



# 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: 847 1982 1462**

**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

#### **Present:**

Dana Allara, Chair

Jen Carr

Julia Campbell, Assistant Secretary

David Frenkel

Amy Kunberger, Secretary

David Polito (late arrival between 7:25 PM and 7:55 PM)

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

#### **Also Present:**

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Administration

Whitney Fitzgibbons, Sophomore Class President

Maija Scarpaci, HWRHS Spanish Teacher

Jen Clifford, Director of Teaching & Learning

#### **1. Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls the 10/20/2022 meeting to order at 7:00 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 indicate their address and name, spelling their last name, for the record.

*Sue Cooke, 4 Puritan Road, Wenham:* Ms. Cooke appears this evening to speak about the district's decision to implement daily, non-academic, activities into High School students' schedules. She asks the members of the School Committee to think about their thoughts and feelings in response to Ms. Cooke's

comments at the meetings. She suggests that members may feel annoyed that their time is wasted; perhaps many take the time to check their emails or text messages. Ms. Cooke compares this to what she believes High School students tolerate as far as the non-academic work being forced on them. Perhaps the students don't feel as though race, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. are important topics to them, just as the School Committee members may not feel citizen comments are important to their work. Ms. Cooke asks the members to understand the gravity of their decisions, and for them to seek answers about how their decisions impact the students and families in the district. She notes that October and November are open enrollment months for many alternative schools in the area, and she will find it interesting to see how many local families will be attending these events, searching for alternative learning environments for their students.

As there are no further comments at this time; the Zoom is closed at approximately 7:06 PM.

#### **4. Review of School Committee Protocols**

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Frenkel reads School Committee Protocol #5 as written in the [exhibit](#).

#### **5. Review of School Committee Mission Statement**

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Campbell reads the 2022/2023 School Committee mission statement, as detailed in the [exhibit](#) and as displayed in all its glory in the Buker Multipurpose Room.

#### **6. Student Representative Report**

Superintendent Tracy introduces sophomore class president, Whitney Fitzgibbons, reminding the committee that class presidents will rotate through the responsibility of providing this update. Ms. Fitzgibbons provides an overview of items of interest throughout the schools:

- High School
  - Student Government is busy planning for Spirit Week 11/16-11/23, Seniors are planning homecoming dance 11/18/22; Juniors have been running the concessions stand at home Football games.
  - Open House on 10/26, student reps from clubs and sports will be attending to answer any questions.
  - Clubs and Sports:
    - Variety of offerings this year: ping pong, ceramics, film club,
    - Environmental & Social Justice Club teamed up to host a Thrift Fest Clothing Drive;
    - Science Team (new this year) had its first virtual meet last week.
    - DECA began the year with many opportunities including stock market game and the virtual business challenges.
    - Girls Tennis Coach, Joe Maher received **21-22 MIAA Coach of the Year** award!
    - Strong Fall Season: Boys Cross Country team is undefeated; Boys Golf team has had a great season; Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer teams are very strong as per usual!
- Middle School
  - Some student clubs and activities include the Jazz band, Cooking Club, Chorale, various sports and Intramurals.
  - 6th graders visited Wolf Hollow last week.
- Elementary Schools
  - Winthrop Halloween Happenings, Friday, 10/28/22
  - Cutler Halloween Parade, 10/31/22.
  - Buker Fun Run, 10/21/22, 9:00 AM.

7. **Consent Agenda**

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 9
- Voucher No. 1014
- Voucher No. 1015
- Voucher No. 3179
- Voucher No. 3180
- Voucher No. 3181
- Voucher No. 3182

B. Minutes

- September 8, 2022
- September 22, 2022

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

C. Other

- Puerto Rico Field Trip Request

[Exhibit](#)

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN IN THE AGENDA, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE 09/22/22 MEETING MINUTES AND THE PUERTO RICO FIELD TRIP REQUEST.**

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Jen Carr.  
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of six (6) members present.**

Ms. Siedzik points out the error in the 09/22/2022 meeting minutes: the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* met on Monday, 09/19/2022, rather than 08/22/2022.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 09/22/22 MEETING MINUTES, CHANGING THE DATE OF THE *POLICY LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE* MEETING FROM 08/22/2022 TO 09/19/2022.**

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.  
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of six (6) members present.**

Superintendent Tracy introduces Maija Scarpaci, *HWRHS Spanish Teacher*. She explains that the Language Department is proposing a trip to Puerto Rico over April Break, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Though prior year trips have been taken to Peru, Ms. Scarpaci believes this trip will remove some possible barriers (domestic travel, passport not necessary, and the high cost and length of past trips). Ms. Scarpaci plans to offer classes to Juniors and Seniors interested in this trip. There is some discussion regarding Puerto Rico's weather patterns; security/safety in the area, and lodging plans. Ms. Scarpaci notes that Worldstrides company is assisting with scheduling educational activities.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PUERTO RICO FIELD TRIP REQUEST AS DETAILED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.  
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of six (6) members present.**

## 8. **New Business**

### A. MCAS Results

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy and Jen Clifford, *Director of Teaching & Learning* review the district's MCAS results presentation, as detailed in the [exhibit](#)<sup>1</sup>. Superintendent Tracy explains that this year presents new challenges including the pandemic interrupting student learning, as well as the difficulty in comparing data within and outside the district.

