Approved by the HWRSD School Committee on September 17, 2026

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: 96791571187
Thursday, September 3, 2026
7:00 p.m. - 8:14 p.m.

Present:
Dana Allara
Julia Campbell
Amy Kunberger
David Polito

Also Present:
Superintendent Tracy
Assistant Superintendent Leone

1. Call to Order
At 7:04 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
There was no citizen comment.

3. Community Outreach
a. In Our Inboxes

Amy Kunberger stated that the new facebook page is active and information is being posted including school committee agendas and options to review prior meeting materials. Dana Allara stated that she was able to attend opening day for staff.

4. Review of School Committee Protocol Exhibit
Amy Kunberger read School Committee Protocol number 2.

5. Review Portrait of a Learner Exhibit
David Polito read the following from the Portrait of a Learner: *All graduates of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District will be able to independently use their learning to:*

COMMUNICATE

Students will effectively articulate thoughts, ideas, and feelings using oral, written, and non-verbal skills for a range of purposes and audiences. They will actively listen to others to understand meaning, values, attitudes, and intentions.

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy discussed the Protect Act which outlines how law enforcement acts and reacts on campuses. He stated the district is following the law and a district policy addressing this is being drafted and will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting. He discussed staff opening day and the professional development offered, and he stated that he is excited to welcome students back. Superintendent Tracy discussed several updates from the state including the update to the Time Out and Seclusion law, the new MCAS portal for families and the new requirement that districts serve breakfast and lunch on early release days except for the day before Thanksgiving break, winter break and the last day of school. He informed the Committee that enrollment is up 12 students and this is the 3rd year in a row of enrollment increases.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants Exhibit

- Voucher No. 3
- Voucher No. 4
- Voucher No. 5
- Voucher No. 1302
- Voucher No. 1303
- Voucher No. 1304
- Voucher No. 1305
- Voucher No. 1306
- Voucher No. 4283
- Voucher No. 4284
- Voucher No. 4285
- Voucher No. 4286

b. Minutes

- August 20, 2026 Exhibit

c. Field Trip:

- Rhode Island Cross Country Meet Exhibit

Dana Allara requested to hold the August 20 minutes from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the consent agenda holding the August 20, 2026 minutes.

Motion by: Julia Campbell **Seconded by: David Polito**

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger and Polito voted yes)

Dana Allara stated that on the bottom of page 3 of the August 20 minutes the exhibit link needs to be corrected to link to the additional ESP request document.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the minutes of August 20, 2026 with the stipulation that the exhibit link be corrected.

Motion by: Julia Campbell **Seconded by: Amy Kunberger**

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger and Polito voted yes)

8. New Business

a. Strategic Plan Final Exhibit, Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy reviewed the strategic plan process and the plan. In response to a question, he stated that the district goals are tied to the strategic plan.

I move the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept the strategic plan as presented.

Motion by: Julia Campbell **Seconded by: David Polito**

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger and Polito voted yes)

b. Statewide Graduation Council Exhibit, Exhibit

Superintendent Tracy discussed the report of the statewide graduation council. In response to a question he stated that he will inform the Committee if he finds that the new requirements result in so much work that it is detrimental to student learning.

9. Finance & Operations

10. Committee Reports

a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - next meeting September 21
b. Policy Subcommittee - next meeting September 9
c. Negotiations Subcommittee - no update
d. Secretary Report - past executive session minutes should be ready for approval at the next executive session meeting

11. Chair's Report

Dana Allara and Superintendent Tracy discussed the new lawn signs reminding the community of the need to stop for school buses when lights are flashing. Dana Allara stated that the average meeting time last year was 2 hours and 1 minutes.

12. Topics for Future Meetings

Amy Kunberger stated that the Policy Subcommittee will have a draft policy regarding the Protect Act in the near future.

13. Vote to Adjourn

I move to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Motion by: Julia Campbell **Seconded by: David Polito**

MOTION PASSED 4-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger and Polito)