



# 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:

Thursday, October 2, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

#### Present:

Dana Allara

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr

David Frenkel

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](#)

Susan McLaughlin, Park Street, Hamilton distributed a copy of a letter to the members. She asked whether there is an opportunity for public input when the Committee is reviewing and revising policies. Ms. McLaughlin read a portion of her letter, which stated that she is a Catholic homeowner writing to inform the Committee that at the last School Committee meeting she was forced to sit in a room displaying the rainbow flag, which made her feel unsafe. She demanded that all rainbow flags be removed from the district.

There was no additional citizen comment.

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

Julia Campbell read School Committee Protocol number two.

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

David Frenkel 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 attracts and retains high-quality educators, by acknowledging and respecting their expertise and professionalism.

## 5. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
  - Voucher No. 7
  - Voucher No. 1069
  - Voucher No. 4159
  - Voucher No. 4162
  - Voucher No. 4163
  
- b. Minutes
  - September 18, 2025 [Exhibit](#)
  
- c. Donations Warrants
  - Edfund Mini-Grant - Project Hendry; \$7,209 [Exhibit](#)
  
- d. Field Trip Other
  - Washington, DC - 8th Grade [Exhibit](#)
  
- e. Other
  - Middle Level Winter Waiver Additional Request [Exhibit](#)
  - User Fee for High School Fall Musical, *Chicago* [Exhibit](#)

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

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

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

## 6. New Business

a. Vote MSBA Declaration of Removal of Statement of Interest  
Superintendent Tracy stated that he has not yet received the letter from the MSBA and asked that the Committee table this matter until the next meeting when he anticipates having the information from MSBA available for the Committee to review. Dana Allara stated that with no objection she would skip this agenda item; there was no objection.

b. Vote School Committee Protocols 2025-2026 [Exhibit](#)  
Dana Allara stated that the only change on the attached protocol is the date.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee add the following sentence to item 8: *In the event that a School Committee member wishes to publicly dissent from a School Committee decision this is permitted, so long as the dissenting School Committee member clearly states that the opinion is a personal one and not stated on behalf of the School Committee.***

**Motion by: David Frenkel**

**Seconded by: Julia Campbell**

The Committee discussed whether item one already addresses the concern raised regarding dissent. The Committee again reviewed the difference of speaking as an individual citizen versus speaking as a school committee member.

**I move to end the debate and move the question.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

**MOTION TO END DEBATE PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger voted yes)**

**MOTION FAILED 1-4 (Member Frenkel voted yes, Members Allara, Campbell, Carr and Kunberger voted no)**

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the 2025-2026 School Committee protocols as listed in the agenda.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

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

c. Superintendent's Goals 2025-2026 [Exhibit](#)  
Superintendent Tracy reviewed the proposed goals for 2025-2026. It was noted that May 2026 should actually be May 2025. A suggestion was made to include communication as an indicator of success for goal 4.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the Superintendent's Goals for 2025-2026 as presented with the date correction to May 2025 and with the addition of monthly communication as one of the indicators of success for goal #4.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

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

d. Vacant School Committee Seat Procedures & Timing [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)  
Dana Allara reviewed the procedures and timeline to fill the vacant School Committee seat. She stated that there is a meeting with the Wenham Select Board scheduled for October 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm to interview candidates. Dana Allara asked members to review the interview questions

used in the past and noted that past practice has been the School Committee asks questions 1, 2, 3 and 6 and the Select Board members ask questions 4 and 5.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the interview questions for applicants for the vacant School Committee seat as presented with the addition of a question asking applicants if they have any questions.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

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

Dana Allara stated that the deadline for applicants to submit their paperwork is October 15.

- e. Appoint SC Member to fill Negotiations Subcommittee Vacancy

**I move to table items e and f appointing members to fill the vacancies on negotiations and policy subcommittees until we have a full Committee of seven members.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

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

- f. Appoint SC Member to fill Policy Subcommittee Vacancy

- g. Regional Agreement Update

Dana Allara updated the Committee on the status of the regional agreement negotiations. The district's recommended proposal includes changing language in election procedures and apportionment agreement to align with Massachusetts General Law and our current practices and procedures.

## **7. Finance & Operations**

- a. Vote Stabilization Fund Transfer Athletic Facilities Improvement Project [Exhibit](#)  
Assistant Superintendent Leone discussed the capital stabilization fund transfer request.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional District appropriate the sum of One Million, Six Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand, Two Hundred Eighty-Seven (\$1,698,287.00) Dollars from the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Capital Stabilization Fund, which was established pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 16G 1/2, for the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Athletic Complex Improvement Project Fund for the purpose of constructing, equipping, and making improvements to the Athletic Complex.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

In response to questions, Assistant Superintendent Leone stated the amount remaining in the stabilization fund would be approximately \$400,000; if the transfer is not approved the community would have to borrow the funds; a final bill on the project is not yet available.

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

Assistant Superintendent Leone spoke of the recent passing of Don Gallant, long-time School Committee member and former regional district treasurer.

#### **8. Committee Report**

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - meeting on Monday
- b. Policy Subcommittee - have approved minutes and are reviewed voting threshold document and graduation competency requirements, next meeting date tbd
- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - update to be provided in executive session
- d. Secretary Report - none
- e. In Our Inboxes - none

#### **9. Superintendent's Report [Exhibit](#)**

Superintendent Tracy read his letter to the community addressing the recent article in the local news about antisemitic incidents that occurred at the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School during the 2024/25 school year. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that security protocols are in place in the district but no specific security changes have been made due to the recent stabbing at a synagogue in England.

#### **10. Chair's Report**

Dana Allara stated that David Frenkel will be representing the Committee at the MASC conference. She stated that she will include the MASC resolutions on the next agenda.

#### **11. Topics for Future Meetings**

MASC resolutions, voting threshold guide, graduation competency policy

#### **12. Adjourn to Executive Session**

**I move to enter executive session under G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Eric Tracy) or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and executive session under G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (AFSCME) or 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: Julia Campbell**

**ROLL CALL VOTE MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Carr, Frenkel and Kunberger voted yes).**