

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee  
FY 10 Budget Meeting – March 12, 2009  
Minutes

Present: Denise Bisailon, Richard Boroff, Donald Gallant, Lisa Gaquin, Jack O'Keefe, Alexa McCloughan, Lauren Prior, Dacia Rubel, and Laurie Wilson.

Also Present: Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent and Paul Szymanski, Asst. Superintendent

1. L. Wilson called a duly posted meeting of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee to order at 7:06 p.m. The meeting was held in the Multipurpose Room of Buker Elementary School.
2. FY 10 Budget - Maintenance and Capital Projects: P. Szymanski reviewed the special projects list totaling \$116,500 and the capital projects list totaling \$3,928,500. The capital projects list increased by \$2,839,200 due to the estimated cost to renovate the Ferrini Dramatics Center. The committee discussed the various projects in depth and asked questions about the auditorium renovation.

**MOTION:** L. Gaquin moved that the HW Regional School Committee vote to direct the Assistant Superintendent to prepare a warrant article and materials for a FY 10 capital override not to exceed \$3,928,500. R. Boroff seconded. The motion passed 7-0-2.

3. Chapter 70 Update – Dr. McGrath provided the committee with an update on Chapter 70 funding. She indicated that the priority for the leadership team was to use the funding to (a) retain additional classroom teachers at grade 3, 4 and 5, (b) retain the equivalent of 1.0 FTE at grade 7 so class size can be reduced, and (c) retain high school teachers so the 8 block schedule can continue.

**MOTION:** L. Gaquin moved that the HW Regional School Committee direct the superintendent to include the projected level funding of Chapter 70 (\$350,618), based upon the FY 09 allocation, in the FY 10 non-town revenue. Should the District not receive said funding the school committee shall vote to lower the FY 10 operating budget by said amount prior to the annual town meetings in Hamilton and Wenham. R. Boroff seconded. The motion passed 9-0-0

4. Operating Budget – The School Committee discussed the operating budget and whether or not there should be an operating budget override to cover the budget shortfall. The committee was in agreement that there should not be an operating budget override for the FY 10 budget.

**MOTION:** L. Gaquin moved that the HW Regional School Committee vote to direct the Superintendent to prepare the FY 10 budget without an operating budget override for the March 19 Public Hearing on the FY 10 Budget. R. Boroff seconded. The motion passed 9-0-0.

5. Public Comment:  
George LaMontagne, Appaloosa Lane, Hamilton, asked if there has been any movement with the teachers regarding a salary concession. L. Wilson responded that discussions are ongoing.

Susan Mehlh, Wenham, stated that she did not think the auditorium should be included in the capital override since she did not think the estimates were current and due to the lack of a master plan for the buildings.

Bob Gray, Hamilton, spoke about the NEASC requirements and asked why they need to be addressed this year. HE asked if MEASC understands the economic crisis that exists.

Bea Britten, Hamilton, stated her belief that the teachers should consider a 0% COLA for FY 10. She also had questions about the financial report on the 2007-2008 Annual Report which showed a surplus. L. Wilson indicated that the District laws put under a consent order from DEP for the wastewater treatment facility with the potential for \$1,000 per day fines. The District put a freeze on the budget so it could pay any fines imposed on it without going to the towns for additional funding. L. Wilson also explained the "reserve fund" to the audience.

3. Adjournment:

**Motion:**        **L. Gaquin moved that the HW Regional School Committee vote to adjourn.**  
R. Boroff seconded. The motion passed 9-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marinel D. McGrath  
Superintendent of Schools