



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

In-Person Meeting

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

In-Person Meeting, [Zoom Link](#) is for Public Comment Only

Meeting ID: 853 0253 9880

Passcode: 870619

Thursday, May 19, 2022

7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Present:

Dana Allara, Chair

Jen Carr (remote participation via Zoom)

David Frenkel

Amy Kunberger, Secretary

Anna Siedzik, Vice Chair

David Polito (arrival at approximately 8:44 PM)

Also Present:

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Craig Genuardo, Athletic Director

Kevin Markowski, HW Little League Board Member

Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Ms. Allara, Chairperson, calls 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, rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments

[Exhibit](#)

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify himself or herself by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. After Citizen's Comments, the chat feature will be turned off. If members want to be recognized, they can use the raise hand feature.

Ms. Allara notes that this meeting is being recorded, live streamed, and broadcast by HWCAM. She reviews the School Committee's protocols surrounding citizen comments: reminding citizens to limit their comments to 3 minutes and spell their names and provide their address for the record.

*Patrick Ryan, 13 Cottage Street (in-person): Mr. Ryan is a parent to 3 students in the district, and appears this evening to offer his support for the Hamilton - Wenham Ski Team (a topic which appears on the agenda later this evening under 6B). Mr. Ryan thanks Mr. Genuardo, *Athletic Director*, for his dedication to forming this team, and hopes that the School Committee will support it.*

Ms. Allara closes public comments at about 7:06 PM; the Zoom link closes at this time. Community members may choose to continue viewing the meeting through HWCAM's livestream on the HWCAM [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

4. Review of School Committee Protocols

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Campbell reads protocol #11 as written in the *School Committee Protocols* detailed in the [exhibit](#).

5. Consent Agenda

A. Warrants

[Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 26
- Voucher No. 1044
- Voucher No. 3111
- Voucher No. 3112
- Voucher No. 3113
- Voucher No. 3114
- Voucher No. 3115

B. Donations

- 2022 DECA ICDC Donations Totalling \$3,900
- Edfund, up to \$25,000 Each School
- Hamilton Police Donation

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

C. Other

- Vote Last Day of School Year 2021-2022

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS WRITTEN.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

6. New Business

A. Advertising Fields for Youth Sports

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP BANNERS ON THE SCHOOL FIELDS TO HELP SUPPORT HAMILTON - WENHAM LITTLE LEAGUE FOR A PERIOD FROM APRIL 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST 2022.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Amy Kunberger.

I MOVE TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO SPECIFY THE TIME PERIOD MAY 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 2022.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT by ANNA SIEDZIK; there are no objections.

Discussion: Mr. Genualdo asks that the School Committee keep their votes consistent, so that the vote they decide on this evening will be reflected in their votes concerning other team requests. Kevin Markowski, *HW Little League Board Member*, explains that advertisements regarding firearms and drugs/alcohol will not be permitted. There is further discussion regarding Little League advertising guidelines; district's advertising policy; Superintendent oversight on materials displayed; other guidelines that may influence the material displayed; etc.

I MOVE TO AMEND THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO STIPULATE THAT THE ADVERTISING WILL BE APPROVED BY THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, OR THEIR DESIGNEE.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Amy Kunberger.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

ORIGINAL MOTION WITH TWO (2) AMENDMENTS (REWRITTEN FOR CLARITY): I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP BANNERS ON THE SCHOOL FIELDS TO HELP SUPPORT HAMILTON - WENHAM LITTLE LEAGUE FOR A PERIOD FROM MAY 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 31ST 2022, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT TRACY OR HIS DESIGNEE.

Jen Carr	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES;
Amy Kunberger	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	NO;
David Frenkel	YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority (5:1) roll call vote of six (6) members present.

