



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: 88576578206

Thursday, September 19, 2024

7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Jen Carr

David Frenkel

Amy Kunberger

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent Finance & Operations

1. Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Dana Allara called the meeting to order and reminded the community that the meeting is being recorded and live streamed via HWCAM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All those in attendance rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Citizens' Comments

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.

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

Jen Carr read School Committee Protocol 3.

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

Dana Allara asked whether the members are interested in approving the current mission statement updating the year to reflect 2024-2025 and if so whether members feel there is value in continuing to read a portion of the mission statement at each school committee meeting. The Committee discussed the mission statement and agreed it may be beneficial to wait and allow all members to have an opportunity to weigh in on this topic. Dana Allara noted that the school committee protocols are reviewed annually each November.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee give consideration to possible revision of the mission statement and table this item until the next meeting.

Motion by: David Frenkel

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION to table PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger)

6. Student Representative Report; *Whitney Fitzgibbons*

Student Representative Whitney Fitzgibbons updated the Committee on events and activities throughout the district. Superintendent Tracy thanked Whitney for her speech at opening day.

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
 - Voucher No. 5
 - Voucher No. 1004
 - Voucher No. 1005
 - Voucher No. 1006
 - Voucher No. 1007
 - Voucher No. 1008
 - Voucher No. 4035
 - Voucher No. 4036
- b. Minutes
 - September 5, 2024 [Exhibit](#)
- c. Field Trips
 - Class of 2028 Maine [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 4-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger)

8. New Business

a. EdFund Donation for Athletic Facilities Project with MOU [Exhibit](#)
Superintendent Tracy discussed the EdFund Donation for the Athletic Facilities Project with MOU and stated that he was asking the Committee to accept the donation and the MOU.

I move that we accept the donation from the EdFund and accept the Memorandum of Agreement as presented.

Motion by: Jen Carr

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

Dana Allara discussed her concern that the committee follow a consistent and transparent process for naming rights. She noted that the school committee policy on naming facilities includes language regarding the chair specifying a period for public comment. The Committee discussed ways to ensure the public is aware of these items including the superintendent providing information on these items in his weekly newsletter. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that delaying a vote on the donation would not create an issue and he would reach out to the Edfund and let them know there is no issue with accepting the donation and the delay is just a procedural matter.

I move to table this item until the next meeting and in the meantime Superintendent Tracy will post the proposal in the newsletter.

Motion by: David Frenkel

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

Jen Carr stated that she believed that for this donation having the item listed on the agenda followed the letter of the law and she would be voting against tabling the item so as not to create a backlog of agenda items.

MOTION to table PASSED 3-1 (Members Allara, Kunberger and Frenkel voted yes and Member Carr voted no.)

b. Vote MASC Delegate

Dana Allara stated in order to vote on resolutions at the MASC conference the Committee must appoint a delegate. She stated that she is not able to attend the conference, David Frenkel is unsure if he can attend and no other members have indicated they are able to attend. Dana stated that if there is any chance David can attend it would be best to appoint him as a delegate.

I nominate David Frenkel to be a delegate at the MASC conference this fall.

Dana Allara stated that if David is able to attend, the Committee will discuss the resolutions at a future meeting and determine how the Committee would like to vote on each resolution.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger)

9. Finance & Operations

10. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - the next meeting is scheduled for Monday
- b. Policy Subcommittee - the subcommittee met on Monday and appointed officers and began reviewing the one page voting rules. The subcommittee has a question for the full committee which is how often should a full policy review be done. Dana Allara suggested the subcommittee reach out to Alicia regarding their question.
- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - most recent meeting was canceled due to illness and the meeting is being rescheduled
- d. Secretary Report - no report

11. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy discussed his time spent in classrooms this past week as well as the recent open houses. He noted that the architectural team attended the open houses and he is finalizing plans for the next public forum.

12. Chair's Report

Dana Allara discussed her attendance at the open houses and discussed the upcoming League of Women Voters' event.

13. Topics for Future Meetings**14. Adjourn**

I move to adjourn to Executive Session for litigation purpose #3 (To Discuss strategy with respect to litigation 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: Jen Carr

ROLL CALL VOTE MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger)