



# 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: 844 5067 5284

Thursday, December 1, 2022

7:00 p.m. - 9:16 p.m.

#### Present:

Dana Allara, Chair

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

Amy Kunberger, Secretary

Julia Campbell

Jennifer Carr

David Polito (arrived at 7:04 p.m.)

#### Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration

#### 1. Call to Order

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

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance with the exception of 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 7:04 p.m.

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

David Polito read School Committee Protocol 8.

#### 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 Inspires all students to realize their fullest potential and feel a powerful sense of individual and collective belonging

## **6. Consent Agenda**

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
  - Voucher No. 13
  - Voucher No. 1020
  - Voucher No. 1021
  - Voucher No. 1022
  - Voucher No. 3195
  - Voucher No. 3196
  - Voucher No. 3197
  - Voucher No. 3198
  - Voucher No. 3199
  - Voucher No. 3200

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the consent agenda as written.**

**Motion by: Amy Kunberger**

**Seconded by: Anna Siedzik**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)**

## **7. New Business**

- a. Fall Athletic Recognitions [Exhibit](#)

Athletic Director Craig Genualdo recognized the Fall 2022 athletic teams and individuals. The Committee thanked the students for attending the meeting.

- b. Second Reading & Vote Section H [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approves Section H of the Policy Manual as presented in the agenda.**

**Motion by: Amy Kunberger**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

Anna Siedzik stated that at the last policy subcommittee meeting MASC confirmed they will do a final proofread of all policies for formatting issues.

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)**

- c. Second Reading & Vote Section J [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara requested to hold policies JIC, JICFA and JICFB.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approves Section J as presented on the agenda with the exception of JIC, JICFA and JICFB.**

**Motion by: Amy Kunberger**

**Seconded by: Julia Campbell**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)**

In response to a concern raised regarding suspensions, Superintendent Tracy stated that on November 8 an update to MGL 37H ¾ was approved. The change states in part that schools must take additional steps to re-engage students before using suspension and expulsion as a disciplinary measure and in certain circumstances, implement alternative remedies. MASC recommends the Committee approve the policy as written and when MASC updates their policy to reflect the change, the Committee will then vote the new policy with the updated language. The Committee discussed the definition of the word *repeated* in the bullying prevention section and agreed to add (*more than once*) after the word repeated. Anna Siedzik highlighted the change on page 2 of the bullying prevention section that states that an action that does not happen at school but creates a hostile environment in the school environment now falls under the policy.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve Policies JIC, JICFA and JICFB with inclusion of new language in policy JICFB adding the definition of repeated (*more than once*).**

**Motion by: Amy Kunberger**

**Seconded by: Julia Campbell**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)**

d. Class Size Report [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy gave a report on class sizes by school. The Superintendent and Committee discussed the possibility of aligning high school and middle schools schedules in order to increase teacher sharing across those schools and also examining course offerings and possible online course options.

e. Update Wenham Master Planning

Superintendent Tracy read a statement from David Frenkel, School Committee representative to the Wenham Master Planning Committee. In the statement he discussed the most recent meeting of the Master Planning Committee and their plan for community outreach to determine what should be given priority in the plan. He asked that the Wenham residents of the School Committee complete one of the focus packets he provided. He stated the Wenham Master Planning Committee hopes to sync up with the Town of Hamilton and School Department master planning. He encouraged members with any questions to reach out to him via email.

**8. Finance & Operations**

No update

**9. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Tracy gave an update on strategic planning. He stated that core values and the mission have been finalized and they will be working on the vision at the upcoming meeting. Superintendent Tracy congratulated Maya Beach on being nominated as a Presidential Scholar. He updated the Committee on upcoming activities throughout the district.

## **10. Committee Reports**

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - no update
- b. Policy Subcommittee
  - i. First Reading Section D [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)
  - ii. First Reading Section I [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)
  - iii. First Reading Section K [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Anna Siedzik stated that after discussion the subcommittee is recommending Policy DFA, although not required, be included as auditors have brought this up as an issue in the past. Also, the E&D policy will now align with state law.

In response to questions raised, Anna Siedzik stated that policy DKC is confirming the district is adopting the federal mileage reimbursement rate and that formatting, typos and numbering in all policies will be corrected on final review. She also confirmed policies KB and KBA are from the MASC suggested language. The Committee discussed changing Policy KE from anonymous complaints *will be* disregarded to *may be* disregarded. The Committee requested the subcommittee review the language in proposed policy KHA regarding fundraising to be sure it actually is a policy the Committee wants to adopt. The Committee discussed IJ-R Reconsideration of Instructional Resources and requested the subcommittee change School Committee to District and delete the 7th paragraph.

- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - no update

## **11. Chair's Report**

Dana Allara discussed the recent quintuple board meeting. She also discussed the invitation she received from the League of Women Voters for the Committee to attend their event and host an informational table.

## **12. Topics for Future Meetings**

A request was made that the Committee have an opportunity to review attendance information for Good Friday prior to calendar approval. Dana Allara stated that she will add an item to the agenda on possibly scheduling a workshop with MASC regarding school goals.

## **13. Adjourn**

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adjourn at 9:16 p.m.**

**Motion by: Anna Siedzik**

**Seconded by: Julia Campbell**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger, Polito and Siedzik)**

*Respectfully submitted by Bev Zagarri, Recording Secretary 4/18/23*