Approved by the HWRSD School Committee on May 1, 2025

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: 87305468890
Thursday, April 17, 2025
7:00 p.m. - 9:27 p.m.

Present:
Dana Allara
Julia Campbell (via zoom departed at approximately 9:00 p.m.)
Jen Carr
David Frenkel
Amy Kunberger
David Polito

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

1. Call to Order
At 7:01 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. School Committee Reorganization: Tabulation of Election Results
- Town of Hamilton Exhibit
- Town of Wenham Exhibit

Dana Allara read the results of the School Committee election.

Dana stated that Julia Campbell is participating remotely so all votes this evening will be roll call votes.

4. Introduce Elected School Committee Members for Term 2025-2028

5. Citizen's Comments Exhibit
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.

Jeff Austin congratulated those elected to the Committee. He discussed the need for transparency over whether the MSBA will provide funding for renovation projects. He encouraged the Committee to hold the Superintendent accountable and to hold monthly open public forums with the community.

Scott Maddern, 12 Old Cart Road, encouraged the Committee to continue their support of the consolidated project. He asked the Committee to request a joint town meeting for Hamilton and Wenham, have the Superintendent attend Select Board meetings with public Q&A including key questions from voters and request another 5-board meeting.

Natalie Hildreth, 121 Linden Street, encouraged the Committee to continue their support of the consolidated school project. She asked the Committee to request a special town meeting vote and work to dispel the disinformation in the community regarding the project.

Beth Herr, 270 Asbury Street, asked that the Town Meeting votes be respected. She spoke against moving forward with the consolidated school project. She stated that she was doxed by a former School Committee member.

Jessica Leggett, 49 William Fairfield Drive, asked the School Committee to continue their support of the consolidated school project.

Catherine Basile, 43 Homestead Circle, encouraged the Committee to continue their support of the consolidated project and asked the Committee to request a special town meeting.

Deb Safford, Maple Street, stated that the Town Meeting has spoken, the super-majority was not met, the community does not support this project and we need to move forward.

Laura Dyas, 11 Bruce Lane, encouraged the Committee to continue their support of the consolidated school project.

Dana Allara thanked the public for their input.

6. Review of School Committee Protocol Exhibit
Amy Kunberger read School Committee protocol numbers 13 and 14.

7. Review of School Committee Mission Statement Exhibit
Dana Allara read the following from the mission statement: *The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District School Committee's mission is to ensure our schools create graduates with a passion for lifelong learning together with the critical skills needed to maximize their potential. The Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee will lead and inspire a District that Supports and guides the Superintendent to execute and achieve the Approved 2024-2025 District Goals*

8. Student Representative; *Emmy Pitkin*
There was no student report.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants Exhibit
   - Voucher No. 25
   - Voucher No. 1038
   - Voucher No. 1039
   - Voucher No. 1040
   - Voucher No. 4092
   - Voucher No. 4093
   - Voucher No. 4094
   - Voucher No. 4095
   - Voucher No. 4096
   - Voucher No. 4097
   - Voucher No. 4098
   - Voucher No. 4099

b. Minutes
   - April 3, 2025 Exhibit

c. Donations
   - HW Edfund Grant Increase - Project Adventure; $35,587 Exhibit
   - HW Edfund Mini-Grant - Audiovisual and Theatrical Consulting Services; $3,000 Exhibit
   - Laboratory Robotics Interest Group - New England; $2,500 Exhibit
   - FOTA - New Theater Microphones; $3,001.97 Exhibit
   - FOTA - Spring Concert Musicians: $825 Exhibit
   - FOTA - MRMS One-Act T-Shirts; $735 Exhibit
   - FOTA - Elementary Choral Music Library; $1,500 Exhibit

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the consent agenda as presented in the agenda.

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

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy provided additional information on the theatrical consulting services grant. The Committee acknowledged the generous donations included in the consent agenda.

10. New Business

a. Request for Meal Price Increase Presentation - *Director of Nutrition Services Eleni Burns* Exhibit, Exhibit

Eleni Burns discussed the request for the increase to the adult meal prices.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the increase to the cost of the meals served as recommended here in by the Director of Nutrition Services, and as shown on the previous slide titled "Pricing".

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

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

b. Superintendent Summative Evidence Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the summative evidence. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that the district should be punch listing the field project sometime in July. Dana Allara reminded the Committee that individual evaluations are due to David Polito on May 5.

c. Vote - Last Day of School Exhibit

I move that the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee vote to approve June 18 as the last day of school for 2025.