B. Vote to Add Ski Team

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Genualdo presents his 05/03/2022 memorandum detailing The Hamilton Wenham Regional High Schools Athletic Department's formal request to the School Committee to move forward with the plans to add the sport of skiing for the next school year and beyond. There is discussion regarding budget implications; costs to participants; age groups allowed; transportation concerns; insurance; terms of the cooperative agreements; etc. Patrick Ryan offers additional support for this request.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE GRANT PERMISSION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PLANS TO ADD THE SPORT OF SKIING FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR AND BEYOND, AS OUTLINED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

MOTION PASSES through majority (5:1) roll call vote of six (6) members present.

C. Progress Flag

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FLY THE PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE EXHIBIT ON ALL PUBLICLY VISIBLE FLAG POLES UNDER THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE’S JURISDICTION FROM JUNE 1 TO JUNE 30, 2022, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF U.S. FLAG CODE.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

Discussion: There is discussion regarding this motion and the purview of the School Committee. Ms. Allara clarifies that this particular motion would not be under the Superintendent's purview, as the School Committee would be using their right to government speech. There is discussion about the display of the Progress Pride Flag. Ms. Siedzik and Ms. Campbell voice their support of this motion, pointing to the numerous ongoing needs in the community: addressing recent acts of homophobia; affirming student/family identities and relationships; and the overall acceptance and the decline in violence that the display of this flag encourages.

Ms. Allara fully supports the Pride and Progress flags already displayed in the schools. However, she does not support this specific motion, as she does not support any motion which would direct the administration to fly any specific flag. She believes the School Committee can speak more powerfully by continuing to encourage the leadership to display these important symbols at an operational level.

Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	NO;
David Frenkel	ABSTAIN;
Jen Carr	YES;
Julia Campbell	YES;
Amy Kunberger	YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority (4:1:1) roll call vote of six (6) members present.

D. COVID-19 Mitigation Update

Mr. Geary reviews the district’s COVID-19 mitigation strategies implemented since the start of the pandemic, and the current status of those strategies.

- Optional masking- masks continue to be available at all schools, with a plentiful supply to last throughout the end of the school year;
- Each school held an assembly to ensure that students who continue masking are not ridiculed;
- Hand sanitizer is readily available, and will continue to be long after the pandemic;
- Sanitizing and disinfecting wipes continue to be available in all schools;
- Both the Pool Testing and At-Home Testing programs will remain free of charge and available throughout the end of the school year (Mr. Geary notes that these programs allow students to test twice a week, free of charge);
- School building ventilation: upgraded to merv-13 filters and continuing to use these upgraded filters. District also has back up air purifiers to use on an as-needed basis.

- All classrooms have operable windows, and the district has encouraged classes to continue leaving the windows open.

Mr. Geary highlights that the district is open to any feedback on these safety measures.

Mr. Frenkel asks about other mitigation efforts that the district has investigated, and chosen not to pursue. Mr. Geary details some of these methods, including waste water testing, individual HEPA filtration units for classrooms, indoor air quality sensors, etc. Mr. Geary explains the costs associated with these strategies, and notes that the air quality sensors are a consideration when planning for the new elementary school building.

Mr. Frenkel voices his concern about the significant increase in cases. He is concerned that the district is not following the DESE guidance, “schools must notify their local boards of health and must call the DESE rapid response help center.”

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AMEND THE CURRENT POLICY TO ONE THAT ALIGNS WITH THE CDC’S CURRENT POLICY, AND THAT THEIR LANGUAGE BE ADOPTED FOR COMMUNICATIONS TO STUDENTS, TEACHERS, STAFF, AND PARENTS AND FURTHER KEPT CURRENT FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

MOTION by David Frenkel.

MOTION FAILS: not seconded.

Mr. Frenkel asks that the district works with DESE, local boards of health, the department of public health epidemiologists to review and assess the most recent testing results, discuss strategies to control the spread, and determine additional measures to be taken including administering enhanced testing. There is discussion regarding the district’s compliance with the language as stated by Mr. Frenkel. Members attempt to clarify Mr. Frenkel’s request. There is ongoing discussion and some disagreement about whether the district is taking action that aligns with this language/guidance. Mr. Frenkel disagrees that the district is complying with the guidance, and states that the district is underperforming.

