



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

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

Meeting ID: 820 8349 2586

Thursday, October 6, 2022

7:00 p.m. - 8:55 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara, Chair

David Frenkel

Amy Kunberger, Secretary

David Polito (approximate 7:35 PM arrival)

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Administration

Eliza Bassom, Senior Class President

Bryan Menegoni, High School Principal

Zachary Best, Middle School Principal

Ben Schersten, Buker Principal

Juliana Schneider, Cutler Principal

Carolyn Shediak, Winthrop Principal

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. Citizens' Comments

[Exhibit](#)

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themselves by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material.

Ms. Allara states that this meeting is being recorded, live streamed, and broadcast by HWCAM, and is accessible through either HWCAM's [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

Ms. Allara reminds the public that this is an opportunity for citizens to provide comments to the School Committee, but *not* an opportunity to engage in dialogue. Citizens are asked to spell their first and last name and note their address for the record.

Sue Cooke, 4 Puritan Road, Wenham: Ms. Cooke sent communication earlier today and appreciates the responses she did receive. She appears tonight to speak about the diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts

that have been interwoven into the district's curriculum at the High School. She mentions a specific example of the 9th grade english class "coming of age" session, which worked from book "This Book is Anti-Racist". She reads a specific passage about the subordinate culture and claims that the language and associated activity evokes anxiety and potential agitation. She is not pleased with the curriculum.

Rosemary Kennedy, 61 Rust Street, Hamilton: Ms. Kennedy could not hear the previous comment over Zoom. Ms. Allara hopes that the issue is resolved, and believes the comment will be heard once HWCAM posts the meeting recording.

As there are no further comments at this time, the Zoom is closed at approximately 7:08 PM.

4. Review of School Committee Mission Statement (originally item 5) [Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik reads the 2022/2023 School Committee mission statement, detailed in the [exhibit](#) and as displayed in the Buker Cafeteria..

5. Review of School Committee Protocols (originally item 4) [Exhibit](#)

Ms. Allara reads School Committee Protocol #4 as written in the [exhibit](#).

6. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 8
- Voucher No. 1013
- Voucher No. 3176
- Voucher No. 3177
- Voucher No. 3178

B. Donations

- Friends of Cutler Donation - Sound System: \$974.25 [Exhibit](#)

C. Other

- Athletic 2022-2023 8th Grade Waivers [Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of four (4) members present.

7. New Business

A. School Improvement Plan Presentation [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy notes that the five (5) school principals will present their School Improvement Plans as detailed in the [exhibit](#). He explains that elementary goals have some shared goals and one (1) individual building goal, and some goals align with the district goals. All of the school improvement plans have been approved by the School Councils.

Elementary Schools

Juliana Schneider, Cutler Principal

Ben Schersten, Buker Principal

Carolyn Shediak, Winthrop Principal

Goal #1: Implement the CKLA curriculum and review the current math curriculum for the purpose of continued refinement of our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS).

Goal #2: Meet the evolving and varied needs of all of our students and school community members in a manner that respects and values each individual.

Buker Goal #3: Support our English Language Learning students by developing a system to track language acquisition and expanding teacher skills in supporting English Learning Language students.

Cutler Goal #3: As a new administrator to Cutler School, I will conduct a comprehensive Entry Plan which will involve meeting with all stakeholders in order to identify strengths, opportunities and challenges for the purpose of leading the community forward in meaningful, future work.

Winthrop Goal #3: Staff will deepen their understanding of inclusive practices to support all students; identify and implement consistent school wide inclusive practices to improve the learning outcomes for all students.

Discussion regarding the impact COVID had on school goals on literacy and communications with families with eight (8) different languages, translations offered through the district's technical tools, etc. Discussion about math curriculum in the schools and MCAS data; parent letters and communications;

Miles River Middle School

Zachary Best, Middle School Principal presents the goals and action steps for the middle school, including:

Goal #1: By the end of the 2022-23 school year, the Miles River Middle School will implement a data process to review student progress in sixth and seventh grades in order to continue building a MTSS for the secondary level.

Goal #2: By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the Miles River Middle School will complete a systems audit to ensure clearly communicated practices are in place to support student success.

Goal #3: By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the Miles River Middle School will evaluate and strengthen the transition process from 5th to 6th grade.

