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

The next *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* is scheduled for **Monday, 12/14/20 at 7:00 PM**, with the following agenda:

- Weapons Policy: review and revise for presentation at the 12/16/20 School Committee meeting;
- LJND

Ms. Siedzik will revise the Religious Observances Policy to be included on the agenda for the 11/04/2020 School Committee meeting. She will also revise the Weapons Policy with assistance from Ms. Presser to include legal references.

There is brief discussion regarding moving forward to standardize the district's language surrounding protected classes.

6. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE TO ADJOURN THE 11/02/2020 POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:57 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of 3 (three) members present.

Respectfully submitted December 18th, 2020 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Please [click here](#) to read the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the [Zoom.com](#) application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select "Join Meeting" in the upper right corner and enter the meeting id: 940 5663 9097 and meeting password: 433963. The community should ask questions via the "chat" function within the Zoom application during the Citizen's Comments section. During the Zoom meeting, participants will be given instructions on how to provide their comments. Unfortunately, we must limit the in-person conversations to just the Committee members. However, for the benefit of all, the School Committee meetings will be available on our local cable channel, HWCam, and [HWCam.org](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the Public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.