



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: 82961116993

Thursday, April 13, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Jen Carr

Francesca Connors

David Frenkel

Amy Kunberger

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 rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. School Committee Reorganization:

Tabulation of Election Results

- Town of Hamilton [Exhibit](#)
- Town of Wenham [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara stated that in accordance with the regional agreement the School Committee must tabulate the election votes in order to officially record the votes.

Amy Kunberger read the following tabulation of votes: Dana Allara received 1,045 votes in Hamilton and 662 votes in Wenham for a total of 1,707 votes. Francesca Avogadri-Connors received 944 votes in Hamilton and 534 votes in Wenham for a total of 1,478 votes. Hamilton had 858 blank votes and Wenham 648 blank votes for a total of 1,506 blank votes. Hamilton had 23 write-in votes and Wenham 14 write-in votes for a total of 37 write-in votes.

Dana Allara stated that the School Committee seats are now officially filled by Dana Allara and Francesca Connors.

Dana Allara stated that with no objection she would like to move item 10a out of order.

10. New Business

- a. MASS Certificate of Excellence
 - Chloe Gern; Valedictorian
 - Maya Beach; Salutatorian

Superintendent Tracy presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Academic in Excellence Certificates to Chloe Gern, Valedictorian and Maya Beach, Salutatorian. The Committee thanked students for attending the meeting.

Dana Allara stated that with no objection she would like to move item 10b out of order.

- b. Winter Athletics Recognition [Exhibit](#)

Athletic Director Craig Genualdo recognized the Winter 2022 athletic teams and individuals. Superintendent Tracy thanked Mr. Genualdo for his work. The Committee thanked the students for attending the meeting.

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

4. 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 7:25 p.m.

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

David Frenkel read School Committee protocol one.

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

Jen Carr read the following section of 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.*

7. Introduce New Elected School Committee Members for Term 2023-2026

- a. Francesca Connors

The Committee welcomed new member Francesca Connors.

8. Student Representative Report; *Julia Tsappis*

Julia Tsappis updated the Committee on events and activities throughout the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 21
- Voucher No. 22
- Voucher No. 1036
- Voucher No. 1037
- Voucher No. 1038
- Voucher No. 1039
- Voucher No. 3233
- Voucher No. 3234
- Voucher No. 3235
- Voucher No. 3236
- Voucher No. 3237
- Voucher No. 3238
- Voucher No. 3239
- Voucher No. 3240
- Voucher No. 3241

b. Minutes

- March 27, 2023 [Exhibit](#)
- March 16, 2023 [Exhibit](#)
- January 5, 2023 [Exhibit](#)
- December 15, 2022 [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara requested to hold the minutes of January 5, 2023 from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the consent agenda as presented with the exception of January 5, 2023 minutes.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara stated that David Frenkel departed the January 5 meeting prior to the vote to extend the meeting.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the minutes of January 5, 2023 with the correction of David Frenkel's departure time prior to the vote to extend the meeting and correcting the 5-0 vote on the motion to extend to 4-0.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: David Frenkel

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that the weight room donation was for the project presented by Principal Menegoni.

11. Finance & Operations

- a. Student Activity Activities Presentation 7/1/22-12/31/22 [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone gave a presentation on Student Activity Activities.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee vote to approve the 36 accounts listed on page 8 in tonight's presentation for the high school subsidiary accounts for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee vote to increase the High School's Student Activities Checking Account balance from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

12. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - no update

There was no update.

- b. Policy Subcommittee

There was no update

- c. Negotiations Subcommittee

Dana Allara stated that the Negotiations Subcommittee met yesterday. The teaching assistants are in the process of forming a union so the subcommittee will be scheduling a meeting with the union to begin the negotiation process.

13. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy announced that the policy subcommittee has completed their work and all policies are now posted on the district website and are searchable. He discussed today's Day of Silence at the middle and high schools. He stated that the day went well but the team will be reviewing the process used as there were a few missteps along the way and the team will also look at ways to improve communication with parents going forward. Superintendent Tracy announced that the subcommittee interviewed project manager groups and is recommending PMA Consultants for the Cutler project. That recommendation will be forwarded to MSBA for approval. He stated that once approved, he will provide additional information on PMA for the community and hopes to have them provide a presentation to the Committee. Superintendent Tracy updated the Committee on his work with the North Shore Superintendents subcommittee regarding the state budget, OSD increase and Chapter 70 formula. In addition they are asking

for state special education laws to be reviewed as some conflict with federal laws.

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that conversations on the after school program will continue through the rest of the year.

14. Chair's Report

- a. School Committee Reorganization: Appoint School Committee Members to the Following Positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Warrant Signer

Dana Allara turned the gavel over to Superintendent Tracy to run the voting to elect a new chair.

Superintendent Tracy asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the School Committee for next year.

I nominate Dana Allara for Chair.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Jen Carr

There were no additional nominations for Chair.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Superintendent Tracy returned the gavel to Dana Allara.

Dana Allara asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

I nominate Amy Kunberger for Vice-Chair.

Motion by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: Francesca Connors

There were no additional nominations for Vice-Chair.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara asked for nominations for Secretary.

I nominate Francesca Connors for Secretary.

Motion by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: David Frenkel

There were no additional nominations for Secretary.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara asked for nominations for Warrant Signer.

I nominate David Frenkel for Warrant Signer.

Motion by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: Francesca Connors

There were no additional nominations for Warrant Signer.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara asked for nominations for back-up Warrant Signer.

I nominate Jen Carr as back-up Warrant Signer.

Motion by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

There were no additional nominations for back-up Warrant Signer.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara discussed the importance of always having someone available to sign the warrants and asked for a motion to give authority to any member of the Committee to sign warrants.

I move that any member of the School Committee be given authority to sign warrants.

Motion by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Dana Allara stated that at the next meeting she will ask Julia Campbell if she will continue to serve as back-up secretary.

15. Topics for Future Meetings

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that an update on the reading program will be provided sometime in May. Superintendent Tracy stated that he will discuss district goals at the next meeting. Dana Allara stated that she will put the regional agreement on a future agenda.

16. Vote to Adjourn into Executive Session

I move that we enter into executive session for two purposes. Purpose #1 (To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual) and also for Purpose #3 (To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares); Not to return to open session.

Motion by: Dana Allara

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger, and Frenkel).

Respectfully submitted by Bev Zagari, Recording Secretary 4/16/23