

**Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee**

**Minutes**

**June 7, 2007**

**CALLED TO ORDER:** Richard Boroff called a duly posted meeting of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was held in the Multipurpose Room of Buker Elementary School.

**PRESENT:** Denise Bisailon, Richard Boroff, Donald Gallant, Lisa Gaquin, Catherine Harrison, Bill Martin, Alexa McCloughlan, Jack O’Keefe, and Laurie Wilson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marinel McGrath, Superintendent of Schools and Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent

**RECOGNITION:** Wendy Campbell, Science Department Leader, stated that 17 students competed in the regional science fair; 15 students advanced to state science fair where 7 students won 1<sup>st</sup> place. Mihika Pradhan represented the state of Massachusetts in New Mexico; she won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the biochemistry section. Hamilton-Wenham received a \$1,000 grant. Mihika Pradhan described her project and how she became interested in the subject matter.

*“We Honor You” District Retirement Recognition:*

The following employees were recognized by School Committee members:

<u>Elementary</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Position &amp; School</u>
1. Martha Cesarz	1994-2007	13 Yrs.	Principal – Winthrop

<u>Miles River Middle School</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Position</u>
2. Ruth Herrick	1973-2007	34 Yrs.	Gr. 6 Math
3. Mary Mendonca	1987-2007	20 yrs.	Gr. 6
4. Steve Ottaviani	2001-2007	6 Yrs.	Gr. 8 Math
5. Jan DeSantis	1991--2007	22 Yrs.	Principal

Individual school committee members read a tribute to each retiree and presented each one with gift from the district. R. Boroff thanked all of them for their service to the district.

*American Field Service Students:*

Dr. McGrath introduced Hamilton-Wenham’s first exchange students, Solange Lara (Chile) and Christina Rey (Ecuador). Each student spoke about her experience here and explained their motivation and process to become an exchange student. They thanked their host families for being so wonderful and they both thanked Dr. McGrath for allowing them to come to Hamilton-Wenham. Dr. McGrath said the H-W Rotary Club is starting a foreign exchange program and Hamilton-Wenham will host 2 students (one from Ecuador and one from the Ukraine) for the 2007-2008 school year.

*Hamilton Wenham Education Fund Grant Awards:*

Maureen Flores, on behalf of the Hamilton-Wenham Ed Fund, announced the 2007-2008 Ed Fund Grants totaling \$86,289. She thanked all those who have donated to the Ed Fund. This year main priority for the grants was technology. The grant recipients and awards are:

- The Buker, Cutler, Winthrop Elementary Schools received \$39,600. The award will provide laptop computers, a cart for transportation and 2 Smartboards, related software and a trainer and training materials.
- Middle School: CSI: Creating Science Interactives received \$13,200. The grant will fund 3 Smartboards and the related equipment for 3 science classrooms. The request includes a set of Senteo, a new, interactive response system. One microscope connected to one Smartboard will allow the entire class to observe and learn together.
- High School: Technology Integration Presentation Station (TIPS) was awarded \$13,489. This grant will fund 17 computer stations to be installed in 17 classrooms to facilitate learning. In addition, the funds will be used for one LCD projector and one computer cart.
- A gift of \$20,000 for updating the High School Auditorium

L. Wilson noted that she was very proud of the High School Band for the Memorial Day Parade and the Wenham parade.

**STATEMENT OF GUESTS:**

None at this time.

**REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

*Subcommittee Reports:*

None at this time.

*Subcommittee Reorganization for 2007-2008:*

R. Boroff announced the newly organized subcommittee member for each group:

**Communications**

(A. McCloughan, C. Harrison, J. O’Keefe, L. Gaquin, R. Boroff, Ex-officio)

**Facilities**

(A. McCloughan, B. Martin, C. Harrison, D. Bisailon, L. Wilson, Ex-officio)

**Finance**

A. McCloughan, C. Harrison, D. Gallant, J. O’Keefe, R. Boroff & L. Wilson (Ex-officio)

**Legislative**

D. Bisailon, D. Gallant, Bill Martin, J. O’Keefe, R. Boroff = Ex-officio

**Negotiations**

R. Boroff, D. Gallant, L. Gaquin, L. Wilson

**Policy**

D. Bisailon, L. Gaquin, B. Martin, R. Boroff = Ex-officio

*MS/HS ADAAPT*

Bill Martin & Jack O’Keefe

*School Liaisons for 2007-08:*

Buker	Richard Boroff
Cutler	Lisa Gaquin and Jack O’Keefe
Winthrop	Alexa McLaughlin and Bill Martin
Middle	Catherine Harrison and Laurie Wilson
High School	Denise Bisailon and Don Gallant

**INFORMATION/ COMMUNICATION:**

*SOS update:*

Dr. McGrath informed the committee that SOS has raised the funds for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team and that it is within \$10,000 for the fourth grade team. Dr. McGrath

thanked the parents and community members for their efforts on behalf of the District.

Hamilton Residents, Lee Parsons and Tina Rutherford met with Dr. McGrath about restarting the community volunteer program in the schools. They also met with the Leadership Team to review areas where volunteers could help. Ms. Parson and Ms. Rutherford will work for solicit community volunteers.

