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: 88372371310
Thursday, June 6, 2024
7:00 p.m. - 10:25 p.m.

Present:
Dana Allara
Julia Campbell
Jen Carr
David Frenkel
Trent Honda
Amy Kunberger
David Polito (arrived at 8:05)

Also Present:
Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent

1. Call to Order
At 7:02 p.m. Dana Allara called the meeting to order.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
All those in attendance rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Dana Allara reminded the community that the meeting is being live streamed and recorded via HWCAM.

3. Recognize Student Government Representatives
Superintendent Tracy and the Committee recognized and thanked Student Representatives Evie Bernard, Whitney Fitzgibbons, Julia Tsappis and Jake Collins.

4. Citizens' Comments
Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify themself by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material.

Dana Allara reviewed the Committee's public comment policy and stated that she will check in with the Committee at 7:30 p.m.to determine if public comment should continue beyond the 7:30 p.m. allotted time. She stated that with the number of people here for public comment this evening it may not be possible for every person in the room and/or on zoom to speak.

Nicholas Ristiano, History teacher at HWRHS spoke in support of a fair contract for teachers and in support of the consolidated elementary school project and field project.

Chontelle Clarke, a Winthrop teacher, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers.

Linda Mastrianni, 23 Maple Street and Elementary Tech Specialist, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers.

Alison Goodchild, Kindergarten teacher at the Cutler School, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers.

Katie O'Brien, 4th grade teacher at Winthrop School, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers including a 60 minute planning block for elementary teachers.

Maggie Shack, 16 Kimball Avenue and Elementary PE teacher, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers including a 60 minute planning block for elementary teachers.

Kathy O'Shea, teacher at the Buker School, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers and in support of the consolidated building project.

Bridget O'Donnell, 105 Main Street and HWRHS teacher, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers and in support of the consolidated building project.

Alicia Anderson, 5th grade teacher at Cutler School, discussed the proposed change to school start times and the need to have more specific information available now in order for staff and families to have time to arrange child and elder care.

Maria Machart, teacher at the Middle School, reminded the Committee that in order to support the proposal to eliminate early dismissal on Wednesday we need to agree on how elementary planning time will happen and how parent/teacher and special education conferences will happen.

Nora Burnett, HWRHS teacher, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers and stated that the proposed two weeks of parental leave is not enough for families.

Kate Hayashi, Music teacher, spoke in support of settling a fair contract for teachers including 60 minutes of consecutive specials each week.

Ed McCarthy, 60 Cunningham Drive, spoke against the consolidated building project.

Eric Musser, Naples Road, spoke against the consolidated building project.

Will Hanson, 51 William Fairfield Drive, spoke against the consolidated building project.

Jeff Austin, 50 Sharon Road, spoke against the consolidated building project.

At 7:30 p.m. Dana Allara confirmed the Committee's consent to extend public comment to accommodate the four additional people that are in line and wish to speak and after that public comment will be closed.

Erica Tortorici spoke against the consolidated building project.

Steve McWhirter, 18 Cunningham Drive, spoke against the consolidated building school project. He asked if the Town informed the School Committee that when they did the well test at the site they hit water.

Rick MItchell spoke in support of the consolidated elementary school project and the need for Hamilton to create tax revenue to pay for the projects.

Leandra DeFeo, 4 Sharon Road, spoke against the consolidated building project.

Public comment was closed and Dana Allara reminded the audience that this is a business meeting of the Committee.

5. Review of School Committee Protocols Exhibit
Julia Campbell read School Committee Protocol 11.

6. Review of School Committee Mission Statement Exhibit
Jen Carr read the following from the School Committee mission statement: *The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee will lead and inspire a District that Is a source of civic pride and municipal engagement to serve the community for generations to come.*

7. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants Exhibit

- Voucher No. 26
- Voucher No. 1098
- Voucher No. 1099
- Voucher No. 3389
- Voucher No. 3395
- Voucher No. 3396
- Voucher No. 3997
- Voucher No. 3998
- Voucher No. 3999
- Voucher No. 4000
- Voucher No. 4001
- Voucher No. 4002
- Voucher No. 4003
- Voucher No. 4004

b. Minutes

- May 16, 2024 Exhibit

c. Donations
   - EdFund Mini Grant - EdFund Mini-Grant - 3D Printers; $4,979 Exhibit

d. Field Trip
   - New England Track & Field Championships, Saturday, June 8, 2024 Exhibit

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

Motion by: Jen Carr **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

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

8. Finance & Operations

a. Re-appoint Treasurer

I move to approve Assistant Superintendent Leone's recommendation to re-appoint Kevin Merz as Treasurer for the next fiscal year.

