



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

In-Person Meeting

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

In-Person Meeting, [Zoom Link](#) is for Public Comment Only

Meeting ID: 819 7573 9941

Thursday, April 7, 2022

7:00 PM - 9:15 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chairperson

Michelle Bailey

Julia Campbell, Vice Secretary

Jen Carr, Secretary

Michelle Horgan

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chairperson

David Polito

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Craig Genualdo, Athletic Director

Luke McMahon, Recipient, MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance, with the exception of School Committee member Anna Siedzik, rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments

[Exhibit](#)

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify himself or herself by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. After Citizen's Comments, the chat feature will be turned off. If members want to be recognized, they can use the raise hand feature.

Ms. Allara notes that this meeting is being recorded, live streamed, and broadcast by HWCAM. She reviews the School Committee's protocols surrounding citizen comments and reminds citizens to please spell their names and provide their address for the record.

Alaina Walsh, 35 Postgate Road, Hamilton: Ms. Walsh has noticed a lack of understanding about the importance of the school displaying the Pride Flag and other representations of inclusion. She explains that the State of Massachusetts Department of Education has a [Safe Schools Program for LGBTQIA students](#). Founded in 1993, the program is a collaboration between DESE and the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth and offers "a range of services to help schools implement state laws

impacting LGBTQ students, including the state's anti-bullying law, gender identity law, and student anti-discrimination law.” Ms. Walsh states that this program, and the laws impacting LGBTQ students, will remain in place regardless of changes to the School Committee board. She explains that safe spaces for students are imperative for students’ academic success. Ms. Walsh thanks the School Committee members for their continued dedication to the community and the students.

Ms. Allara closes public comments at about 7:08 PM; the Zoom link will close at this time. Community members may choose to continue viewing the meeting through HWCAM’s livestream on the HWCAM [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

4. **Review of School Committee Protocols**

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik reads protocol #8 as written in the *School Committee Protocols* detailed in the [exhibit](#).

5. **Recognition for Service**

The following School Committee members are recognized for their service over the years:

- Michelle Bailey
- Michelle Horgan
- David Polito

Ms. Allara, Ms. Siedzik, and Superintendent Tracy thank the School Committee members for their many years of service to the community.

6. **Consent Agenda**

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 22
- Voucher No. 1036
- Voucher No. 1037
- Voucher No. 1038
- Voucher No. 1039
- Voucher No. 3091
- Voucher No. 3092
- Voucher No. 3093
- Voucher No. 3094
- Voucher No. 3095
- Voucher No. 3096
- Voucher No. 3097
- Voucher No. 3098
- Voucher No. 3099

B. Minutes

- March 17, 2022 Workshop
- March 17, 2022

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

C. Donations

- Robotics Donation by Kevin Dwan \$1000
- Varidesk Units by Chris Little \$1185
- Hamilton-Wenham Friends of the Arts \$1512
- Hamilton-Wenham Friends of the Arts \$895
- Hamilton-Wenham Edfund \$2500
- Institution for Savings Charitable Foundation \$1000

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

- The Institute for Savings \$2500

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 03/17/2022 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES AS WELL AS THE 03/17/2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Ms. Horgan notes that the 03/17/2022 workshop meeting minutes should reflect that Ms. Bailey arrived at approximately 6:45 PM.

Ms. Siedzik points out a few errors in the 03/17/2022 meeting minutes:

- Chris Domoracki's name is misspelled;
- During the Flag Policy discussion, Ms. Siedzik referenced statutory guidance found in DESE's Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ students. This information should be specified in the minutes;
- Under *Topic for Future Meetings*, there is a misspelling of the word *progress*.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE 03/17/2022 WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES ([EXHIBIT](#)) WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED CHANGES; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by David Polito.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Ms. Allara will revise the 03/17/2022 workshop meeting minutes to reflect Ms. Bailey's attendance. Ms. Lettvin, *Recording Secretary*, will revise the 03/17/2022 School Committee regular meeting minutes as discussed in the bullet points detailed above. The revised minutes will appear on the next meeting agenda.

7. New Business

A. MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence

The Mass Certificate of Academic Excellence is an annual award offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. Superintendent Tracy presents this award to HWRHS student Luke McMahon (attending the meeting this evening), as the student with the highest academic achievement. Superintendent Tracy congratulates Luke on his incredible success throughout his career at HWRHS.

B. Honor Winter Sports Athletes

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genualdo congratulates the Winter Sports coaches, teams, and individual athletes, as detailed in the [exhibit](#).

C. Vote Baseball Game Program with Advertisements

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genualdo is seeking the School Committee's approval of the Baseball Game Program with advertisements, as presented in the [exhibit](#).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE BASEBALL GAME PROGRAM WITH ADVERTISEMENTS AS PRESENTED ON THE [EXHIBIT](#) LINKED ON THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: There is brief discussion about reviewing the potential advertisers appearing on the program. Superintendent Tracy agrees to review this list when it become available

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Mr. Polito asks for a future meeting agenda item: discussion regarding next year's advertisements at the Little League field.