*Subcommittee Minutes:*

The following minutes were enclosed in the school committee packets:

Communications May 10, 2007

Finance Nov. 11, 2006, Dec. 4, 2006 & May 4 & 22, 2007

Negotiations Jan. 8 & 9, 2007, Feb. 7, 2007, Mar. 15 & 22, 2007,  
Apr. 4, & 24, 2007, May 2, 9, 14, and 21, 2007

Policy May 15, 2007

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Winter 2008: HS Ski Club Trips to  
Gunstock, NH and Sunday River, ME:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2007-2008 HIGH SCHOOL SKI TRIPS TO GUNSTOCK, NH AND SUNDAY RIVER, ME ON THE DATES PRESENTED and IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL SPONSORED TRAVEL POLICY. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

*Feb 2008 High School Extracurricular  
Field Trip to Austria & France:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXTRACURRICULAR TRIP TO AUSTRIA AND FRANCE DURING THE FEBRUARY 2008 SCHOOL VACATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THE HAMILTON-WENHAM POLICY "SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT TRAVEL". D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

*April 2008 High School Extracurricular  
Field Trip to Pura Vida, Costa Rica:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EXTRACURRICULAR TRIP TO COSTA RICA DURING THE APRIL 2008 SCHOOL VACATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS SET FORTH IN THE HAMILTON-WENHAM POLICY "SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT TRAVEL". D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Teachers' Contract – Discussion & Vote:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2007-2010 SUCCESSOR CONTRACT FOR THE TEACHERS AS NEGOTIATED. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION.

D. Gallant stated that the bargaining team held twelve meetings to develop a tentative agreement with the teachers. The teachers voted 66-6 to approve this agreement. Some of the changes in the contract include: 184 working days and a monthly faculty meeting. The key points of the contract are:

(1) 3 year contract (August 30, 2007 to August 26, 2010)

(2) Raises:       2%                       for Year 1 2007-2008  
                  2 ½ %                     for Year 2 2008-2009  
                  2 ½ %                     for Year 3 2009-2010

Since a selectman is required to vote on this contract Bill Bowler, Hamilton Selectman and School Liaison, was in attendance. D. Bisailon thanked D. Gallant and the subcommittee for all of the hard work.  
THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY (10-0-0).

*High School Student Handbook Changes:* P. Conrad reviewed the changes in the 2007-2008 High School Handbook. This is the first reading of the changes so it will be voted on at the next school committee meeting. He reviewed the new sections or the sections with changes which are: Summer School, attendance policy, no smoking on the bus and/or at the bus stop and the dress code.

D. Bisailon stated it is difficult to know where to draw the line regarding student dress and when does it interfere with the students' creativity. C. Harrison stated that the intention of the section is not to inhibit expression but to make the environment safe for learning. P. Conrad stated that these additions help maintain a productive climate for learning and to help them with their learning. B. Martin noted that there will always be dress code rules and that one needs to apply common sense.

*Awarding of Grounds and Irrigation System Maintenance Contract:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO AWARD THE GROUNDS AND IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AND ATHLETIC FIELD LINING TO ELM SERVICE FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009 FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$147,600. C. HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

D. GALLANT MADE A MOTION TO AMEND THE CURRENT MOTION TO INCLUDE THE CONTRACT PRICES. C. HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY (9-0-0).

THE AMENDED MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY (9-0-0).

*Superintendent's Evaluation:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE 2006-2007 EVALUATION REPORT OF MARINEL MCGRATH, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS. C. HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

D. Gallant thanked the school committee members for preparing the evaluations. The evaluation covers six specific topics. He said that Dr. McGrath's evaluation rating was 3.76 out of 4 and there were no areas in the "needs improvement" category. D. Gallant read the evaluation which elaborated on the many areas of strength and two goals for next year: spend more time in classrooms and work with the School Committee to use the strategic plan as the basis of next year's budget. The school committee members also expressed that Dr. McGrath's 15 hour days might cause burn out or harmful to her health. Dr. McGrath thanked the committee and stated that she could not perform at this level without the support of the leadership team and school committee. THE MOTION PASSED UNAMIOUSLY (9-0-0).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

*Regular meeting – May 10, 2007:*

L. WILSON MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 10, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH BILL MARTIN ABSTAINING (8 -1-0).

*Regular meeting – May 24, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MAY 24, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

*Executive Sessions:*

*Executive session– January 11, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9 -0-0)

*Executive session– February 1, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 1, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

*Executive session– March 1, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON MARCH 1, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH LISA GAQUIN ABSTAINING (8-1-0).

*Executive session– March 29, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON MARCH 29, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9-0-0).

*Executive session– April 12, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON April 12, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALEXA McCLOUGHLAN ABSTAINING (8-1-0).

*Executive session– May 10, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON MAY 10, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH BILL MARTIN ABSTAINING (8 -1-0).

*Executive session – May 24, 2007:*

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD ON MAY 24, 2007. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (9 -0-0).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Laurie Wilson made a motion that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee adjourn at 9:03 P.M. D. Gallant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jacqueline Cooper  
School Committee Secretary