

Approved 10.19.17

**THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

Thursday, September 28, 2017 7:00 PM
Buker School Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

Michelle Bailey
Gene Lee
Josh Liebow, Chair
David Polito
Jeanise Bertrand
Stacey Metternick
Kerry Gertz

Also present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeffrey Sand, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Administration

I. Call to Order

Josh Liebow called the meeting to order at 6:40

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Presentation

Exhibit J

A. Presenter Mr. Steve Hemman, Assistant Executive of MARS

- Mr. Hemman covered School Governance's & Operations
- Regional School District
- Laws that Govern Regional School Districts
- School Finance
- Education Reform Act 1993
- Education Reform Act 1993 changes
- Regional Agreement
- School Committee Agenda
- Hiring of Administration
- Budget Development
- School Personnel
- Legal Counsel
- Approval of Budget in Member Towns
- Financial Oversight
- Communications
- Roles of Superintendent & School Committee Members in a Region
- Communications to Member Towns

IV. Chair's Report

- A.** Congratulations to the Administration, Jen Daniels, and Nancy Littlehale, on the playground operations @ Winthrop Elementary School. The opening was on Tuesday
- B.** Curriculum night was this week; I attended Buker's and was well run.
- C.** Josh Liebow & Gene Lee had an information meeting with David Winger and Alex Begin head of the Fin Coms, this was a meet and greet to start communication and make personal introductions.
- D.** Communications with towns; a good process with budget and get more attendance from locals of town, I encourage ideas of how to get everyone involved in the Budget process

V. Superintendent's Report

- A.** Eric Tracy announced Katherine Dixon and Phil Durgan were named "Commended Students in 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program". There are 2 of 34,000 in the nation to be commended; they placed in 5% of more than 1.5 million that entered the 2018 competition by taking the preliminary 2018 PSAT test.
- B.** On September 27th the district presented an application to the Hamilton Conservation Commission to build (2) turf fields at the Regional High School. The Conservation Commission will be holding a site visit at the Regional on October 7th and will continue the public hearing on October 11th. This will be the last step in the permitting process.
- C.** On September 19th I attended the Essex County District Attorney's "Policy Makers Forum"; the topic was "Kids in Crisis" a strategic approach and how to help identify traumatized youth. This was attended by School District leaders, public officials and members of the Massachusetts State Court Systems. They trained School Clinicians in administering the UCLA a PTSD index tool used in identifying individuals of traumatic events.
- D.** Nancy Bergner has submitted her resignation as the minute taker and the position has been posted to School Spring and currently I am in the process of interviewing.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick
Unanimously approved by 7 members present

VIII. Discussion of Item Removed from Consent Agenda

B. Miles River Middle School Field Trip Request-8th & 9th grade to China

Concern that if there were to be any snow days this trip will happen during finals week for those in the 9th grade, have accommodations been made? The Superintendent has spoken with Ms. Sano and Mr. Tracy, they would make arrangements for these students to take finals before they go or after getting back if this were to happen.

A committee member was not comfortable with sending 13 year olds half way across the world and does not feel this is an appropriate distance to travel, also the cost of the trip being paid 100% by parents as these students are yet to young to have employment to help in the costs.

Dr. Harvey explained that this trip was supposed to happen last year but one chaperone could not attend due to personal reasons. He was approached by Ms. Sano stating that the students that were to attend last year are still very interested.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE TO THE REQUEST ITEM D-EXHIBIT E, MRMS FIELD TRIP TO CHINA. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick

Approved by 6 members 1 No

IX. New Business

A. Donations

Exhibit F

- Field Hockey Boosters \$1,000

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ACCEPT THE DONATION LISTED IN EXHIBIT F

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey

Unanimously approved by 6 members present

B. Longmeadow Committee Discussion

Jeanise Bertrand attended the Longmeadow Committee meeting where it was asked if the School Committee had an interest. We would like to study its usefulness; we would not have an idea of the timeframe.

Josh Liebow; the process in applying is a long process; this would be a long term goal not immediate.

Can Harborlight come in and speak with us directly to see how solid the October deadline is and also we will be able to ask questions?

Rick Mitchell of the Hamilton Planning Board and the Hamilton Development Corporation spoke on having a statement for the School Committee to review for the interest in the property held by Harborlight.

Mr. Sands would not advise the committee to make any level of specific commitment. It was again suggested to have Mr. DeFranza come to the next meeting and meet with the committee.

Mr. Scott Madden, Hamilton Town Selectmen offered to extend to the School Committee in getting better prepared the information that has been done over the years by the Town of Hamilton Boards and the Hamilton Development Corp.

Invitations will be extended to have Andrew DeFranza and Brian Stein come to the next meeting.

C. Policies (1st Readings)

Remote Participation Exhibit G

No Discussion

HWRSD By-laws Exhibit H

Discussion: Article IV – Caution on changing days, will have trouble getting people to run.

Have a schedule set in advance so public can see when meetings are.

Suggested change: School Committee will approve a tentative schedule of meetings by the first School Committee meeting in June.

D. Review School Committee Goals Exhibit I

Discussion:

#2 Update the Regional Agreement and suggested changes:

- Complete enrollment study in meeting with and keeping an open dialogue with Hamilton and Wenham
- Remove all others
- #1 Capital; iii Master Plan
- #2 of Master Plan Remove
- #3 of Master Plan Remove

Discussion ended and meeting adjourned

X. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:45

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand
Unanimously approved by 7 members present**

**Respectfully submitted
Donna Bunk**