There is discussion regarding Middle School specific DEIB issues and culture in the school. There is a lengthy discussion regarding why this was left out of the goals at this point. Superintendent Tracy offers some explanation as well, that the DEIB is still finalizing their recommendations. There is discussion about goals #3 and executive functioning skills being taught as a life skill.

David Polito enters the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM.

Ms. Allara appreciates goal #3 as well, specifically pointing out the importance of executive functioning.

Hamilton - Wenham Regional High School

Bryan Menegoni, High School Principal

Goal #1: By the end of the 2022-23 school year, HWRHS will implement a data process to review student progress in 9th and 10th grade in order to support and continue building a MTSS for the secondary level.

Goal #2: By May 2023, all curriculum documents will be in a condition where they are regularly used as part of the planning process.

Goal #3: Increase the proportion of students matriculating from MRMS to HWRHS.

Goal #4: Identify the existence and extent of performance gaps among various subgroups in the high school.

There is discussion about performance gaps; enticing middle school students to attend the High School; Student Opportunity Act; examining trends and data for better understanding why students do not stay for High School years; etc.

B. Vote Superintendent's Goals 22-23

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy explains that he has made the changes as requested in the last school committee meeting. There is discussion regarding the efforts made to fill the current vacant positions; number of indicators for consideration; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 22-23 SUPERINTENDENT GOALS AS PRESENTED THIS EVENING.

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.**

C. Vote on the Following Policies:

Vote Policy AC

[Exhibit](#)

Vote Policy AC-R

[Exhibit](#)

Vote Policy ACAB

[Exhibit](#)

Vote Policy JICK

[Exhibit](#)

Explanation of Changes from May 2021 - October 2022

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Siedzik explains the changes made to the policies, as detailed in the exhibits above, especially the last [exhibit](#) outlining the changes made to the policies. Ms. Kunberger provides an overview of the document highlighting the changes, explaining the colors and proposed changes as shown. There is further discussion about the changes made and the reasons behind some of those changes.. There is discussion about some of the scrivener's errors.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT THE NEW AC POLICY AS LINKED IN THE AGENDA.

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.**

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT THE AC-R POLICY AS LINKED IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: There is a discussion about procedure and fixing smaller non substantive changes. space after "developmentally appropriate" in the top of the first paragraph.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT THE NEW ACAB POLICY AS LINKED IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Allara asks about how much of this came from the state; Ms. Siedzik explains that a lot of the language came from the AG. There is discussion about MA general law and the similarity to the language in the policies.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT THE NEW JICK POLICY AS LINKED IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik points out the missing word “of” in the crown act language.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

There is discussion about future reference to the protected class language .

8. Finance and Operations

A. Draft Budget Calendar

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the budget calendar draft as shown in the attached [exhibit](#). The joint meeting dates are Wednesday, 11/30/22 and Wednesday, 01/11/23. There is discussion about the meeting dates as scheduled and potential changes should the budget be approved.

9. Superintendent’s Report

A. School Opening Update

- Thank you for community support for all 3 town meeting warrant articles.
- DIBELS 8 literacy screeners finished, the district would like to be able to share the data with parents.
- MRMS completed a school wide I-Ready math screener, they will begin digging into that data tomorrow.
- Strategic Plan Survey: data will be gathered over the next week or so. This survey is intended to reach as many in the community as possible
- District is working with the boards of health for flu vaccine clinics on Thursdays through October.

10. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee (*Julia Campbell, Jen Carr, Dana Allara*)

No update at this time.

B. Policy Subcommittee (*Anna Siedzik, Amy Kunberger, David Frenkel*)

Ms. Siedzik reports that the next meeting will be 10/19/22 to finish up the D section, as well as bring forward sections F, K, and J.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee (*Dana Allara, David Polito, Amy Kunberger*)

No update at this time.

11. Chair’s Report.

- Gratitude for the town meetings and the vote to approve the 3 warrant articles.
- Hamilton Master Planning is paused at the moment, stepping back from the original consultant.

12. Topics for Future Meetings

(none mentioned)

13. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 10/06/2022 MEETING AT 8:44 PM.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by David Polito.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

Respectfully submitted October 30 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

The agenda items listed are those items which were reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed on the agenda may be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Items may be heard out of the listed order.

**Times are provided as estimates and guidelines only and are subject to change.*