



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: 88231539826

Thursday, February 8, 2024

6:30 p.m. - 8:05 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr (left at 7:35)

David Frenkel

Trent Honda

Amy Kunberger

David Polito (arrived at 7:35)

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Assistant Superintendent Leone

1. Call to Order

At 6:35 pm Dana Allara called to order the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing #2 - HWRSD FY25 Budget [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#) [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the FY25 budget. There was no public comment.

At 7:24 Dana Allara closed the public hearing and called to order the School Committee meeting. She reminded the community that the meeting is being recorded and lived streamed via HWCAM.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 zoomlink was closed at 7:24 pm.

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

Jen Carr read School Committee Protocol 5.

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

Amy Kunburger read the following from the School Committee mission statement: *The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee will lead and inspire a District that Supports and guides the Superintendent to execute and achieve the Approved 2023-2024 District Goals.*

7. Student Representative Report, Whitney Fitzgibbons

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

8. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 18
- Voucher No. 1081
- Voucher No. 1082
- Voucher No. 3359
- Voucher No. 3360

b. Minutes

- February 1, 2024 [Exhibit](#)
- January 30, 2024 Quintuple Board Meeting [Exhibit](#)

c. Field Trip Extensions [Exhibit](#)

d. Prior Year Energy Bills [Exhibit](#)

David Frenkel requested to hold the energy bills from the consent agenda. Dana Allara requested to hold the minutes of February 1 and the field trip extension from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the consent agenda with the exception of energy bills, minutes of February 1, and the Field Trip Extension.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunburger

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda and Kunburger)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the delay in payment of the previous year energy bills. He stated that the administration is having conversations to ensure this does not happen on a regular basis.

I move to approve Item D on the consent agenda.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunburger

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr Frenkel, Honda and Kunburger)

Dana Allara requested a correction to the February 1 minutes. She stated that member Jen Carr was anticipated to participate remotely but was unable to attend. There was no technical issue with remote participation.

I move to amend minutes to state that member Jen Carr was anticipated to participate remotely but had not yet arrived.

Motion by: Dana Allara

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda and Kunburger)

Superintendent Tracy stated that due to a flight issue, the field trip group going to Spain would be leaving from New York rather than Boston. The group will now need to leave Thursday to take a coach bus to New York.

I move to accept Item C on the consent agenda.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda and Kunburger)

In response to a request from Member Jen Carr and without objection from the Committee, the School Start Time Survey item was taken out of order. Superintendent Tracy stated that he is looking for feedback from the Committee on the proposed school start time survey. He requested that members provide feedback before February vacation.

9. New Business

- a. Adopt FY25 Budget [Exhibit](#)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the final FY25 general fund expenditures budget of \$43,790,174. This includes general fund operating expenses, after offsets, in the amount of \$41,723,480 and general fund debt service expenses in the amount of \$2,066,694. Furthermore, the gross operating expenses of the district, before offsets, have been allocated by the DESE Defined Chart of Accounts according to the "Summary by DESE Category" chart included in this budget presentation, as detailed in the exhibit.

Motioned by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunburger

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda and Kunburger)

- b. School Start Time Survey [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara reminded members to forward any feedback regarding the survey to

Superintendent Tracy.

c. School & District Report Cards [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the release of DESE's School & District Report Cards. The district report card was sent to parents earlier this week. Principals will be forwarding school report cards to parents by the end of the week. He encouraged community members to review the report cards and if they have questions to reach out to principals for building level questions and to him for district level questions.

10. Finance and Operations

11. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - no update
- b. Policy Subcommittee - at a future date the subcommittee will put on the agenda a motion with regard to indoor air quality
- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - a negotiation meeting is scheduled for Monday
- d. Secretary Report - status of minutes: the School Committee is caught up, Negotiations Subcommittee has a few to vote in, Capital/Financial has 16-18 sets and Policy has 4 sets. Dana Allara stated that the full Committee needs the November Quintuple Board meeting minutes.

12. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy congratulated the Cheerleaders on their recent 3rd place finish. He reminded the community of upcoming events including DECA Bingo Night and the Hearts and Flowers Cabaret.

13. Chair's Report

Dana Allara stated that all three boards have now voted to begin discussions regarding the regional agreement.

14. Topics for Future Meeting

Members provided the following information on topics for future meetings. The Policy Subcommittee will be bringing forward a topic to the Committee for consideration. An update on the visual communication project should be scheduled on a March agenda. The Committee needs to discuss a date for the School Committee retreat.

15. Vote to Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by: David Frenkel

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Frenkel, Honda, Kunburger and Polito)