



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: 896 8746 3675

Thursday, January 5, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 10:25 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara, Chair

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

Amy Kunberger, Secretary

David Frenkel (left at 9:55)

David Polito (arrived at 7:05)

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Chair Allara called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chair Allara stated that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed on [HWCAM](#).

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.

There was no citizen comment. The zoom link was closed at approximately 7:02 p.m.

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

Anna Siedzik read School Committee Protocol 9.

5. Review School Committee Mission Statement [Exhibit](#)

Amy Kunberger read the following from the Mission Statement: The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee will lead and inspire a District that attracts and retains high quality educators, by acknowledging and respecting their expertise and professionalism.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 15
- Voucher No. 1024
- Voucher No. 1025
- Voucher No. 3206
- Voucher No. 3207
- Voucher No. 3208
- Voucher No. 3209
- Voucher No. 3210
- Voucher No. 3211

b. Donations [Exhibit](#)

- EdFund Grant - Climbing Tower & Ziplines; \$139,413

Chair Allara stated that she would like to hold the EdFund Grant from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the consent agenda with the exception of EdFund Grant.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik).

Chair Allara stated that she held the EdFund Grant to take the opportunity to express appreciation to the EdFund for their generous grant.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the EdFund Grant donation for the climbing tower and zipline as outlined in this evening's agenda.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

7. Finance & Operations

a. Approval of Sale of BANs (Bond Anticipation Notes) [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy introduced Kevin Merz to discuss the sale of BANs (Bond Anticipation Notes).

Kevin Merz discussed the sale of the BANs and read the proposed bond counsel motion for the Committee.

I move to approve the sale of the \$914,800 4.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes (the “Notes”) of the District dated January 19, 2023, and payable January 18, 2024, to Oppenheimer & Co. at par and accrued interest, if any, plus a premium of \$5,005.

Further that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated December 7, 2022, and a final Official Statement dated December 14, 2022, each in such form as may be approved by the District Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further that we authorize and direct the District Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the District Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes.

Further that any certificates or documents relating to the Notes (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Documents; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

Further that each member of the Committee, the District Secretary and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik).

b. Vote Superintendent’s Tentative FY24 Budget [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy and Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the tentative FY24 budget. In response to questions Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the 4.5 net reduction in teaching staff, the debt services budget, user fee percentage and the change from the State regarding transportation excess revenues being transferred into a revolving account.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the tentative

FY24 General Fund Expenditures budget of \$42,151,414. This amount includes general fund operating expenses, after offsets, in the amount of \$41,554,873 and the General Fund Debt Service expenses in the amount of \$596,541; furthermore the gross operating expenses of the district, before offsets, have been allocated by the DESE defined chart of accounts according to the “Summary by DESE Category” chart included in this budget presentation, as detailed in the exhibit.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik).

Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the schedule for upcoming budget meetings.

8. New Business

- a. Review Vaccination Requirements [Exhibit](#)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the original school district vaccine mandate as attached to the agenda.

Motion by Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: there was no second

I move that we repeal the vaccine mandate currently in effect for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District.

Motion by: Anna Siedzik

Seconded by: David Frenkel

The Committee discussed the mandate. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that teachers out sick with COVID use their own sick days and are no longer paid for COVID sick days under the separate MOU.

MOTION PASSED 4-1 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Polito and Siedzik voted yes Member Kunberger voted no).

- b. Special Education Budget Presentation [Exhibit](#)

Director of Student Services Stacy Bucyk gave an overview of Student Services including programming and enrollment.

In response to questions and comments from the Committee, Director Bucyk stated that she will continue, when possible, to bring more programs in-district to support students. Director Bucyk thanked the Committee and Administration for their support. Superintendent Tracy discussed his participation in the North Shore roundtable regarding Chapter 70 funding.

- c. Vote Feasibility Study Agreement [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the proposed feasibility study agreement with MSBA. He noted that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School district Cutler Elementary School project is one of only two projects that has been fast-tracked to Module 2.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the feasibility study agreement to be entered into with the Massachusetts School Building Authority for

the Cutler Elementary School project as presented and authorize the Superintendent to executive and deliver the feasibility study agreement on behalf of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School district and to executive and deliver any amendments thereto.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that incentive points are not awarded during the feasibility stage but would be available if the district decides to pursue them during the building process.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik).

Superintendent Tracy discussed the next steps in the process.

