



HAMILTON-WENHAM

Regional School District

5 School Street, Wenham MA 01984

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District School Committee Meeting Minutes

Quintuple Board Meeting ([agenda](#))

Buker Elementary School Multipurpose Room

In-Person Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Meghan Benson

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr

Amy Kunberger

Kristin Noon

Also Present:

Members of the Hamilton Select Board

Rosemary Kennedy, Clerk

Thomas Myers

Members of the Hamilton Finance Committee

John McGrath, Chair

Chris Woolston

Sandy McKean, Observer

Members of the Wenham Select Board

Gary Cheeseman, Vice-Chair

Deirdre Pierotti, Clerk

Peter Clay

Members of the Wenham Finance Committee

Phineas Sprague, Chair

David Doggett

Robert Popadic

Jared Ward

Joseph Domelowicz, Hamilton Town Manager

Wendy Markiewicz, Finance Director

Joseph Pessimato, Assistant Town Administrator

Jeffrey Soulard, Finance Director & Town Accountant

Eric Tracy, HWRSD Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent

1. Call to Order

At 6:35 p.m. the School Committee, Wenham Select Board and Wenham Finance Committee called to order. The Hamilton Select Board and Finance Committee did not have quorums present.

2. New Business

a. Town of Wenham FY27 Budget Highlights [Exhibit](#)
Members from the Town of Wenham reviewed the highlights from the Town's FY27 preliminary budget.

b. Town of Hamilton FY27 Budget Highlights [Exhibit](#)
Members from the Town of Hamilton reviewed the highlights from the Town's FY27 preliminary budget.

In response to a question, a clarification to the following statement in the Hamilton presentation: *The initial projection for school department expenses cannot be supported by the local budgets without a School Department Override* was not meant to indicate that the school department could request an override; it is the Town's decision on whether to request an override.

c. HWRSD FY27 Budget Highlights [Exhibit](#)
Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the highlights from the Superintendent's FY27 preliminary budget.

Assistant Superintendent Leone requested that next year the Quintuple Board Meeting be held one week later in order to allow the School Committee an opportunity to review the proposed school department budget prior to the Quintuple Meeting. There was consensus on moving the meeting provided that Assistant Superintendent Leone ensures that each year the meeting date aligns with the towns' budget timelines.

d. FY27 Budget Discussion
The Boards and Committees discussed the FY27 budgets. In response to questions regarding next steps on an elementary facility project, Superintendent Tracy stated that he will forward to the members of the boards his memorandum: *Elementary School Project- Looking Forward*, which was discussed with the School Committee on November 6. He noted that at the November 6 meeting, the School Committee directed him to develop a process to establish listening sessions to move forward potential options with the elementary school facilities.

In response to a question regarding the number of community students attending private schools, Superintendent Tracy stated that the district does collect this information as part of DESE's *School Attending Children Report*. The numbers are due to the state January 1 and he will provide an update once the data collection is complete. He noted that obtaining this information on younger students is difficult with the number of private home daycares in the area.

Superintendent Tracy discussed the on-going DESE study examining Chapter 70 funding for school districts. He discussed the letter he submitted to DESE: *The Unintended Burden of Chapter 70 on Regional Minimum Aid* and asked members of all the boards if they would consider submitting a supporting letter to DESE. He stated that he will share his letter to DESE as well as information on the Chapter 70 funding formula with members.

3. Vote to Adjourn

At 7:45 p.m. the Wenham Finance Committee, Wenham Select Board and School Committee voted to adjourn. The School Committee motion to adjourn was made by Jen Carr, seconded by Julia Campbell and passed 6-0.