



# 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: 99671046059

Thursday, December 18, 2025

7:00 p.m. - 9:41 p.m.

#### Present:

Dana Allara

Meghan Benson

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr

Amy Kunberger

Kristin Noon

#### 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. She reminded the community that the meeting is being recorded and live-streamed via HWCAM.

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

There was no citizen comment.

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

Kristin Noon read School Committee Protocol number 7.

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

Jen Carr 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 inspires all students to realize their fullest potential and feel a powerful sense of individual and collective belonging.

## 6. Superintendent's Report

### a. Fall Athletic Recognitions [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the new process being used for athletic recognitions. He stated that the Athletic Director attended the most recent School Start Time Committee meeting and that a representative from the Community House will attend the next meeting. The School Start Time Committee anticipates having a report and recommendation to the School Committee in early March. He discussed the AI group which will be meeting in January to develop a policy using DESE information and research. He stated that the Strategic Planning work will kick off in January.

Dana Allara informed the Committee that the Wenham Select Board voted and will be writing a letter of support for Superintendent Tracy's position paper on Chapter 70 funding.

## 6. Consent Agenda

### a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)

- Voucher No. 13
- Voucher No. 1080
- Voucher No. 1081
- Voucher No. 4176
- Voucher No. 4185
- Voucher No. 4186
- Voucher No. 4187
- Voucher No. 4188

### b. Minutes

- December 4, 2025 [Exhibit](#)

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

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Kristin Noon**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Noon voted yes)**

## 7. New Business

### a. HWRHS Program of Studies 2026-2027 [Exhibit](#)

Principal Menegoni reviewed the program of studies for 2026-2027.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the HWRHS Program of Studies for the academic year 2026-2027 as presented.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Noon voted yes)**

b. Regional Agreement Update

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the recent changes made to Massachusetts regulation 603 CMR 41.00 - Regional School Districts. Superintendent Tracy stated that he will send the updated regulation to the full Committee for informational purposes. Dana discussed the recent meeting of the regional agreement committee and noted that the main discussions were regarding aligning election procedures with state laws and also a proposal to move the 3-year rolling apportionment average to a 5-year rolling average. She reviewed a proposal from one of the towns about election apportionment of School Committee members. The proposal would change the current at-large membership to electing 3 members from Hamilton, 3 members from Wenham and one at large member. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that at the next regional agreement meeting Dana inform the group that the School Committee sees value in keeping the current all at-large membership.

c. Vote to Re-appoint John Bucco to the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical Institute's School Committee [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara discussed the process used to appoint town representatives to the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical Institute.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee re-appoint John Bucco to the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical Institute's School Committee.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Jen Carr**

**MOTION PASSED 3-0 of the Wenham School Committee Members (Members Campbell, Carr and Noon voted yes)**

d. Vote to Re-appoint William Lannon III to the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical Institute's School Committee [Exhibit](#)

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee re-appoint William Lannon III to the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical Institute's School Committee.**

**Motion by: Meghan Benson**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

**MOTION PASSED 3-0 of the Hamilton School Committee Members (Members Allara, Benson and Kunberger voted yes)**

e. School Committee Meeting Scheduling Conflict 4/16/2026

Dana Allara informed the Committee that the Town Clerk has confirmed the Committee cannot meet on election day, April 16. Dana Allara proposed changing the April 16 meeting to April 14.

**I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee move the School Committee meeting scheduled for April 16 to April 14.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Noon voted yes)**

- f. NEC Annual Report 24-25 [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the Northshore Education Consortium and stated that NEC is required, for informational purposes, to share with member districts their annual report.

**8. Finance & Operations**

- a. Superintendent's Updated Preliminary FY27 Budget Recommendation [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed in detail the changes/reductions made to the preliminary budget recommendation. After Assistant Superintendent Leone's update, he asked the Committee to provide the administration with direction on what they would like to see in the budget to be presented and voted on at the next meeting. Superintendent Tracy and Assistant Superintendent Leone discussed the information from the towns regarding the budget reductions that would avoid an override. He stated that if an override is required he feels it is important that everyone is seen as making a good faith effort to reduce the amount of any override. The Committee held a lengthy discussion regarding the budget. There was a general consensus that the next budget presented should include some additional cuts but should still serve the students by meeting the district's values, even if that would require an override. Assistant Superintendent Leone stated that he will bring back to the Committee a revised budget from what was presented this evening. He encouraged members who had additional thoughts on the budget to reach out to Superintendent Tracy.

**9. Committee Report**

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - at the last meeting the subcommittee looked at the capital projects list and decided not to add anything new from list
- b. Policy Subcommittee - next meeting on January 26
- c. Negotiations - met with ESP Union to set up ground rules and schedule initial meetings
- d. Secretary Report - capital finance and negotiations are up-to-date, 2 missing minutes for policy and 3 missing executive session minutes
- e. In Our Inboxes - no updates

**10. Chair's Report**

Dana Allara reminded the community of the upcoming Community Conversation meeting dates. After discussion it was agreed those meetings would be posted as workshop meetings so all members interested in attending could attend. She discussed the recent MASC mailing which included the School Committee code of ethics which states in part: *the primary responsibility is always to the students.*

**11. Topics for Future Meetings**

There were no topics for future meetings.

**12. Adjourn**

**I move to adjourn at 9:41 p.m.**

**Motion by: Julia Campbell**

**Seconded by: Kristen Noon**

**MOTION PASSED 6-0 (Members Allara, Benson, Campbell, Carr, Kunberger and Noon  
voted yes)**