

Approved 12.6.17

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional
School Committee
Meeting**

Wednesday, November 21, 2017 7:00pm
Buker School Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

David Polito
Joshua Liebow, Chair
Gene Lee
Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Stacey Metternick

Also Present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeffrey Sands, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Administration
James Goudie, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

Joshua Liebow called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

2. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiating with the Superintendent regarding 2017/2018 compensation [Executive Session Purpose #2] and to return to open session [Roll Call Vote Required].

I MOVE TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING THE 2017/2018 COMPENSATION AND TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AFTERWARDS.

MOTION by GENE LEE

The motion unanimously carried by roll call vote.

3. Return to Open session

Committee returns to open session at approximately 7:24 pm.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Citizens' Comments

None

6. Chair's Report

None

7. Superintendent's Report

- Happy Thanksgiving. Middle and High schools will dismiss at 10:30 am, and elementary schools will dismiss at 11:15 am tomorrow. All schools will be closed on Thursday and Friday.
- Spirit week is up and running: today was Hawaiian theme day, and tomorrow is “white-out” day. Guest at pep rally will be Talia Duff with presentation of funds. High School has dedicated fundraising to finding a cure for Talia. Congratulations to all dedicated to these efforts and on their good work so far.
- Next school committee meeting is 12/6 and there will be a 6:30 pm warrants meeting, with regular school committee meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. There will be a public hearing on school choice on 12/6 beginning at 7:00pm at the start of the open committee meeting. Public meeting was advertised at 6:30.
- Working on dates for joint finance committee where tentatively scheduled for December 7th. Quorum for the school committee would be recommended, but it is not required. This meeting will be to brief the committee on the state of the towns.

8. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes November 8th, 2017** (exhibit A)
- B. Warrants November 8th, 2017** (exhibit B)
- C. Donations** (exhibit C)

Michelle Bailey would like to hold the minutes from November 8th.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA EXCLUDING THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 8th.

**MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Gene Lee.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

Joshua Liebow recognizes donations: Girls’ Basketball Boosters \$1,350.00; Hamilton Wenham Friends of the Arts \$400 (scholarship for elementary band \$150 & scholarship for elementary chorus \$250). Thank you!

Michelle Bailey points out that the motion on page 10 of the 11/08/17 minutes (exhibit B) reflect the language of “at” the April town meeting, instead of the current version written “in” the town meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE 11/08/2017 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8TH WITH THE NOTES INCLUDED.

**MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Joshua Liebow.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

9. New Business

- a. District Assessment Results Presentation** (exhibit D)

Peggy McElhinney presents the MCAS report and collected data. Begins by discussing difference between Legacy and Next-Generation MCAS. These test results are the first opportunity to examine the indicators of success in common core standards and alignment with curriculum.

- There are still four standards: exceeding expectations, meeting expectations, partially meeting expectations, and not meeting expectations;
- New range is 440-560, with 500 being in the middle. New scores and measurements are explained;
- Consistent scores across grade levels for grades 3-8. Letter went home to families asking not to compare current scores to previous scores. When the scores are taken at face value and compared to previous scores, scores look lower. However, this is inaccurate due to the way scoring has been changed;
- Talks about computer and paper testing and what that looks like for the future;
- Walk through ELA, Math, Science;
- Scores reflected through this are based on two different tests. Presentation of slides comparing district wide averages to statewide averages.

Stacey Metternick asks for explanation re: grades 3-7 and then a jump at 10th grade to 97%.

Peggy McElhinney says scores are lower 3-8 is Next Generation, 10th is Legacy, so scores cannot be compared this way.

Stacey Metternick asks about students who are unable to take the test and if this is calculated anywhere in statistics.

Peggy McElhinney clarifies that there is no score for justified/excuse, or if they simply didn't take it without an excuse it is entered in as "0". The highest score for a test retake is either "needs improvement" or "proficient". You cannot reach "exceeding expectations" in retake or late testing. The test is designed for those who weren't successful the first time, and HW schools want to make sure students are receiving equal educational opportunities to succeed.

Discussion re: aggregate scores. Stacey Metternick brings up the students left behind.

Discussion re: 8th grade testing that involves a math tool to get online testing, unfamiliar testing format, and the factor this plays in overall scores. As a result of new, online testing methods, students may not have been able to show their knowledge as well as the other grades.

Discussion about science scores in grades 5 & 8 need improvement, and curriculum will focus on thinking like a scientist, instead of regurgitating facts based on science. Adopted stemscores this year, as well as adoption of a hands-on inquiry based program/curriculum. Parent teacher conferences across the board have indicated that students are adopting these very well and are enthusiastic to tell their parents about their science learning.

Peggy McElhinney states that it will really take 3 full years before we see evidence that the new instruction/curriculum is working. We are still in the process, where a committee is reviewing

textbooks and other curricula to better meet the needs. Benchmark assessments tell us how we're doing and how we might better assist them. Our *understanding data* is strong, but our *response to intervention* needs to be strengthened. We have data teams in place, but really needs deeper exploration if we're thinking about what's happening in the classroom, how that data informs policy, etc.

Joshua Liebow inquires about gains in grade progression.

Peggy McElhinney explains that results and data focus on how each grade level performs, but looking over time is helpful as well.