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

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

d. Vote Feasibility/Schematic Design Funds for High School Roof Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy discussed the accelerated repair program for the high school roof and stated that he is requesting the district fund the initial stage of feasibility and schematic design using funds from the district's stabilization fund.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District (the "District") hereby appropriates the amount of Four-hundred-fifty Thousand ($450,000) Dollars from the HWRSD Stabilization Fund, established pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16G 1/2, for the purpose of paying costs for a Feasibility Study and Schematic Design for the roof repair and/or replacement project at the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, located at 775 Bay Road, Hamilton, MA, including all costs incidental and related thereto, said amount to be expended under the direction of HWRHS Roof School Building Committee. The District acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA's") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that, the amount appropriated shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA. [A 2/3rds vote required to approve]

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

In response to questions, the Superintendent discussed the MSBA program, he stated that the feasibility study is not reimbursable, the best case scenario timeline is this summer but if that window is missed the project will need to wait until next summer as the work can't be done with students in the building. He stated that the school building committee mentioned in the motion would be a new school building committee formed based on the MSBA template. He stated that the district's annual expenditures for roof patching has ranged from $25,000 to $60,000 depending on the year. The reimbursement rate from MSBA for the roof project should be similar to the school building project reimbursement rate.

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

e. Discuss Elementary School Project Votes

Dana Allara stated that from the time the MSBA approves a project the community has 120 days to meet the requirement to have both town meeting and ballot approval so in the eyes of the MSBA we have not yet succeeded or failed on the project. If we do not have approval in 120 days the district could request an extension from MSBA. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that the MSBA model school project no longer exists. The Committee discussed possible next steps. Dana Allara stated that one option the Committee could take is to request to have this topic put on the upcoming special town meetings in both towns. In response to a question, Dana Allara stated that if this topic is not added to the special town meeting or if it is added and the vote fails, the only option the Committee has for this project would be to request an extension from MSBA and there is no guarantee MSBA would grant an extension.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee direct the Committee Chair to formally request that the Select Boards of the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham each include an article on the warrants for a special town meeting to be held no later than June 26, 2025 for the Cutler School Project

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

The Committee discussed the need for continued community outreach regarding the project. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that he anticipates the energy efficiency report will be available in a few more weeks.

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 5-1 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Polito voted yes, Member Frenkel voted no)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee direct the Committee Chair to formally request that the Select Board of the Town of Hamilton include an article on the warrant for a special town meeting to be held no later than June 26, 2025 for the 50-year lease extension for the Cutler School project.

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

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

f. School Committee Reorganization: Appoint School Committee Members to the Following Positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice Secretary & Warrant Signer
   - Sub-Committees for 2025-2026

Dana Allara turned the gavel over to Superintendent Tracy for the Chair nomination.

Superintendent Tracy called for nominations for Chair.

Amy Kunberger nominated Dana Allara for Chair. Jen Carr seconded the nomination. Dana Allara accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

The roll call vote on the nomination passed 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

Superintendent Tracy returned the gavel to Chair Allara.

Dana Allara called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Jen Carr nominated Amy Kunberger for Vice Chair. David Polito seconded the nomination. Amy Kunberger accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

The roll call vote on the nomination passed 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

Dana Allara called for nominations for Secretary.

Jen Carr nominated David Polito for Secretary. David Frenkel seconded the nomination. David Polito accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

The roll call vote on the nomination passed 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

Dana Allara called for nominations for Warrant Signer.

David Polito nominated Julia Campbell for Warrant Signer. Jen Carr seconded the nomination. Julia Campbell accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

The roll call vote on the nomination passed 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee allow any member of the School Committee to fill in as warrant signer at any time.

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

MOTION PASSED ROLL CALL VOTE 6-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

Dana Allara asked members of the Committee to email her with information on subcommittees they are interested in serving on and the Committee will then discuss subcommittee assignments at the next meeting.

11. Finance & Operations

12. Committee Report

a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - reviewed 3rd quarter summary at the last meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for June 2
b. Policy Subcommittee - next meeting May 14
   i. Two-Year Review - No Changes - Policy EBAB - Pest Management Exhibit
   Amy Kunberger stated that Policy EBAB is a first reading with no changes recommended and the review is part of the policy rolling review
c. Negotiations Subcommittee - a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the regional agreement. It was noted that the regional agreement discussion has been going on for a few years.
d. Secretary Report - David Polito will provide

Out of Order
School Committee Reorganization: Appoint School Committee Members to the Following Positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice Secretary & Warrant Signer

- Sub-Committees for 2025-2026

Dana Allara called for nominations for Vice Secretary.

Amy Kunberger nominated Jen Carr for Vice Secretary. David Polito seconded the nomination. Jen Carr accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

The vote on the nomination passed 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel, Kunberger and Polito)

13. Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Tracy discussed district activities around Neurodiversity Month. He noted DESE has selected Hamilton-Wenham as a model district for Eureka Squared Math implementation.

14. Chair's Report
Dana Allara reviewed the Superintendent evaluation due dates. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that there is no update yet on the state of schools report, priorities will be added in September.

15. Topics for Future Meetings
Add to future meeting agenda a discussion of how we will support the district's DEI initiatives and also add a review of Title IX.

16. Adjourn

I move to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.

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

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Carr, Frenkel, Polito and Kunberger)