- Statewide trends

Superintendent Tracy explains that DESE called this year a new Baseline for moving forward, given that the 2022 and 2021 results are not comparable and do not offer accurate information about trends or growth. With the newly established Baseline, it becomes difficult to compare pre-pandemic levels, as students have not had the same learning experiences that their peers had back in 2019 when the last full assessment was administered. Superintendent Tracy reviews some of the challenges facing the district including absenteeism, 10-day quarantine, isolation guidelines, number of full tests administered, etc.

- District data

Ms. Clifford states that the 2022 test results are very different from 2021 results. The State has asked that districts not compare the student growth percentiles from these years, as doing so would produce results fraught with inaccuracies. Next year, the district will have the ability to rely on comparison of two consecutive full administrations of the assessments. In addition, the district is excited to rely on a new data interface called Open Architects, which allows for easily manipulated data sets and comparisons, rather than the older and limited statewide graphs usually relied upon.

- Review Grades 3-5 ELA
- Review Grades 3-5 Math
- Review Grades 6-8 ELA
- Review Grades 6-8 Math
- Review Grades 6-8 Science
- Review Grades 10 ELA
- Review Grades 10 Math
- Review Grades 9 Science
- Review High School Science
- The SOA report identified four subgroups:
  - English Learners
  - Students with Disability
  - Economically Disadvantaged
  - High Needs

There are a number of approaches implemented throughout the schools to focus on the subgroups listed above. These equity related strategies include professional development, strategic planning, belonging, MTSS access, and high expectations. Superintendent Tracy reviews the strategies in detail. There is discussion regarding perceived gender gaps; strategies to resolve any potential inequities; challenges in comparing data; tracking trends through classes as they progress through each grade/cohort analysis; graph representations and other strategies to visualize data. There is a discussion about equity and some of the strategies developed to address particular challenges from marginalized groups.

### B. MASC Resolutions Vote

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Allara reminds the School Committee that she is attending the MASC conference as the School Committee's appointed delegate, and the MASC Resolutions will be presented at that time. Ms. Allara believes it makes sense to structure this motion similarly to the consent agenda, where any specific items

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<sup>1</sup> Superintendent Tracy notes the presentation has been updated since it was initially linked as an exhibit on the agenda.

that require further discussion would be held and then addressed separately. Mrs. Carr asks to hold Resolution #2.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT AND AUTHORIZE DANA ALLARA, MASC DELEGATE, TO VOTE TO AFFIRM THE PROPOSED MASC RESOLUTIONS FOR FORMAL CONSIDERATION BY THE 2022 MASC DELEGATE ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER AS WRITTEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF RESOLUTION #2**

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Seidzik.  
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of seven (7) members present.**

There is a discussion regarding Resolution #2, *To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund*, increase the amount allowed in the special education reserve account from 2% to 5% of the annual net school spending. Mr. Leone notes that the district does not have a Special Education reserve account, nevertheless he supports this resolution.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADOPT AND AUTHORIZE DANA ALLARA, MASC DELEGATE, TO VOTE TO AFFIRM THE PROPOSED MASC RESOLUTION #2 FOR FORMAL CONSIDERATION BY THE 2022 MASC DELEGATE ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER, AS WRITTEN.**

**MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Seidzik.  
MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of even (7) members present.**

Ms. Allara looks forward to attending this conference, and to . reporting back to the School Committee after her return.

## **~~9. — Finance and Operations~~**

### **10. Superintendent's Report**

- Congratulations to Joe Maher, math teacher and tennis coach for winning Coach of the Year! Thank you, Joe, for your incredible service throughout the years.
- 10/26/22 High School Open House & DC Trip Parent Meeting: Mr. Menegoni has put a tremendous amount of work into planning the night to showcase the opportunities available at the High School.

### **11. Committee Reports**

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

Mrs. Carr reports that the *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* met this week to discuss the E&D account; Athletic Field Improvement project; preliminary budget presentation; and the strategies for the upcoming Quintuple board meeting.

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

Ms. Siedzik reports that the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* will meet on 11/01/2022 to finish up the D section policy review, and move on to review of K and F sections.

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

There is no update at this time.

**~~12. Chair's Report:~~**

**13. Topics for Future Meetings**

- Presentation from the auditors;
- Quarter 1 Year End forecast from Mr. Leone;

Any other topics for the next meeting can be emailed to Ms. Allara.

**14. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PURPOSE #2 (TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL OR TO CONDUCT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SESSIONS OR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, ERIC TRACY) AT 8:10 PM, AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.**

**MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.**

Jen Carr	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Amy Kunberger	YES;
David Frenkel	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES.

**MOTION PASSES unanimously by roll-call vote of seven (7) members present.**

*Respectfully submitted October 28 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.*

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*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.*