

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee

October 11, 2007

Minutes

**PUBLIC HEARING:
School Choice-**

R. Boroff called the public hearing to order for school choice at 6:35 pm. There were no citizens in attendance. R. Boroff closed the public hearing for school choice at 7:01 p.m.

CALLED TO ORDER:

Richard Boroff called a duly posted meeting of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the Multipurpose Room of Buker Elementary School.

PRESENT:

Denise Bisaillon, Richard Boroff, Donald Gallant, Lisa Gaquin, Catherine Harrison, Alexa McCloughan, Bill Martin, and Jack O'Keefe.

ALSO PRESENT:

Marinel McGrath, Superintendent and Paul Szymanski, Assistant Superintendent

ABSENT:

Laurie Wilson. Lisa Gaquin left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

RECOGNITION:

Dr. McGrath recognized M. Duffy and L. Wood who applied for and received a grant for teaching American History for 3 years of professional development. The grant was written in correlation with several other districts in the area. This grant is for teaching American History in grades 5 through 12 and \$1.9 million.

Chas Kreis & Catherine Donovan were the 1st place winners in the New England Dairy & Food Council's 2007 Expanding Breakfast Award for MA. There were over 25 schools that applied. They were one of three schools in MA to received \$5,000 award for food services. This is a model program for other schools.

Gail Lake received a Golden Key award, which now recognizes teachers. She is among the 1st group of teachers to be inducted. Paula Jones, 8th grade civics teacher, attended a bill of rights conference in D.C. last year and has now been asked to participate in other seminar.

Dr. McGrath introduced Win Dodge (Rotary Youth Exchange Officer) and two students (Caridad Amoroso and Dasha Zadorozhna) from the Hamilton-Wenham Rotary Youth Exchange program. This exchange program is a new venture for the Rotary. The HW Rotary is currently hosting four high school students on foreign exchange programs. Two students participated in a short term exchange program (3 to 5 weeks) this past summer. D. Gallant asked what the structure of education in their countries is like. Dasha stated that they have small classes and all grades are in the same school. Caridad stated that their school is split 6 years and then 6 years of high school. They also have the same group of people in all classes. B. Martin asked how they picked this country. Carina stated they had to choose five countries. Dasha stated she wanted to come here to learn different lifestyle. R. Boroff asked about the difficulty of the classes. Both girls stated they think some of the classes here are harder. There are 14 students in this area. W. Dodge reviewed the calendar of events. C. Harrison thanked the Rotary for putting this together and for all the hard work that they've done.

R. Boroff thanked D. Bisailon for bringing in the pillows and announced that Dr. McGrath's quilts and cross stitch are on display in the Cutler Gallery. He also recognized Dr. McGrath who is one of 150 people selected to participate on Governor Deval Patrick's Readiness Project to develop a strategic plan for the state's educational program. Dr. McGrath will serve as a member of the Curriculum Alignment Subcommittee; she is the only superintendent on the subcommittee. The focus for her subcommittee is the alignment of curriculum from middle to high school and high school to higher education. Of the 150 people selected to serve, she is one of only 10 superintendents in the state selected for participation.

STATEMENTS OF GUESTS:

None

REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:*2006-2007 Food Service Report:*

C. Donovan reviewed the 2006-2007 end of year food service report. She reported that while revenue did increase; it was a difficult financial year due to the need to purchase and repair equipment. There was an \$11,000 increase in health insurance benefit. She reported that food services received \$4,400 for a teen nutrition grant; \$1,200 for the breakfast power drink which went towards a milk display fridge; and \$500 from Blue Cross Blue Shield grant for the curriculum implementation.

Subcommittee Reports:
Communications

A. McCloughan reported that the subcommittee has met three times. The subcommittee is working on the annual report and first e-newsletter. She also reported that the subcommittee met with the SOS group and will attend their meeting on November 5 to educate SOS on the budget process.

