



HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Hamilton Wenham Regional School District
PUBLIC HEARING - FY24 SCHOOL CHOICE &
PUBLIC HEARING #1 - FY24 BUDGET &
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ([agenda](#))

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

Thursday, Jan 19, 2023
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Present:

Dana Allara, Chair
Juila Campbell
Jen Carr
Anna Siedzik
David Frenkel

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration
Craig Genualdo, Athletic Director, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

Call to Order—Public Hearing - FY24 School Choice [Exhibit](#). Meeting called to order by Dana Allara at 6:34 pm. Ms. Allara states that this meeting is being recorded, live streamed, and broadcast by HWCAM, and is accessible through either HWCAM's website or YouTube channel.

Superintendent Tracy reviews numbers of students enrolled in school choice. (73 students.) He recommends the School Committee vote to continue the School Choice program for the upcoming school year.

Dana Allara opens up citizen's comments on FY24 School Choice. At this point there is no one in the room who would like to join in to public comment, and there is no one on zoom who wants to comment.

There is some discussion between Superintendent Tracy and Committee Member David Frenkel on what the DESE cost per pupil is, how that number came to be, and what the number should be.

Dana Allara double checks to see if anyone wants to comment before the Public Hearing on FY24 School Choice ends.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON FY24 SCHOOL CHOICE. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Jen Carr. MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

FY24 School Choice hearing portion of the meeting is now closed.

Public Hearing #1 - HWRSD FY24 Budget Assistant Superintendent Vincent Leone presents budget for next school year in advance of the open public hearing #1 for Budget. [Exhibit Exhibit](#)

Public Comment is now open.

Sue Cooke, 4 Puritan Rd., Wenham. Question regarding out of district students. How many students do we have out of district? What is the cost? When do you know for the following school year how many are going OOD? What is the current cost with the 12-14% increase?

Discussion follows about upcoming school year OOD placements, and how much the placements cost.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON FY24 BUDGET. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Jen Carr. MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

Dana Allara calls regular School Committee Meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance.

No citizens comments.

Dana Allara reads [School Committee Protocol](#) number 11, which states “A School Committee meeting is a business meeting that is held in public — not a public meeting. The Committee will make every effort to ensure meetings are effective and efficient.”

David Frenkel reads a portion of the [School Committee Mission Statement](#). “The Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee will lead and inspire a District that empowers administrators to seek innovation, responsiveness, and creativity in all aspects of District operations.”

Consent agenda. [Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA AS LISTED. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Anna Siedzk. MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

New Business.

- a. **Vote on School Choice for 2023-2024 School Year** ([Exhibit](#)) I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROPOSAL FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Jen Carr. MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

- b. **Vote School Calendar 2023-2024** ([Exhibit](#)) I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion on small updates made since last viewing. Explains shift with the teacher workshop days, beginning of Kindergarten, and the end of the school year.

David Frenkel asks if the Superintendent made any progress on after-school capabilities on Wednesdays, particularly. Superintendent Tracy says he met with the director with the YMCA to ask him to propose what the details of an afterschool program would be. Further discussion on the changes in the schedule for next year, based on the suggestions from parents/school community on the survey sent out last month.

Dana Allara asks if there are concerns about staffing on Good Friday. Superintendent Tracy said there was no issue with it last year, and isn't an issue this year.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

- c. **Vote School Calendar 2024-2025** ([Exhibit](#)) I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by Jen Carr.

MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

- d. **Superintendent Formative Evidence** Superintendent Tracy shares information about the [formative evidence for evaluation](#). Discussion thanking and encouraging the superintendent for the organization of this presentation and on the strides made in digitizing some of the district's operations.

- e. **Athletics FY24 Budget Presentation** Craig Genualdo presents the [FY24 Budget for the HWRSD athletic department](#). Discussion follows, Jen Carr asking if our tiered fees cover

the sports we are currently offering, answer is yes. Anna Siedzik praises the tiered user fee. Dana Allara asks for clarification on what the School Bucks fee is (it's an online collection process.)

10. a. **Update to FY24 Budget Request** Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration, gives an update to the Superintendent's FY24 budget request. [Presentation here](#), [and here](#). Updates needed: Essex County Retirement (Insurances DAC&DESE), Winthrop Sprinkler & FY21 Capital Projects BAN (Debt Service), SIMS Count (Assessment Calculation Operating & Debt Service) Julia Campbell wants to note how much the School Committee has worked with the two town boards regarding the budget. Discussion follows about how the District will be able to sustain the small increases in this budget, and looking out a few years at upcoming changes/challenges; thinking about adding assistant varsity coaches, and the challenge of predicting how many athletes will play, what sports are offered; a strings/orchestra program.

11. Superintendent's report. Superintendent Tracy reminds everyone that he will be attending the Learn Lead Now program. He then outlines the cardiac response drill that took place at the high school the previous day. Applauds the school nurses, notably lead nurse Lea Tabenkin. The Fire Department was also involved.

12. Subcommittee reports. Capital Finance did not meet. Policy Committee did meet to review the three I section policies. These policies will be brought back to the full committee to review on 2/2. A first reading of the L section will happen then as well. Negotiations subcommittee has not met.

13. Chair's report. Dana Allara notes that the Hamilton Master Planning committee is back up, and mentions a meeting on February 4th. Appreciated the links in the superintendent's update. Re: regional agreement, progress has been made on the redlining process.

14. Topics for future meetings: Anna Siedzik would like to have a conversation about pride flags on district flagpoles.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN AT 8:00PM. MOTION by Julia Campbell; SECONDED by David Frenkel. MOTION PASSES unanimously by vote of five (5) members present.

Respectfully submitted 3/10/2023 by Amy Kunberger, School Committee Secretary