- d. Vote School Calendar 2023-2024 [Exhibit](#)
- e. Vote School Calendar 2024-2025 [Exhibit](#)
 - i. Calendar Survey Data [Exhibit](#)
 - ii. Association Member Input Survey Data [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy stated that he is not requesting a vote this evening but is looking for feedback from the Committee on the proposed calendars. He discussed the proposed calendar changes including holding the 4 professional development days at the beginning of the school year and having students start after Labor Day. He discussed the input he received from HWEA and from the parent survey. He confirmed that in this model the 6th and 9th grade orientations would still occur prior to students returning to the classroom. He also discussed parent comments regarding early release Wednesdays. The Committee discussed pros and cons of early release Wednesdays. In response to a question from the Committee, Superintendent Tracy stated that the district will be looking at the possibility of providing after school care for early release Wednesdays but that it would be a significant impact on the budget.

- f. House Bill 250 [Exhibit](#)

The Committee discussed House Bill 250, an Act to ensure the health and safety of the Commonwealth's students and educators.

I move that we allot 7 more minutes of conversation to this topic and then move on.

Motion by: Anna Siedzik

Seconded by: there was no second

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee task the policy subcommittee with exploring what indoor air quality standards should be targeted at for schools.

Motion by: David Frenkel

Seconded by: David Polito

The Committee discussed tasking the policy subcommittee with setting indoor air quality standards and also discussed the status of House Bill 250.

During this meeting, a member, David Frenkel presented printed documents to the committee which should be included in the minutes since they were distributed to the members as a part of

discussion in the meeting. These documents are deliberative and not exhibits, but they are a part of the debate and discussion and should be entered into the record.

[Document 1](#), [Document 2](#)

I move to amend the motion to move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee write a letter to Senator Bruce Tarr in support of Bill 250.

Motion by: David Polito

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

RESCINDED: After discussion, David Polito rescinded his amendment to the motion.

MOTION FAILED 1-4: The vote on the original motion was 1-4 (Member Frenkel voted yes, Members Allara, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik voted no)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District write a letter of support to Senator Bruce Tarr in favor of supporting Bill 250 in the Massachusetts Senate.

Motion by: David Polito

Seconded by: David Frenkel

The Committee discussed Bill 250 including the air quality standards and the requirements the district would need to meet should the bill pass.

I move to vote.

Motion by: David Polito

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED: The motion to vote passed 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

MOTION FAILED 1-4: The vote on the motion to send a letter to Senator Tarr was 1-4 (Member Frenkel voted yes, Members Allara, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik voted no)

9. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy discussed events and activities throughout the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District. He informed the Committee that he was selected to be part of the national cohort, Learn-Lead, a strategic communications program.

10. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

No update.

- b. Policy Subcommittee

- i. Second Reading and Vote Policy Section D [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

The Committee discussed policy section D. Dana Allara requested to hold Policy DB.

I move that Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve Policy Section D as outlined in the agenda minus the DB Section.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

Dana Allara requested the first line of Section DB be changed from to the School Committee to of the School Committee.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve Section DB of Policy Section D with the change of the word to to of.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Anna Siedzik

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Frenkel, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

ii. Second Reading and Vote Policy Section I [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)
The Committee discussed Policy Section I.

David Frenkel exited the meeting.

I move that we extend the School Committee meeting up to 10:30 p.m.

Motion by: Anna Siedzik

Seconded by: David Polito

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

The Committee agreed to refer the following policies back to the subcommittee for clarification:

- IJ and IJ-R - clarification on the review committee and language regarding School Committee responsibility for curriculum approval.
- IMG - clarification on the Guidelines for Animals in Schools and on School Grounds document referred to in the policy.

The Committee agreed to the following policy edits:

- IHB change his to their and end the first sentence after the word self-reliance
- IHBA confirm the note at the bottom should be included
- IIB remove page 4 of 4 at the bottom of the policy

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve Policy Section I with the with the exception of Policy IJ, IJ-R and IMG, which will be referred back to the policy subcommittee for clarifications as noted and with the edits noted for Policies IHB, IHBA and IIB.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Dana Allara

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

iii. Second Reading and Vote Policy Section K [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

The Committee agreed to the following changes:

- Policy KE change anonymous complaints **will be** disregarded to **may be** disregarded.
- KF-R correct numbering.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve Policy Section K with the edits noted for Policies KE and KF-R.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: David Polito

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)

c. Negotiations Subcommittee
No update.

11. Chair's Report

Dana Allara stated that Hamilton Master Planning has a new consultant and has scheduled a visioning session for February 4 at the Miles River Middle School.

12. Topics for Future Meetings

There were no topics.

13. Vote to Adjourn

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adjourn.

Motion by: David Polito

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 4-0

Respectfully submitted by Bev Zagari, Recording Secretary 3/31/23