Facilities:

B. Martin reported that the subcommittee had a joint meeting with the finance subcommittee to review the Capital Management Plan. The subcommittee will meet again on Oct. 25th before the school committee meeting on Nov. 1 to determine if any items need to be added to the plan. R. Boroff stated that the advisory board has done a great job developing the preliminary plan. J. O'Keefe stated that Reinhart Associates was retained by the two towns and the school district to review the elementary schools and the Iron Rail facilities and to develop a report with costs on those facilities.

Finance:

C. Harrison reported that the Finance subcommittee is working on the strategic financial plan. The subcommittee will meet on October 16 and 25 to review the plan.

Legislative:

J. O'Keefe reported that he is preparing to attend MASC/MASS in Hyannis. The school committee will vote on the resolutions at the next meeting.

Negotiations:

R. Boroff reported that the school committee reached agreement with the teaching assistant for the budgeted 2.5% raise which is retroactive to August 28. The subcommittee will develop updated working conditions for the teaching assistants for the 2008-2009 school year. R. Boroff also stated that the subcommittee will negotiate a successor contract with the custodians during the 2007-2008 school year

Policy:

D. Bisailon reported that the subcommittee will discuss the policy during the policy development section of this meeting.

October 1 Enrollment Report:

Dr. McGrath reviewed the official October 1st enrollments which are submitted to the state for Chapter 70 funds. The total enrollment for the district is 2,098

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Trip Request: High School Choral Trip to NYC:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY ON THE DATES PRESENTED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL SPONSORED TRAVEL POLICY. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

The price of the trip has gone down to \$249 per students due to fundraising. They will also be participating in two other concerts in the Bronx.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0)

Field Trip Request: High School Cross Country Team to Rhode Island:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY TEAM TO RHODE ISLAND ON THE DATES PRESENTED AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL SPONSORED TRAVEL POLICY. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Appoint Delegate to MASC/MASS Conference:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPOINT JACK O'KEEFE AS ITS DELEGATE TO THE 2007 MASS/MASC CONFERENCE. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0)

School Choice Participation 2008-2009: Motion- Grades K-8 no participation:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FROM GRADES K-8 FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dr. McGrath reviewed the proposed timeline of items for school choice. C. Harrison had a question regarding pre-k not being in the motion. Dr. McGrath said that Pre-K is not part of the school choice program. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0).

MOTION - Grades 9-12 yes to Participation:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM FROM GRADES 9-12 FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0).

Field Trip Request: Close Up, Washington, DC, March 2008:

This is an annual trip for juniors and seniors to attend Close Up in Washington, D.C. It will be held on March 9-15, 2008 and the cost per student is \$1,781.00 which includes airfare, ground transportation, hotel room, meals, and one theatre show. Only ten students are able to attend. There is a \$100 non refundable deposit due on November 9, 2007. Close Up encourages parents to purchase Travel Guard insurance since refunds are not available for this trip.

Draft 2009-2010 School Calendar:

The draft calendars for 2009-2010 are enclosed. A vote will be taken at the next school committee meeting. Dr. McGrath has also given a copy of calendar to the Leadership Team and the Teachers' Association for their feedback. Please note:

- Calendar "A" has a BEFORE Labor Day start for students & teachers.
- Calendar "B" has an AFTER Labor Day start for teachers & students.
- BOTH calendars follow the federal holiday schedule.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION:

First Reading: Website Development and Maintenance Policy:

D. Bisailon stated that the policy subcommittee has met a few times to review this policy. The policy was developed by Technology Committee which includes teachers, principals, Maryellen Duffy and Jeff McCormack. Naomi Stonberg, the school district's legal counsel, also reviewed this policy. A vote will be taken at the next school committee meeting on November 1st. The policy will be posted on the district website for review and feedback from the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2007. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0).

ADJOURNMENT:

DONALD GALLANT MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:13 P.M. CATHERINE HARRISON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacqueline Cooper
School Committee Secretary