B. October 1st enrollment report (exhibit E)

Michael Harvey explains the enrollment report as of October 2nd:

- Overview of slides, with the biggest outlier being Kindergarten. Budgeted for 125 Kindergarteners, 146 were enrolled. School district made changes with allocation for Title I grants. As a result 7 aids were hired for these classrooms;
- Class and grade totals for middle and high school as outlined in exhibit E;
- Stacey Metternick asks about the low enrollment for grade 6. Discussion about further research and exploration needed to fully understand this low enrollment;
- Middle school class sizes are presented. Outliers for middle school:
 - 30 AP Stats
 - Financial Lit at 31
 - Humanities at 32
 - Band at 44
 - Performance Music at 7
 - TV Studio at 8 and 9
- Dr. Michael Harvey talks about complexities of schedule making. Discussions in high school are focusing on limiting amount of AP classes to single student. RYBS, contributors to student stress, so as a school setting that limit will help increase mental health of student body;
- Discussion re: Mandarin language

C. Update on MASC conference.

Jeanise Bertrand presents her recap of the MASC conference:

- Thoughtful conference full of interesting classes. General sessions were valuable;
- The delegate meeting focused on enrollment deadline for October 1st, move forward 31st of January instead of the 1st of October. There was an argument back and forth;
- Most interesting class included videos about robots painting an entire house; 3D printer for cement; and building a foundation. Overall focus of this class was to point out the need for school districts being able to keep up to meet the creation of new job responsibilities and absence of old.
- All resolutions passed;

- MASC also addressed the opiate epidemic and focused on support of students, anti-drug curriculum. When you get to HS moving away from a 0 tolerance policy. How do we keep people from getting the bottle;
- All of the paperwork at MASC is all still available for download.

D. Superintendent's salary

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INCREASE MICHAEL HARVEY'S 2017/2018 SALARY, RETROACTIVE TO JULY 1ST 2017, BY RATE OF 2.5% TO BRING NEW SALARY TO \$183,963.00.

MOTION by David Polito; SECONDED by Gene Lee.

Approved by 4 members; Stacey Metternick opposing, Michelle Bailey abstaining.

Joshua Liebow thanks Dr. Michael Harvey for his continued hard work and dedication.

E. Submission SOI Discussion (exhibit F)

Michael Harvey states that the MA School Building Authority completed a 2016 school survey report. Appendix in attachment shows the report of every public school building in the Commonwealth. Hamilton/Wenham is located on page 63.

Committee discusses building condition ratings. What this list shows the statement of interest this data can be used to rank and prioritize. This is their determination, and uses a standard calculation by square footage.

Discussion regarding moving administrative offices and the historical context of the separate building.

Jeff Sands discusses how this affects the Statement Of Interest policy:

- New building in our future, reimbursement rate typically comes from and MSBA project;
- This report shows the data that we'd be using to analyze new data points and we understand SOI submissions they base their analysis mostly upon these reports, so it provides us with additional information to say 'based on this study' our need, etc.;
- Our need isn't the greatest, but that won't preclude us from receiving grant.

Discussion re SOI process. Jeff Sands points that page 158 and 159 include 2 flow charts outlining the entire process, beginning with the Statement Of Interest.

Discussion re: determination for the "need" for new school. Without the MSBA support, it is very unlikely for anyone or any group to support the building.

Discussion re: timeline for the SOI:

- January of 2019 submission;
- Committee discusses whether it's worth investing time in submitting it for this year;

Discussion re: alignment with Longmeadow issue:

- In April 2019 interest payments will need to be made. Committee would have to agree to pay these interest payments, as drafted in an MOU.
- If property is held, committee can continue and pay interest, or opt out in April 2019. Nothing has been signed and there is no motion currently on the table to do that.

The SOI process opens in January and closes in April, with decisions usually taking about 3-6 months.

Discussion continues re: need for new buildings, most effective use of committee and administration's time.

Preparing an SOI this year, even if it is not submitted would absolutely cut down on time spent in subsequent years when and if we decide to submit an SOI.

Jeff Sands and Michael Harvey ask committee for direction. The school committee would have to make a motion to submit SOI as well, when that point is reached. Joshua Liebow states he is not comfortable about making a motion without seeing the list of priorities.

Committee discusses the list of priorities presented by Jeff Sands, and the necessity of reprioritizing to make room for this SOI.

Discussion regarding capital improvements, specifically conditions of the current schools. If capital improvements are made, that makes the argument on SOI obsolete/less relevant. The bigger point is that there is a longer list of improvements and added modernity to the school's (server, etc) that would make the actual need for a new building obsolete.

This will be tabled and moved to next committee meeting to allow members more time to think about priorities.

10. Committee Reports

A. Communications

David Polito, Michelle Bailey, Gene Lee, Stacey Metternick: strategizing with town meetings, need for broader strategy, attending other council meetings, strategizing, etc.

B. Policy-Legislative

David Polito, Michelle Bailey: Contact will be made with Brad Hill.

C. Warrant

Committee agrees to take this off.

D. Capital-Finance & Regional Agreement

Stacey Metternick, Gene Lee, Michelle Bailey: Recent updates; how to review master plan; strategizing on procedure; Miles River Middle School building details, obstacles, enrollment study, etc. to develop set list of questions in proceeding with future capital projects. Discussion re: commonalities and differences with other subcommittees and regional agreements.

E. Student Rep.

James Goudie: this past quarter we've focused on unifying school, changing spirit week, homecoming dance. Fantastic turnout at dance. Working together we've raised 5k as a community, and we will continue to work together to make a difference.

F. Other School Liaisons Updates

Michelle Bailey talks about fundraisers and Wenham's upcoming 375th birthday celebration and upcoming auction.

11. Other

- Topics for next meeting

Michelle asks that October Enrollment is included as an agenda item.

Next meeting:

- 1) Choice hearing;
- 2) Choice vote;
- 3) Fall 2017 athletic team recognition;
- 4) Financial forecast;
- 5) Youth Risk Behavior Study;
- 6) Warrant for school committee elections;
- 7) Treasurer's report

12. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURN AT 9:37 PM.

**MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick.
Unanimously approved by 6 members present.**

Respectfully submitted Mahala Lettvin