



# 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, [Zoomlink](#) is for Public Comment Only

Meeting ID: 86563485885

Thursday, October 19, 2023

7:00 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.

### Present:

Dana Allara

Jennifer Carr

Francesca Connors

Amy Kunberger

David Polito

### Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Leone

### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, Dana Allara called the meeting to order at 7:01 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.*

There was no citizen comment. Citizen comment was closed at 7:02 p.m.

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

Jen Carr read School Committee Protocol 11, Francesca Connors read Protocol 12, Amy Kunberger read Protocol 13 and Dana Allara read Protocol 14.

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

David Polito 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.*

### 6. Student Representative Report *Whitney Fitzgibbons*

Whitney Fitzgibbons gave an update on events and activities throughout the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District.

## 7. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
  - Voucher No. 8
  - Voucher No. 1067
  - Voucher No. 3318
  - Voucher No. 3319
  - Voucher No. 3320
- b. Minutes October 5, 2023 [Exhibit](#)
- c. Donations [Exhibit](#)  
Learning the Ropes - EdFund Mini-Grant; \$4,310

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

**Motion by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: David Polito**

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

## 8. New Business

a. District Accountability (MCAS) [Exhibit](#)  
Superintendent Tracy discussed the accountability results recently released by the state. He stated that all reports will be posted on the district's website. He discussed a new state policy regarding student attendance.

Principal Shediac gave a presentation on elementary ELA MCAS results. Principal Schneider gave a presentation on the elementary math MCAS results. Principal Schersten discussed additional ways to look at the ELA and math data provided. Principal Best gave a presentation on the middle school MCAS results. Principal Menegoni gave a presentation on the high school MCAS results.

In response to questions, principals stated that high need students include students on 504s and IEPs, ELL students, and students designated as low income per state guidelines. Principal Best stated that in the future he will provide comparison data for the same cohort of students.

- b. MASC Resolution Vote [Exhibit](#)

The committee discussed the proposed resolutions and requested to hold resolutions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm the proposed resolutions for formal consideration at the 2023 annual meeting with the exception of resolutions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8.**

**Motioned by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

*Resolution 2: Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures.*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 2.**

**Motioned by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

*Resolution 3: Regional Transportation*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 3.**

**Motioned by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: David Polito**

**MOTION PASSED 3-1-1 (Members Allara, Kunberger and Polito voted yes, Member Carr voted no and Member Connors abstained)**

*Resolution 4: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 4.**

**Motioned by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

**MOTION FAILED 1-4 (Member Polito voted yes and Members Allara, Carr, Connors and Kunberger voted no)**

*Resolution 5: MA School Building Authority*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 5.**

**Motioned by: Francesca Connors**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

*Resolution 7: Related to MCAS*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 7.**

Motioned by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: David Polito

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

Resolution 8: *Safe Storage of Firearms*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adopt and authorize Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm proposed resolution 8.**

Motioned by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

**MOTION FAILED 0-5 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

*Amend MASC Bylaws*

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee direct Dana Allara, MASC Delegate, to vote to affirm the proposal to amend the MASC Bylaws as written.**

Motioned by: David Polito

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

**MOTION FAILED 0-5 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee give Dana Allara the authority to vote on the proposal to amend the MASC Bylaws as she sees fit in representing our Committee after further clarification is given.**

Motioned by: David Polito

Seconded by: Jen Carr

**MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors, Kunberger and Polito)**

c. MSBA Timeline [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the HWRSD historical timeline for the Cutler Elementary School Project to date. The Committee thanked the superintendent and staff for putting together the information. The Committee discussed the process to date and the process going forward.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee clearly clarify with both the MSBA and the School Building Committee that neither of the options currently under consideration involving a consolidation of the Cutler and Winthrop Schools should be given a greater weight or preference to options currently under consideration that do not involve such consolidation.**

Motion by: Francesca Connors

Seconded by: David Polito

The Committee discussed the motion.

**Jen Carr called the question.**

**The vote to call the question PASSED: 4-1 (Members Allara, Carr, Kunberger and Polito voted yes, Member Connors voted no)**

**MOTION FAILED: 1-4 (Member Connors voted yes and Members Allara, Carr, Kunberger**

and Polito voted no)

I move to continue the meeting up to 10:30 p.m. at which point we will re-evaluate.

Moved by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: David Polito

**MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Connors and Polito)**

## **9. Finance and Operations**

- a. E & D Overview [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone gave an overview of the district's Excess & Deficiency.

## **10. Subcommittee Reports**

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - met today to discuss E&D and the first quarter forecast
- b. Policy Subcommittee have not met
- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - an update will be provided during executive session
- d. Secretary Report - no report

## **11. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Tracy stated that work on the FY25 budget has begun. The third public visioning session was held last evening at the high school and the Athletic Facilities Improvement Committee is scheduled to release bid documents in late November or early December.

## **12. Chair's Report**

Dana Allara reminded members of the upcoming budget workshop.

## **13. Topics for Future Meetings**

Francesca Connors requested a discussion regarding the pros and cons of large schools versus small schools at the elementary level. Dana Allara stated that similar to the request for a discussion regarding school start times, she would look to see where that topic will fit into the annual work plan. Assistant Superintendent Leone requested that the Q1 financial forecast and auditor report be included as future topics.

## **14. Adjourn**

**I move vote to Adjourn to Executive Session for purpose #3 To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with TA Union if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, not return to Open Session.**

Motion by: Dana Allara

Seconded by: Francesca Connors

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