Approved by the HWRSD School Committee on February 6, 2025

HAMILTON-WENHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5 School Street, Wenham, MA 01984 • Tel. 978-468-5310

School Committee Quintuple Meeting (agenda)
Joint Meeting with Towns of Hamilton & Wenham Select Board and Finance Committees
Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room
In-Person Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
6:30 p.m. - 7:41 p.m.

Present:
Dana Allara
David Frenkel
Trent Honda
Amy Kunberger
David Polito

Also Present:
Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent
Joseph Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Manager
Wendy Markiewicz, Hamilton Finance Director
Members of the Wenham Finance Committee
Members of the Wenham Select Board
Members of the Hamilton Finance Committee Member
Members of the Hamilton Select Board

1. Call to Order
At 6:33 p.m. the School Committee, Hamilton Select Board, Wenham Select Board and Wenham Finance Committee called to order. The Hamilton Finance Committee did not have a quorum present at that time but was able to call to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. New Business

a. Town of Hamilton FY26 Budget Highlights Exhibit
Town Manager Joe Domelowicz and Finance Director Wendy Markiewicz reviewed the Hamilton FY26 budget.

Public Comment
Deb Safford, 46 Maple Street, Hamilton thanked the Hamilton Boards for engaging with the community on these matters contrary to the School Committee which allows citizens to speak but does nothing about what is being brought up. She appealed to the Finance Committees to be the fiscally responsible advocates for the citizens not advocates for projects. She stated that she was grateful that at the last meeting two School Committee members discussed the impact to future budgets of using one time funds for operating expenses. She asked that the boards be

transparent regarding a possible future operating override and that this information be made clear to the public.

b. Town of Wenham FY26 Budget Highlights Exhibit
Members from the Town of Wenham reviewed the Town's FY26 budget highlights.

In response to questions, it was stated the towns will have a model available, once final numbers are available from the OPM and state, showing tax impact per household for the new Cutler Project. The new Cutler School Project, if approved, will not have an impact on the operating budget until FY28 or FY29.

The Hamilton Finance Committee clarified that currently information on the tax impact on all town and school capital projects are posted on their website for a median home price in Hamilton. Also, in response to the citizen's earlier comment regarding the FY27 operating budget, he stated the Committee in partnership with the School Committee is already looking at that and right now although there may be an override it does not appear it would be a substantial override. He discussed the transparency of the budget process.

c. HWRSD FY26 Budget Highlights Exhibit, Exhibit
Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the Superintendent's updated FY26 budget.

The boards discussed the proposed budget including:

Operations and maintenance numbers for Cutler and Winthrop are not impacted by the new school as the new school will not be online for a number of years. That budget line includes funds for both supplies and salaries. The replacement of the high school boiler and roof are not included in this budget as the boilers will be replaced this year. Some funds for roof repairs are included in the operations budget line but the high school roof replacement would be a capital not operating expense.

A discussion was held regarding budgeting and prioritizing critical issues. Superintendent Tracy stated that the district has applied to MSBA for the school roof replacement project for the past 3 years and has received an invitation to participate in the process this year. The MSBA could provide a significant reimbursement rate for the replacement cost for the high school roof.

Superintendent Tracy discussed the district's participation in the National Grid Mass Saves Energy Assessment designed to save energy costs and also discussed the recent EPA Grant the district received for electric buses.

d. FY25 Budget Discussion
There was no additional discussion.

4. Vote to Adjourn
At 7:41 p.m. David Polito moved to adjourn the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee meeting, seconded by Amy Kunberger. The vote was 5-0. Also at 7:41 p.m. the Hamilton Select Board, Hamilton Finance Committee, Wenham Select Board and Wenham Finance Committee voted to adjourn.