Mr. Geary thanks the nursing staff, school staff, faculty, and students for everything they do on a daily basis. He adds that if there is any assertion that the district is NOT following DESE mandates/procedures, he would like to know the specific complaints and he will immediately address them.

There is some disagreement and rising tensions, at which point Ms. Allara moves to the next agenda item.

E. Superintendent Final End Year Evidence

[Exhibit](#)

Ms. Allara provides a brief overview of the Superintendent evaluation process, noting that Superintendent Tracy has provided his end of year evidence as shown in the [exhibit](#). There is some discussion regarding the evaluation process, with Ms. Allara reiterating the procedure involving participation of newly elected members as well as addressing any concerns that come up (contact Dorothy Presser).

F. 3-Year Student Transportation Contract Recommendation

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone reviews the district’s process in gathering bids for the transportation contract, and briefly explains the reasons for cost increases.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVES THE DISTRICT CPO'S RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

WITH SALTER TRANSPORTATION, INC. FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR REGULAR ROUTE BUSES OF TWO MILLION NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$2,977,450) WHICH INCLUDES A YEAR ONE (FY22) CONTRACT AMOUNT OF NINE HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO DOLLARS (\$945,182). THE CONTRACT WITH SALTER TRANSPORTATION, INC. SHALL BE COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 30B AND SHALL HAVE BEEN REVIEWED BY COUNSEL. THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR SHALL SIGN THE CONTRACT ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

MOTION by Amy Kunberger; SECONDED by Julia Campbell.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO CORRECT YEAR ONE TO FY23 by Anna Siedzik; there are no objections.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

G. School Committee Communications Discussion

David Polito enters the meeting at approximately 8:44PM.

Mrs. Carr suggests that the School Committee send out a regularly scheduled communication, similar to updates provided by the Superintendent, in order to avoid misunderstanding and to prevent unnecessary additional work for the School Committee. There is continued discussion regarding effective communications with the community. Meetings are recorded by HWCAM, and minutes are produced. Members discuss the best approach moving forward, and agree that this will be discussed in more detail during the School Committee Retreat, 08/04/2022.

~~7. Finance and Operations~~

~~8. Policy~~

~~9. Superintendent's Report~~

10. Committee Reports

A. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

Julia Campbell, Jen Carr, Dana Allara

Mrs. Carr reports that the *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee* discussed user fees as well as strategy in financial planning. Mrs. Carr elected to chair and Ms. Campbell elected to secretary. The next meeting is scheduled 08/11/2022.

B. Policy Subcommittee

Anna Siedzik, Amy Kunberger, David Frenkel

Ms. Siedzik will communicate via email in order to schedule a meeting.

C. Negotiations Subcommittee

Dana Allara, David Polito, Amy Kunberger

Ms. Allara reports that the *Negotiations Subcommittee* was supposed to meet on Monday, but the meeting was canceled. Future meetings scheduled 06/06/2022, 06/08/2022, and 06/13/2022.

11. Chair's Report

A. School Building Committee Reps (2)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPOINT JEN CARR AND DAVID POLITO TO THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of seven (7) members present.

Ms. Allara reminds the School Committee of the superintendent evaluation process. She will only consider School Committee members' evaluations received by 06/02/2022.

School Committee Retreat: scheduled 08/04/2022 at 4:30 PM.

12. Topics for Future Meetings

- Mr. Frenkel requests COVID mitigation report to appear on every meeting agenda;
 - This update was previously included as part of the Superintendent's report.
 - The School Committee would need to vote to have this as a standing agenda item.

13. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:17 PM FOR PURPOSE #2, TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, ERIC TRACY, AND AN OPEN MEETING MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE BARGAINING POSITION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE; AND NOT TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION THEREAFTER.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

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

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of seven (7) members present.

Respectfully submitted June 10 2022 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.
