

Approved 3.14.18

**The Hamilton Wenham Regional
School District
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 7:00 pm
Buker School Multipurpose Room**

Present:

David Polito
Kerry Gertz
Joshua Liebow, Chair
Gene Lee (7:08 pm arrival)
Jeanise Bertrand

Also Present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeff Sands, Assistant to the Superintendent
James Goudie, Student Government Representative

1. Call to Order

7:00

Josh Liebow calls the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen's Comments

Josh Liebow opens the floor to citizen comments.

4. Chair's Report

- Enrollment study was sent to the Town of Wenham via Dropbox, before School Committee reviewed it. This resulted in a violation of the School Committee protocol. Josh reminds committee of the protocols and encourages members to review and respect them.

5. Superintendent's Report

- Mike Harvey congratulates Danielle Petrucci, Miles River Health Teacher, who has been named the Massachusetts Health Educator of the year. Congratulations!
- High School student government representatives (present) will respond to the Parkland tragedy later this evening. Mike voices support for the students, and has spoken with leadership team as well as High School Principal Eric Tracy.
- Two candidates have submitted necessary paperwork for the 2 open School Committee seats: Stacey Metternick and Peter Wolczik. Elections are held Tuesday, April 12, 2018.

6. Consent Agenda

- a) Warrants
 - February 14, 2018
- b) Minutes

Exhibit A

● February 13, 2018

Exhibit B

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING WARRANTS FROM FEBRUARY 14th, 2018, AND THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13th, 2018 AS WRITTEN.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by David Polito.

Unanimously approved by 4 members present.

MOTION PASSES

7. New Business

A. Student Government Presentation

James Goudie, President

John Farnham, Vice President (Green coat)

Alex Renaud, Treasurer (Black coat)

Andrew Riccio, Secretary (Suit:)

James Goudie: On March 14th Hamilton Wenham High School is planning a 17-minute walk out beginning at 10:00am to hold a moment of silence for each student lost at Parkland. Plan to read bios from students and talk about next steps. Invitation extended to League of Women Voters.

James Goudie provides update on DECA competition.

Gene Lee arrives.

John Farnham reviews High School athletic team updates as well as junior class plans for prom.

Alex Renaud presents an overview of the food packaging event and fundraising activities aimed at providing food to area families in need. Packaged around \$2,000.00 worth of meals.

Andrew Riccio speaks about a derogatory term found on school computer and the resulting decision to bring speaker to address racism and help facilitate small group discussions.

Thank you to student government!

B. Donations

Exhibit C

EdFund – Cardio Drumming Equipment \$999.58

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM EDFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$999.58 FOR CARDIO DRUMMING EQUIPMENT.

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand.

Unanimously approved by 5 members present.

MOTION PASSES

Thank you to EdFund for this generous donation!

C. Report on Superintendent's Goal Progress

Exhibit D

Michael Harvey reviews goal progress and status updates including (1) Student Learning Goals; (2) Professional Improvement Goal; (3) District Improvement Goal. Outlined in [School Committee Packet](#) pages 30 - 35.

Discussion regarding the observation action mentioned in goal # 2 status update, as well as inquiry into the metrics utilized.

D. Update on Enrollment Study

Exhibit E

McKibben will present to School Committee on March 28th.

Mike Harvey states that enrollment in schools will continue to decrease, but not as drastically as seen in the past.

Discussion regarding average age of townspeople, difference between what is reported and what was discussed at the Joint Committee Meeting. Further discussion regarding the details of the study, usefulness of presentation to explain details, and complexities of interpreting data without explanation.

Discussion regarding base assessment and minimum spending accounts, as well as application of methodology for past data.

E. Communications Plan for FY19 Budget and Debt Exclusion Articles

School Committee was invited to Wenham Day on 4/2/2018, which is the Monday before the Annual Town Meeting. Mike has put together a list of events that committee may want to consider:

Wenham Day	04/02/2018
Wenham FinCom	04/02/2018
Buker School Open House	03/05/2018 @ 5:30 pm
Athletics Parents	3/13/2018
Kindergarten orientation	03/13/2018 @ 6:30 pm, Winthrop
Cutler Friends	03/26/2018
Board of Education Fund	03/13/2018
League of Women Voters	03/27/2018

Discussion regarding the policies of advocating for ballot questions/ attendance at Town Meeting.

Mike Harvey reads aloud the policies including School Committee Members being able to speak in support, but that 4 or more members discussing an issue on social media constitutes a gray area for violating open meeting law.

Discussion regarding best approaches and strategies. Mike reiterates that School Committee can advocate for participation in the Annual Town Meeting, but not advocate for a specific ballot vote.

Facebook posts can advocate for a position, and Josh Liebow asks that David Polito and Michelle Bailey discuss strategy and become designated School Committee social media commenters.

Discussion regarding attendance at the events specifically taking place on 03/13/2018: Mike plans on attending Athletic Parents' Info Night and EdFund, and Kerri offers to attend Kindergarten Orientation.

Discussion regarding talking points of school committee members and consistent messaging. Jeanise Bertrand asks James Goudie to encourage his 18+ friends to attend ATM and to vote.

School COmmittee Members discuss strategy in talking points for attending upcoming events and in general. David Polito would like the record to reflect that he is an art teacher and supports the arts, and therefore previous claims that he supports high user fees for the arts are inaccurate.

David Polito will coordinate with Michelle Bailey through Mike Harvey to agree on outline of talking points and strategy.

Discussion regarding the structure of warrants and next steps after Annual Town Meeting.

8. Other

a) Topics for next meeting, Wednesday 03/14/18:

- Update from Friends of Buker on playground;
- Student activities subsidiary account;
- Financial forecast (tentative);
- Revisit the list of initiatives that were presented in October 2017. Jeff Sands has been away and has asked to push this item to 03/28/2018.

Josh will be out on the 14th.

9. Vote to Adjourn

9:30 pm

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ADJOURN AT 7:55 PM.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz, SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand.
Unanimously approved by 5 members present.**

MOTION PASSES

Respectfully submitted, March 7, 2018, Mahala Lettvin