

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee

January 31, 2008

Minutes

- 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 Bisaillon, Richard Boroff, Donald Gallant, Lisa Gaquin, Alexa McCloughan, Jack O'Keefe, and Laurie Wilson.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Marinel McGrath, Superintendent and Paul Szymanski, Asst. Superintendent
- ABSENT:** Bill Martin
- RECOGNITION:** Dr. McGrath recognized three students received Eagle Scout status Mark Buckler, Patrick Blaus, Matthew DePiero; Catherine Frost for her presentation to the MA Foreign Language Teachers Association and Charlotte Karlsson-Willis was recognized for receiving the Daughters of the American Revolution good citizen award. Dr. McGrath gave the School Committee two articles to review. One was on skills that students need to know in the 21st century and the other skills students need to be competitive in the American workforce. R. Boroff stated that Sarah Gaylord called and thanked Dr. McGrath and Paul Szymanski for their presentation at the January 30 Joint Finance Boards Meeting.
- STATEMENTS OF GUESTS:** None
- REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
Subcommittee Reports:
- Communications: A. McCloughan reported that the subcommittee is working on budget articles for the Chronicle and April edition of The Connection.
- Facilities: P. Szymanski reported that the subcommittee will meet on February 7 and it will review estimates for the roof on the Center School.
- Finance: C. Harrison reported that the subcommittee has met several times to review the level services budget, the strategic plan, and user fees. The subcommittee will likely recommend 80%/20% K-12 user fees except that extracurricular fees at high school will remain at \$50. The subcommittee also reviewed the capital improvement report and special projects. Although the Governor's budget was released the subcommittee will continue to be conservative with revenues for FY09. C. Harrison also thanked the community for the good attendance at the January 24 forum on the FY 09 recommended budget. Lastly, she reported that the school committee finance subcommittee and Supt. McGrath and Asst. Supt. Szymanski met with the joint boards for both towns to review the FY 09 budget on January 30. She said that it is expected that the superintendent will receive the amount the towns can contribute under the levy limit by February 8. If the schools do not receive the information by February 8th then all other budget meetings

dates will have to be changed except for public hearing on March 19th and the vote date on March 31.

- Legislative: J. O'Keefe reported that the subcommittee is planning the legislative breakfast for possibly Monday, May 5th.
- Negotiations: R. Boroff reported that the subcommittee will begin negotiations with the custodians on Feb 5th. R. Boroff has a conflict and needs someone to attend the Buker Friends meeting Feb 5th at 7 p.m. A. McCloughan stated that she will go for him. R Boroff stated that he needs to meet with last years negotiating team after the meeting to setup a time to meet.
- Policy: D. Bisailon reported that he subcommittee has not had a need to meet.
- Friends Meetings: L. Wilson and C. Harrison stated they attended the High School Friends meeting.
- Update-Wastewater Treatment Plant: P. Szymanski stated received notice in August that the DEP would be sending a notice for non compliance issues and violations of the permit. In November 1st he received the first formal notice to attend a hearing on Dec 4th. At the hearing, the District was informed some levels had been exceeded since July 06. Through work on the part of the District the penalty was reduced by half to \$7500. The District now has a tiered program of source control; P. Szymanski and Rick Shruhan have met with the principals, staff and custodians at the high school and middle school to develop and monitor the new controls put into place. The DEP will continue to monitor the situation for compliance. In th4e DEP had indicated that the District must hire consultant engineer. P. Szymanski will continue to oversee the situation at this point and time. The District must pay \$7,500 fine by Feb. 15th; it has been processed and should be there prior to the date. This wastewater treatment facility was installed in 1997 when middle school was built.
- Financial Report: P. Szymanski stated that the December financial report is in order and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. .

INFORMATION/ COMMUNICATION:

Subcommittee Minutes:

Subcommittee minutes were enclosed in School Committee packets for:

1. Finance Jan. 3, 7, 8, 17 & 23, 2008

Communications Plan:

A. McCloughan presented the design and implementation of a communication plan. The subcommittee is working to reach people and to measure if the subcommittee has met its goals. The communications plan seeks to raise awareness of the strategic plan and to inform people of the consequences of not acting on certain items. A. McCloughan said that (1) face to face interaction with constituents is working, (2) the subcommittee is considering developing a budget guide, (3) the subcommittee will devote time at the school committee meetings updating the community, and (4) the subcommittee is working on metrics to gauge success and focusing on audience segmentation, for example, people who have children in the system and people who do not..

NEW BUSINESS:

2008-2009 High School Program of Studies:

B. Krol reviewed the 2008-2009 high school program of studies and the process of how the high school determines the annual program of studies. Changes include: French and Latin will be offered next fall if there are a minimum of 18 students signed up to run the class; AP Chemistry and AP physics; a change in the health science requirement in grade 12.

L. Wilson had a question on health science regarding the 4 year requirement for health science. R. Krol stated that the course requires students to develop a personal fitness plan which will be a part of the portfolio and not another class. C. Harrison stated that they should change the wording for health science requirement.

J. O'Keefe wanted to know if AP Biology is it a double block. R. Krol responded that it is.

Students could take Biology and then take AP Biology. L. Gaquin asked about the middle school language program.

L. Wilson asked if students can begin French or Latin at the high school or must they continue with Spanish. R. Krol said it is desirable for a student to continue in Spanish to attain fluency; however, students may begin a new language instead.

J. O'Keefe suggested on voting on this tonight and not waiting until the next meeting.

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO VOTE ON THE 2008-2009 PROGRAM OF STUDIES TONIGHT. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH CATHERINE HARRISON VOTING NO (7-1-0).

L. WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2008-2009 HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM STUDIES. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. C. HARRISON STATED PROVIDED THE WRITING IS CHANGED IN HEALTH SCIENCES REQUIREMENT. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE AMENDED MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0-0).

Approve FY07 Expense for Special Education:

LAURIE WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF FY 07 BILLS, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$9,213.11 TO NEW ENGLAND ACADEMY OF BEVERLY, MA. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE FROM THE FY 08 SPED BUDGET. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0-0)

LAURIE WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF FY 07 BILLS, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$4,375.00 TO SAFEWAY TRAINING AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, INC. PAYMENT SHALL BE

MADE FROM THE FY 08 SPED BUDGET. D. GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION.

Dr. McGrath stated that they have been fighting this case for a year and a half. The student goes to Ipswich Public Schools and resides part time in Hamilton. The Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education Appeals ruled that the district has to cost share program and transportation expenses with Ipswich for this student. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0-0)

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION:

None at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

LAURIE WILSON MADE MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 10, 2008. DONALD GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED WITH CATHERINE HARRISON ABSTAINING (7-1-0).

ADJOURNMENT:

LAURIE WILSON MADE A MOTION THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 8:38 P.M. DONALD GALLANT SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (8-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacqueline Cooper
School Committee Secretary