Motion by: Jen Carr **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

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

b. Request to Increase Elementary Student Account Maximum Bank Account Balance Exhibit

Assistant Superintendent Leone discussed his request to increase the elementary student account maximum bank account balance.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approves the increase in the elementary student activities checking account maximum balance to $2,000.

Motion by: Jen Carr **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

In response to a question, Assistant Superintendent Leone stated that he feels the $2,000 is sufficient for the needs of the schools.

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

9. New Business

a. School Building Polling Subcommittee Update Exhibit

Trent Honda reviewed the polling subcommittee process to date. Chris Lane from Cygnal gave a presentation on the polling report. In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Lane

stated that only 1 person could answer the survey link, each link was an individual link and demographic information submitted on the survey link was verified. He discussed the margin of error, 5.54%, and stated that it falls within the norm of 4% to 6% range. Mr. Lane stated that he will get back to the Committee with the total number of outbound messages and he will provide a copy of his presentation to Committee members. Trent Honda stated that the cost of the poll came in at $8,000, which was under the estimate. Chris Lane confirmed that according to the polling data all of the presented building projects are under water which means none of the options are acceptable.

b. Technology Plan Presentation Exhibit

Alan Taupier gave a presentation on the technology plan. In response to a question, he confirmed that the district is not in compliance with E911.

c. District Goals Report 23-24 SY Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the end-of-year status of 23-24 school year district goals. He stated that he could take questions now or members can email him directly with questions or if necessary this can be discussed further at the next meeting.

d. District Goals Discussion for 24-25 SY Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy discussed the proposed 24-25 district goals. In response to a question Superintendent Tracy stated that the plan is to finalize these goals at the summer retreat. He asked members to email him with questions as well as their input on goals and their priorities.

e. Superintendent's Evaluation Exhibit

David Polito reviewed the process he used to compile the composite of the superintendent evaluation. The Committee discussed the composite evaluation. The Committee suggested specific examples be included for both positive and negative feedback. Dana Allara noted a typo on district goal number 1, should state communication plan. The Committee discussed a request to revise the conclusion section for Management and Operations to include the specific area identified for improvement. Trent Honda requested David check the ratings on the final section Trent stated that his ratings are listed as 3,3,3,2 and he believes they should be listed as 4,4,4,3. David Polito stated that he would make the edits discussed. Dana Allara stated that the Committee will review and vote at the next meeting.

f. Vote Preferred Option - Cutler Elementary

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee support the Cutler School Building Committee's selection on April 22, 2024 of Option C3.4 as the preferred option to be submitted with the preferred schematic report due to the MSBA on June 27, 2024.

Motion by: David Polito **Seconded by: Jen Carr**

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that there are no additional costs between now and town meeting for whatever option is recommended. If the option fails at town meeting, the MSBA gives the Committee a window of time to revisit (120 days) to go back and try to get approval.

I move to extend the meeting by 20 minutes.

Motion by: Julia Campbell **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

Motion to extend passed 7-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda, Kunberger and Polito)

The Committee discussed the survey results showing no project having the support of the community and also showing 80% of the respondents indicating that school buildings are in good or fair shape. The Committee discussed the cost of 1 consolidated school versus the cost of renovations to 3 schools and the risk of any of the proposed projects failing at town meeting.

Motion passed 5-2 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kuberger and Polito voted yes and Members Frenkel and Honda voted no)

g. MSBA Module 3 Grade Reconfiguration and Districting Approval Certification (if needed) Exhibit

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee authorize the Chair to sign the School Module 3 Grade Reconfiguration and Districting Approval Certification

Motion by: David Polito **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

Motion passed 5-1-1 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Polito votes Yes, Member Honda voted no and Member Frenkel abstained)

10. Committee Reports

a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - no meeting scheduled
b. Policy Subcommittee - no meeting scheduled
c. Negotiations Subcommittee - update to be provided in executive session

11. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy congratulated the Class of 2024.

12. Chair's Report

There was no Chair report.

13. Topics for Future Meetings

There were no topics for future meetings.

14. Adjourn

I move to adjourn to Executive Session for purpose #3 (To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Public Employee Committee if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares), and for purpose #3 (To Discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the HWREA if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares), and 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), to not return to Open Session.

Motion by: Dana Allara **Seconded by: Jen Carr**

ROLL CALL MOTION PASSED 7-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Honda, Kunberger and Polito)