



HAMILTON-WENHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

**Hamilton - Wenham Regional School Committee
Capital Planning / Finance Subcommittee Meeting**

Virtual Zoom Meeting ([Link](#))

Meeting ID: 982 6490 9061

Password: 035560

Monday, January 25, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Present:

Michelle Horgan, Chair

Anna Siedzik, Secretary

Julia Campbell

Also Present:

Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration

Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities, and Operations

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

Mary Beth Banios (partial attendance, arriving at approximately 8:30 PM)

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Horgan calls the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. This meeting is being held remotely per emergency order of the Governor.

Ms. Siedzik enters the meeting shortly after the call to order; roll call attendance is then taken:

Julia Campbell PRESENT

Anna Siedzik PRESENT

Michelle Horgan PRESENT

Also joining the meeting are Thomas Geary and Vincent Leone.

2. Approve Minutes: December 15, 2021

Minutes have yet to be completed at this point; they will be reviewed and approved at a future meeting.

3. Review FY22 Budget

[Exhibit](#)

Mr. Leone and Mr. Geary attend the meeting to present the FY22 Proposed Budget.

There is discussion surrounding the procedural elements inherent in the *Capital Planning/Finance Subcommittee* and the full school committee in reviewing, revising, and approving the proposed budget.

There is discussion regarding whether subcommittee members believe the budget would be approved by the voting citizens of Hamilton and Wenham. Discussion regarding potential cuts to decrease the budget, with Mr. Leone stating that Superintendent Banios would need to be present during conversations like this.

There is discussion regarding community values; district priorities; communication strategy; likelihood of the proposed budget passing; town budgets; town overrides; tax rates; etc. Continued conversation about town culture and anticipation of the outcome of voting to approve the district's budget.

Members review specific line item amounts, including:

- Discretionary spending, including contracted public relations position;
- Portrait of a Graduate;
- Feasibility Study;
- Non-expendable office supplies;
- COLA increase;
- Reclassification of technology costs;
- Athletic Department, including family cap and potential changes;

Continued discussion regarding district priorities. Ms. Horgan states that the role of the School Committee is to direct the administration to come up with a lesser amount. Ms. Siedzik disagrees, noting that the School Committee is tasked with listening to the community and bringing those priorities to be reflected through the budget and other actions. The discussion continues with ongoing disagreement about the role of the subcommittee and school committee.

There is discussion regarding the scheduling of future meetings; answering subcommittee members' questions; approaching deadlines; Superintendent Banios' attendance at subcommittee meetings; etc. Ms. Siedzik and Ms. Campbell would both like to see alternative options.

Superintendent Banios joins the meeting at approximately 8:30 PM, and provides explanations regarding members' questions. Specifically, Ms. Banios reviews the restructuring plan and positions involved. Ms. Siedzik asks if there are alternative plans to the restructuring presented, with Ms. Banios explaining that if anything *had* to be eliminated, it would need to be the two middle school positions.

There is continued discussion regarding the likelihood of favorable town votes for the district's budget. There is discussion about the potential cost savings of restructuring schools; timeline/deadlines; COLA increase; union negotiations; assumptions inherent in the tentative budget; process/procedure moving forward; etc. There is discussion about opportunities for further discussion/decision-making at future meetings.

Ms. Siedzik asks Mr. Leone to confirm the towns' final numbers. Mr. Geary reminds the subcommittee that the district chose not to pursue their Capital Budget this year, remaining cognizant of the burden on tax payers.

4. Other items not reasonably anticipated by Chair

None.

5. Set date for future meeting

The *Capital Planning/ Finance Subcommittee* will meet on at a future date, TBD through email.

The Chairs of the School Committee and Towns' BOS and FINCOMs will be meeting on 02/01/2021. There is also a joint meeting coming up on 02/10/2021.

6. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT WE ADJOURN THE 01/25/2021 CAPITAL PLANNING/ FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:59 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Julia Campbell YES;

Anna Siedzik YES;
Michelle Horgan YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

Respectfully submitted February 4, 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Please [click here](#) to read the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the [Zoom.com](#) application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select "Join Meeting" in the upper right corner and enter the Meeting ID: 982 6490 9061; Password: 035560. The community should ask questions via the "chat" function within the Zoom application during the Citizen's Comments section. During the Zoom meeting, participants will be given instructions on how to provide their comments. Unfortunately, we must limit the in-person conversations to just the Committee members. However, for the benefit of all, the School Committee meetings will be available on our local cable channel, HWCam, and [HWCam.org](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the Public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.