



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: 95812360959

Thursday, April 2, 2026

7:00 p.m. - 8:22 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara

Meghan Benson

Julia Campbell

Jen Carr

Amy Kunberger

Kristin Noon

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, 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 Comment [Exhibit](#)

Christina Decourcy, Literacy ESP at the Cutler School and a Hamilton resident discussed the budget constraints of the town and the role of ESPs in the schools. She asked the Committee to keep to their commitment made during the last contract of moving ESPs towards a liveable wage.

There were no additional comments.

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

Jen Carr read School Committee Protocol number 9.

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

Julia Campbell 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.

The consent agenda was taken out of order.

5. Superintendent's Report

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
 - Voucher No. 22
 - Voucher No. 1095
 - Voucher No. 1096
 - Voucher No. 4203
 - Voucher No. 4213
 - Voucher No. 4214
 - Voucher No. 4215
 - Voucher No. 4216
 - Voucher No. 4217
- b. Minutes
 - March 19, 2026 [Exhibit](#)
- c. Donations
 - HW Edfund Impact Grant - Elementary PE Gymnastics; \$14,317.41 [Exhibit](#)
 - FOTA GranGame Day Advertisements & Program Book Advertisements [Exhibit](#)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee accept the consent agenda as presented.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

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

7. New Business Committee Report

a. M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence
Superintendent Tracy presented HWRHS senior Ema Klefti with the M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence.

Superintendent's Report (out of order)

Superintendent Tracy discussed Chapter 70 funding, transportation reimbursement and unrestricted government aid. In response to questions, he stated that circuit breaker reimbursement kicks in after the first \$46,000 and the district pays approximately \$4.2 million for just under 40 students in out-of-district placements.

b. One8 Foundation Grant [Exhibit](#)
Superintendent Tracy discussed the award of a three-year, \$49,500 grant from the One8

Foundation to support the implementation of the OpenSciEd (OSE) middle school science curriculum beginning in the 2026-2027 school year.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the One8 Foundation Grant as presented in the exhibit.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Jen Carr

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

c. School Start Time Discussion [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the school start time report and stated that he is looking for feedback from the Committee on whether they would like to continue to pursue this issue. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the Superintendent continue to explore the possibility of changing school start times, send out the surveys and then bring additional information back to the Committee. The Committee had an initial discussion regarding possibly including this item in the 2026-2027 goal setting discussions.

d. Vote Last Day of School

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the number of snow days used and stated that the last day of school will need to be June 18.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee move the last day of school to June 18, 2026.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Kristin Noon

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

8. Finance & Operations

a. Budget Communications

Superintendent Tracy discussed in detail his conversation with a representative from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Finance regarding new guidance on what the district can and can't do regarding sending information out to the public regarding the override. The Committee can discuss the override in public meetings but the district is prohibited from using public resources to send out any information regarding the override. If a member of the public requests information, the district can provide the information. Dana Allara stated that the statute is related to district funds and since members of the School Committee are not paid they are allowed to provide information as individuals but cannot use their school email address to provide that information. In addition, the guidance from OCF is that the budget information can be made available at the town meetings as long as the district files the required forms with the town clerks. Dana Allara stated that after town meetings are complete she would be interested in having a representative come and provide more guidance on this topic.

9. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - next tentative meeting April 13
- b. Policy Subcommittee -

- i. Second Reading Policy JICFB - Bullying Prevention [Exhibit](#)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept Policy JICFB Bullying Prevention as presented in the exhibit.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Meghan Benson

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

The next meeting is April 27.

- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - next meeting April 14
- d. Secretary Report - up to date except for negotiations
- e. In Our Inboxes - one item regarding the Office of Campaign and Finance issue

10. Chair's Report

Dana Allara stated that she attended a meeting at the Council on Aging regarding the budget and other members reported having attended similar meetings at the Friends of Winthrop, Friends of Cutler and Friends of Buker.

11. Topics for Future Meetings

Discussion regarding possibly adding a communications subcommittee or point person.

12. Adjourn

I move to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

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