



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: 89506464229

Thursday, May 18, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

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.

Dana Allara stated that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed via 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.

Jack Simons 24 Sagamore Street Hamilton discussed the increase in anxiety and depression among young people. He shared with the Committee a one page study summary, [Young Peoples' Climate Anxiety Revealed in Landmark Survey](#).

There was no further citizen comment. The zoom link was closed at 7:08 p.m.

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

Francesca Connors read School Committee Protocol 4.

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

Amy Kunberger read the following from the Committee 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. 27
- Voucher No. 1044
- Voucher No. 1045
- Voucher No. 3249
- Voucher No. 3252
- Voucher No. 3253
- Voucher No. 3254
- Voucher No. 3255
- Voucher No. 3256
- Voucher No. 3257

b. Minutes

- April 27, 2023 [Exhibit](#)
- May 4, 2023 [Exhibit](#)

c. Field Trips

- Spain 2024 [Exhibit](#)

d. Donations

- Friends of Cutler - Subsidize Field Trips; \$1,755.64 [Exhibit](#)
- 2023 DECA ICDC Donations; \$6,945.00 [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara requested to hold the minutes of May 4, 2023 and the Spain field trip from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the consent agenda as written with the exception of the minutes of May 4, 2023 and the field trip to Spain 2024.

Motion by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

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

David Frenkel requested that the Policy Subcommittee Update section in the minutes of May 4, 2023 be amended to include the next meeting date of the subcommittee, May 22 at 7:00 p.m.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee approve the minutes of May 4, 2023 with the amendment as discussed regarding the May 22 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Motion by: Francesca Connors Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

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

Matthew Jones gave a presentation on the Spain 2024 trip.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee approve the 2024 Spain field trip as presented.

Motion by: Francesca Connors Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

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

Dana Allara acknowledged the generous donations accepted this evening under the consent agenda.

7. New Business

a. Vote Last Day of School

Superintendent Tracy stated that the School Committee votes to approve the last day of school each year. He stated that there were two days of school canceled this year bringing the last day of school to June 16. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that he will confirm the 8th grade moving up ceremony date.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the last day of school, Friday, June 16, 2023.

Motion by: Francesca Connors Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Connors, Frenkel, Kunberger).

b. Vote Updated 23-24 School Calendar [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the 23-24 calendar. For professional development scheduling, he is recommending changing 6th and 9th grade orientation days from Tuesday to Wednesday. In response to questions, Superintendent Tracy stated a change to early release days would require negotiations with the union but he continues to meet with both the YMCA and the Community House regarding early release days. He stated that he anticipates having information on the kindergarten orientation date in the near future and will come back to the Committee with an adjustment if needed.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the change to the 2023-2024 school calendar moving orientation day for 6th and 9th grades from August 29 to August 30.

Motion by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Connors, Frenkel, Kunberger).

8. Finance & Operations

9. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - no update
- b. Policy Subcommittee - no update
- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - Dana Allara stated that the next meeting with the Teaching Assistants' union is scheduled for May 31.

10. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy discussed the upcoming end-of-year activities throughout the district including senior activities.

11. Chair's Report

Dana Allara reminded members that the superintendent evaluations are due to David Polito on May 25. David will compile the information and the evaluation is tentatively scheduled for discussion at the June 8 meeting. She stated that Anna Siedzik will be invited to attend the meeting to participate in the discussion but will not vote. Dana Allara and David Frenkel discussed their attendance at the Senior Symposium.

12. Topics for Future Meetings

Dana Allara stated that there will need to be discussions in the future regarding the school calendar.

Julia Campbell stated that June is LGBTQIA awareness month and she discussed the opportunities to participate in community events. She asked that any members of the community with questions reach out to her.

Dana Allara reminded the members that the next meeting is scheduled for June 8.

13. Vote to Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: David Frenkel

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Connors, Frenkel, Kunberger).

Respectfully submitted by Bev Zagari, Recording Secretary 5/19/23