Mr. Genualdo exits the meeting at approximately 7:36 PM.

D. Vote Amended School Calendar 22-23

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy explains that the School Committee previously voted to approve the 22-23 School Calendar. The amendment to this calendar consists of one change: the addition of 09/07/2022 as opening day for Kindergarten. There is a brief discussion regarding best practices and procedures involved in approving the School Calendar.

I MOVE THAT WE APPROVE THE AMENDED SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 22-23 SCHOOL YEAR AS DISCUSSED AND AS PRESENTED ON THE [EXHIBIT](#) LINKED TO THE AGENDA.

MOTION BY JEN CARR; SECONDED BY ANNA SIEDZIK.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

8. Finance and Operations

A. Approval of Assistant Treasurer Kathryn Lavoie

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone explains the posting of this position and the candidates who stood out. He recommends an annual appointment for Kathryn Lavoie as the *Assistant District Treasurer*.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE KATHRYN LAVOIE AS THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT TREASURER FOR THE HAMILTON - WENHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT AS RECOMMENDED BY MR. LEONE.

MOTION by Jen Carr; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Lavoie is currently working for the town of Ipswich. There is a brief discussion regarding joint loyalties to municipalities, with Mr. Leone explaining Ms. Lavoie would sign a document to prevent any issues from arising.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

9. Policy

A. First Reading AC

[Exhibit](#)

B. First Reading AC-R

[Exhibit](#)

C. First Reading ACAB

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik explains that the policies above have been revised or introduced as new policies in order to align with AG and MASC language.

The policies in batch A were approved last year. Ms. Siedzik summarizes:

- AC (current version replaced with new version of AC and addition of policy AC-R [previously had not existed], both titled "non-discrimination policy including harassment and retaliation")
- ACA (does not change)

ACAB (current titled “harassment” replaced with new version titled “sexual harassment”)
ACE (does not change)

Ms. Siedzik adds that this solves the problem stemming from inconsistencies found in the list of protected classes. There is further discussion regarding protected classes; policies that reference protected classes; etc.

There is discussion and clarification about the changes made to the policies previously approved. Ms. Bailey says red-lining the revisions or adding a statement about new policies would be helpful to School Committee members in their review. Ms. Siedzik will annotate these versions with an explanation, as she provided this evening. In the future, changes will be noted through red-lining or providing annotation.

There is a discussion about the confusion arising from the identical titles of policies AC and AC-R. Ms. Siedzik explains that the policies came directly from the MASC - she will follow up with Ms. Presser about potentially changing the titles/adding a subtitle to differentiate these two policies.

There is some discussion regarding the public statements from the Town of Hamilton Human Rights Commission and the Town of Wenham Human Rights Committee, which called on the district to take action on protected classes. Ms. Bailey points out that the list of classes provided by the MASC does not include the complete list that the Town groups had asked for. Ms. Siedzik explains that the list conforms to state and federal governments, and does include the language “or any other category” which she believes would cover any of the classes not specifically named. There is further discussion about the Town of Hamilton Human Rights Commission and the Town of Wenham Human Rights Committee’s call to action, which appeared on Wenham’s website but was subsequently removed. The information was never communicated to the School Committee or the School District.

Ms. Siedzik believes it is necessary and appropriate for the *Policy-Legislative Subcommittee* to approve a memorandum of explanation before bringing these policies back to the full School Committee.

10. Superintendent’s Report

- DEIB surveys: Superintendent Tracy explains that there has been community concern about the surveys. He explains that the district is not attempting to be secretive about the surveys, however accurate results from these student surveys are important for planning purposes. He will address the community’s concerns in writing in the near future.
 - There are also surveys specific to parents and School Committee members.
- Superintendent Tracy announces that the district has negotiated and finalized a contract with Juliana Schneider to serve as the new principal of Cutler Elementary School. Ms. Schneider brings a wealth of experience, including 19 years of elementary experience. She will sign her papers next week and begin her position on 07/01/2022.

11. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

The *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* has not met since last providing an update.

B. Policy/Legislative Subcommittee

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* has not met since last providing an update.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

Ms. Allara reports that the *Negotiations Subcommittee* has continued to meet and negotiate with the Custodial Union. Given the transition of School Committee members, the next scheduled meeting will be 05/16/2022.

12. Chair's Report

- Ms. Allara notes that the budget passed at both Town Meetings over the weekend. She thanks Superintendent Tracy and Mr. Leone for their work and clear communication with the towns.

13. Topics for Future Meetings

- Little League advertising next year.

14. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 04/07/2022 MEETING AT 8:15 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through vote of seven (7) members present.

Respectfully submitted April 17 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
