



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: 98474576286

Thursday, October 1, 2026

7:00 p.m. - 8:21 p.m.

Present:

Dana Allara (arrived at 7:05 PM)

Julia Campbell

Amy Kunberger

Kristin Noon

David Polito

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, Superintendent

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent

1. Call to Order

At 7:01 p.m. Kristin Noon 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

Julia Campbell stated that the subcommittee continues to update the Facebook page and is working with the local paper to ensure meeting dates are published.

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

David Polito read School Committee Protocol number 1.

5. Review Portrait of a Learner [Exhibit](#)

Amy Kunberger 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:

ADAPT & PERSEVERE

Students will work effectively to pursue goals within a climate of diverse views, ambiguity, and changing priorities. They will demonstrate flexibility and resilience while responding productively to feedback, criticism, and even failure.

Kristin Noon stated that without objection she would take the student representative report out of order. There was no objection.

6. Student Government Representative; Andersen Kraft

Anderson Kraft updated the Committee on events and activities throughout the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Tracy recognized and thanked the two September staff retirees. He notified the Committee that because Ipswich could not field a football team and combined with Triton's team, as of today the district does not have a team to play on Thanksgiving. Superintendent Tracy provided an update on the solar canopy contract.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrants [Exhibit](#)
 - Voucher No. 8
 - Voucher No. 1311
 - Voucher No. 1312
 - Voucher No. 4291
 - Voucher No. 4292
 - Voucher No. 4293
- b. Minutes
 - September 17, 2026 [Exhibit](#)
- c. Field Trip
 - 8th Grade Washington, DC Field Trip [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara requested to hold the 8th grade trip from the consent agenda.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee approve the consent agenda as written with the exception of the 8th grade Washington, DC field trip.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

In response to a question Superintendent Tracy stated that it is the same company organizing the field trip as in past years.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee approve the 8th Grade Washington, DC field trip as presented.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

9. New Business Committee Report

a. Vote MASC Delegate [Exhibit](#)
Dana Allara discussed the upcoming MASC conference.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee nominate Dana Allara to be the MASC delegate.

Motion by: Julia Campbell

Seconded by: Amy Kunberger

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

b. Wenham ATM Date Discussion

Superintendent Tracy stated that earlier this week he received a communication from the Wenham Town Manager notifying him that the Select Board voted to host town meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2027 at the high school. Dana Allara stated that due to the Town Meeting date change, the School Committee would need to reschedule their April 1 meeting.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee change the April 1, 2027 school committee meeting to March 30, 2027.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Kristin Noon

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

c. Update 2025-2026 School Committee Liaisons [Exhibit](#)

Dana Allara discussed the school committee liaison assignments. After discussion, Dana Allara agreed to serve as the liaison to the Hamilton Select Board.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee appoint Dana Allara to serve as the School Committee liaison to the Hamilton Select Board.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

d. School Start Time Discussion/Vote [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy discussed the school start time report and recommendation.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee accept and pursue the recommendation of the school start time committee report.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Dana Allara

Dana Allara clarified that voting yes on the motion would mean beginning the process to change the school start times. The Committee discussed the community survey results and discussed some of the issues involved in changing school start times including the need to pursue union negotiations, bus negotiations and resolve issues around athletics. In response to a question, Superintendent Tracy stated that having all schools start at the same time would nearly double the transportation costs for the district.

MOTION FAILED 0-5 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

The Committee thanked the school start time committee for their work on this matter and stated that because they are not approving moving forward with the recommendation at this time it does not mean they won't revisit the issue.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee place school start time on its agenda for discussion every six months for the purpose of reviewing any relevant new information, circumstances or developments in determining whether further study or action regarding school start time are warranted at that time.

A friendly amendment was made and accepted to change every six months to each June.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee place school start time on its agenda for discussion annually in June for the purpose of reviewing any relevant new information, circumstances or developments in determining whether further study or action regarding school start times are warranted at that time.

Motion by: David Polito

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

10. Finance & Operations

- a. FY28 Budget Calendar [Exhibit](#), [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the proposed budget calendar for FY28.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the budget calendar as presented.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

- b. Prior Year Student Activities Account Summary [Exhibit](#)

Assistant Superintendent Leone reviewed the student activities account summary.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee vote to approve the following 32 high school subsidiary accounts for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

Assistant Superintendent Leone discussed the request to increase student activities checking account maximum balances.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the increase in the elementary student activities checking account maximum balance to \$5,000, the increase in the middle school student activities checking account maximum balance to \$10,000, the increase in the high school student activities checking account maximum balance to \$100,000.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: David Polito

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

11. Committee Reports

- a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee - subcommittee has several additional meetings on the calendar and minutes are up to date
- b. Policy Subcommittee -
 - i. Second Reading - ACL Protect Act Policy [Exhibit](#)
 - ii. Second Reading - JFBB School Choice [Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Tracy reviewed policies ACL and JFBB.

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the new policy ACL.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee approve the slight change to Policy JFBB.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito)

The policy subcommittee will be meeting every 3rd Wednesday going forward.

- c. Negotiations Subcommittee - no update
- d. Secretary Report - a review of missing executive session minutes was done and the available minutes have been sent to Janell.

12. Chair's Report

There was no chair's report.

13. Topics for Future Meetings

There were no topics for future meetings.

14. Adjourn

I move to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

Motion by: Amy Kunberger

Seconded by: Julia Campbell

MOTION PASSED 5-0 (Members Allara, Campbell, Kunberger, Noon and Polito voted yes)