



# SC Spotlight

## Topics of the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee December 2014

### **HWRSD named to the College Board AP Honor Roll**

For the third consecutive year, HWRSD has been named to the College Board AP Honor Roll. We are one of 547 districts across the U.S. and Canada being honored for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

### **HWRSD Hires Director of Facilities**

The HWRSD is pleased to announce the hiring of Jason Waldron as our new Director of Facilities. Jason, a Hamilton Resident, and will assume his new role on December 15th. He is currently the Manager of Facilities and Operations for the Harvard University Athletic Department, where he supervised the daily operations and facility projects for 1,000,000 square feet in 13 buildings and 100 acres of fields. Jason has been responsible for overseeing the implementation of a maintenance work order system and has guided several major renovation projects to completion at Harvard, including an \$18 million renovation of the hockey arena. The District's next step, and one of Jason's first tasks, is to complete the hiring of our 3-person maintenance team. Welcome Jason!

### **K-12 Mathematics and Literacy Curriculum Update**

At our November 20th meeting, our district's curriculum leaders updated the School Committee on the current status and ongoing work in both the mathematics and literacy programs in the HWRSD. Christine Fichera (Elementary Math Curriculum Coordinator) and Tony Walsh (6-12 Math Curriculum Coordinator) presented an update on our District's Mathematics curriculum. Dawn Kraunelis (Elementary Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator) and Bob Hickey (6-12 ELA Curriculum Coordinator) presented and update on our District's Literacy Programs. Their presentations can be found on the district web site [www.hwschools.net](http://www.hwschools.net), select District Information, School Committee tab and the handouts from the 11/20/14 School Committee meeting. To watch these presentations, go to [hwcam.org](http://hwcam.org) and select the 11/20/14 School Committee meeting.

## **It's School Choice time at the High School**

Applications are now available on both the District and High School websites for the District's School Choice program for next year. Selection is by lottery. Applications will be accepted through January 31, 2015 with notification on or before May 31, 2015. Pursuant to School Committee policy, acceptance of students is conditional upon availability of space. There are currently 98 School Choice students attending Hamilton Wenham Regional High School and we are thrilled to have them! Please spread the word to any families who live outside Hamilton and Wenham who might be interested in seeking the wonderful educational experience offered at HWRHS. Choice is open for grades 9 through 12.

## **School District Budget Season is here, and here's what and when**

The School Committee is working with Superintendent Harvey and the Leadership Team on the fiscal year 2016 School District budget. We encourage the community to follow budget developments and attend a meeting or two or watch our meetings as they are televised. The current budget calendar is as follows:

**December 18, 2014** – Leadership Team's FY16 Budget Recommendation to School Committee

**January 8, 2015** – School Committee adopts tentative FY16 budget (televised, meeting starts at 7 pm at Buker School)

**January 9, 2015** – HWRSD mails tentative FY16 budget to the towns and advertises FY16 budget public hearing

**January 15, 2015** – FY16 budget planning meeting with town officials (time and location TBD)

**January 22, 2015** – FY16 budget public hearing (televised, meeting starts at 7 pm at Buker School)

**February 12, 2015** – School Committee adopts FY16 budget (televised, meeting starts at 7 pm at Buker School)

**April 11, 2015** – School budget voted at Hamilton and Wenham Annual Town Meetings

## **State Aid To Education – Legislative Update**

As we've been noting in previous Spotlight news, the so-called Foundation Budget Review Commission is looking at how Chapter 70 state aid to school districts is formulated. School Committee member Larry Swartz and Legislative subcommittee representative Ann Minois attended the recent hearing in Danvers. They heard testimony from numerous concerned attendees about the difficulties many districts are having with inadequate state aid especially as it relates to Special Education, healthcare and technology costs. The School Committee is working with Superintendent Harvey to submit its own testimony to the Commission in the hope that the District may see an increase in state funding through a change in the formula for aid. Separately, School Committee members are expressing their opposition to recent proposed cuts to current year state aid for transportation (school busing) and Special Education "circuit breaker" funding. We are always ably assisted by Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Brad Hill in all our efforts and thank them for their consistent advocacy on behalf of the HWRSD.

## **Upcoming Topics of Interest**

There will be a presentation by Superintendent Michael Harvey on his 2015-2016 budget recommendation at the December 18th SC meeting. The School Committee encourages interested community members to attend this meeting and voice their opinions. We also welcome comments via email at: [sc\\_communications@hwschools.net](mailto:sc_communications@hwschools.net).

We welcome questions or comments, please contact us at: [sc\\_communications@hwschools.net](mailto:sc_communications@hwschools.net)