



HAMILTON-WENHAM

Regional School District

5 School Street, Wenham MA 01984

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District School Committee Meeting Minutes

School Committee Meeting ([agenda](#))

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

In-Person Meeting

[Zoomlink](#) is for Public Comment Only

Meeting ID: 98071857309

Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:00 pm - 9:39 pm

Present:

Dana Allara

Meghan Benson

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr

Amy Kunberger

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent

1. Call to Order

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

2. Citizen's Comments [Exhibit](#)

Stacey Metternick spoke against the proposed superintendent contract.

Sandy Fisher, 97 Greenbrook Road, Hamilton, spoke against the proposed superintendent contract and encouraged the Committee to move forward with a renovation plan for the elementary schools.

Debbie Romberger spoke against the proposed superintendent contract.

Citizens comments closed at 7:08 p.m.

3. Review of School Committee Protocol [Exhibit](#)

Julia Campbell read School Committee Protocol number three.

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

Amy Kunberger 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 empowers administrators to seek innovation, responsiveness, and creativity in all aspects of District operations.

5. Student Representative Report; *Anderson Kraft*

Anderson Kraft updated the Committee on events and activities throughout the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District.

6. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 8
- Voucher No. 1070
- Voucher No. 1071
- Voucher No. 1072
- Voucher No. 4164
- Voucher No. 4165
- Voucher No. 4166

b. Minutes

- October 2, 2025 [Exhibit](#)

c. Donations Warrants

- FOTA Grant - Sole Support - Building a Reusable Character Shoe Closet for Theater Students; \$749.79 [Exhibit](#)
- FOTA Grant - Annie Jr. Props and Costumes Support; \$ 650.00 [Exhibit](#)
- FOTA Grant - Piano Accompanist Support 2025-2026; \$2,200 [Exhibit](#)
- FOTA Grant - Band T-Shirts; \$310.00 [Exhibit](#)
- FOTA Grant - Power Bank for Pep Band; \$499.00 [Exhibit](#)
- FOTA Grant - New Xylophone for HWRHS; \$3,604.95 [Exhibit](#)
- Michael & Marjorie Lipson - Musical Musicians; \$4,000 [Exhibit](#)

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

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)

The Committee thanked all for their generous donations.

7. New Business

- a. School Improvement Plans, *presented by Principals* [Exhibit](#)

Principal Best provided an overview of the Middle School Improvement Plan. In response to a question, Principal Best stated that the middle school cell phone policy is that phones are powered off from the beginning to the end of day.

Assistant Principal Becker provided an overview of the High School Improvement Plan. In response to a question, Mr. Becker and Superintendent Tracy discussed Principal Menegoni's work with the Lappin Foundation and the ADL. Superintendent Tracy stated that the district is not part of the DESE pilot program regarding AI curriculum but that he is involved in DESE training on this topic.

Principals Schersten, Hunt and Shediak gave an overview of the Elementary Schools Improvement Plan. In response to a question, the principals provided additional information regarding MTSS focus, Tier 1, 2 and 3 focus, the CKLA curriculum and the new STEM special.

b. Vote MSBA Declaration of Removal of Statement of Interest [Exhibit Exhibit](#)
Superintendent Tracy reviewed the process to be followed in order to be removed from the MSBA statement of interest program.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee authorize the Superintendent to execute and return the Declaration of Removal of Statement of Interest form to the MSBA as confirmation of the district's decision to remove the statement of interest for the Cutler Elementary School from the MSBA capital program.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Jen Carr

In response to a question, Dana Allara stated that the Committee will be discussing next steps as part of the district goal discussion under item D on the agenda.

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)

c. MASC Resolution Vote [Exhibit](#)
Dana Allara reviewed the proposed resolution regarding removing BMI testing from the schools. Superintendent Tracy stated that the district's school nurses support the resolution.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee direct our MASC representative to vote yes on Resolution 1 removing BMI testing from schools.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Jen Carr

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)

Dana Allara will let David Frenkel know of the Committee's vote.

d. Revisit 2025-2026 District Goals [Exhibit](#)
In light of the negative outcome of the recent townwide election, the Committee began a discussion on next steps and how to create a framework to proceed with some type of elementary facilities improvements. They discussed the need to actively engage the community

in the process and the possibility of using local media to get factual information out to the entire community, not just the school community. The Committee agreed continued discussions will need to take place on this topic.

e. Vote Custodian MOA [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone gave a brief overview of the proposed MOA.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the memorandum of agreement entered into between the District and AFSCME Council 93 Local 2905.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)

f. Vote Superintendent's Contract [Exhibit](#)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the contract of employment entered into between the Regional School District and Eric Tracy as presented on the agenda.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Jen Carr

The Committee discussed the percentage increase of 6% for this year and any additional increases will be pursuant to evaluations each year. They discussed Superintendent Tracy's years of experience. Meghan Benson stated that she did some research and only two superintendents in the state make more and both are superintendents of large districts - Boston and Needham. The Committee discussed the long hours worked by Superintendent Tracy.

MOTION PASSED 4-1 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes and Member Benson voted no)

Julia Campbell notified the Committee of a typo in the Superintendent's contract - term should be 2031 not 3031. The correction will be made and initialed.

g. Vote Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy stated that this item is due to the state by November 1 but he would like to send this item to the Policy Subcommittee and request an extension from the state.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee move the Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy to the Policy Subcommittee.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)

h. Update School Committee Vacant Seat Procedures

Dana Allara stated that the joint meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. The Wenham Select Board is holding a meeting at 6:00 p.m. and anticipate they will be done with

their agenda items and able to move to the joint meeting at approximately 6:45 p.m. She stated there are 4 candidates to be interviewed.

8. Finance & Operations

9. Committee Report

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - meeting on October 20
- b. Policy Subcommittee

- o First Reading HWRSD Competency Determination Policy - [IKFE Draft](#)

The Committee did a first reading of policy IKFE and discussed adding clarification that Hamilton-Wenham graduation requirements must be met.

- o Vote Threshold Guide [Exhibit](#)

The Committee discussed the vote threshold guide. The threshold document will be locked and shared with all members as a reference document.

- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - no update
- d. Secretary Report - Julia Campbell will transfer ownership of the spreadsheet which includes status of minutes and will reshare that document with all members to update.
- e. In Our Inboxes - Amy Kunberger stated that she received emails regarding Halloween Celebrations during the school day, comments regarding the Superintendent's contract and emails regarding a public comment made at the last meeting regarding display of flags in schools.

10. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy discussed the release of the state's Vision of a Graduate. He stated that this was run by the Governor's Office not DESE. The Secretary of Education has stated that this will not supersede the local level. He stated that MASS and MASC have been lobbying the state house for changes in Chapter 70 Funding Formula and the statehouse has agreed to hear from School Committees and Superintendents at listening sessions. Superintendent Tracy stated that he has been notified that there will be no 9C cuts this month.

11. Chair's Report

No chair report

12. Topics for Future Meetings

Competency Determination Policy

13. Adjourn

I move to adjourn at 9:39 p.m.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Meghan Benson

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted yes)