



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

Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting

Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)

Zoom Webinar ID: 988 2355 3734

Meeting Password: 378501

Monday, December 14, 2020

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Present:

Anna Siedzik, Chairperson

Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson

Peter Wolczik, Secretary

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

Dorothy Presser, MASC Representative

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum and all members of the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* present, Ms. Seidzik, Chairperson, calls the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. This meeting is being recorded and being held remotely per the emergency order of the Governor.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- [10/14/2020](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE *POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE* APPROVE THE 10/14/2020 MINUTES; CHANGING THE SCRIBNER'S ERROR IN ORDER TO ACCURATELY REFLECT THE CORRECT DATE OF THE MEETING.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Peter Wolczik YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

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

3. Review policies in the following sections:

- [High School Community Service Requirement \(EBC\)](#)

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding the *High School Community Service Requirement (EBC)* as shown above in the [exhibit](#). The Policy Issues for the Pandemic details the changes to district policies, and other actions the district may take in order to prioritize the safety and health of district students and families, including:

- *Local graduation requirements (File IKF)*: In accordance with guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and modifications to current regulation or law, the Superintendent may propose, subject to the approval of the School Committee, modifications to the policy of the district regarding graduation requirements (page 2).

Dorothy Presser recommends changing the community service hours for each of the grade levels, rather than a required cumulative total. There is some discussion regarding the strategy involved in defining the

number of hours per grade level, as well as the difficulty some students may face in trying to make up hours. Superintendent Banios recommends waiving the required hours for Seniors for this year.

Seniors: Waived requirement

Juniors: 30 hours

Sophomores: 35 hours

Freshmen: 35 hours

Superintendent Banios would like to bring this to the School Committee for their approval/vote at the 01/06/2021 meeting.

I MOVE THAT WE SUPPORT MARY BETH BANIOS PROPOSAL REGARDING COMMUNITY SERVICE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, AS DETAILED ABOVE IN DISCUSSION.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik YES;

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

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

- Religious Observances (IMDC)

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding Religious Observances (IMDC) policy as shown above in the [exhibit](#).

There is some discussion about adding “introducing” long term assignments/major new concepts. There is discussion surrounding religious observance versus “high holy” days, and the complexities inherent in honoring these beliefs.

I MOVE THAT WE ADD THE WORDS “INTRODUCTION OF” TO BULLET POINT NUMBER 5, SO THAT IT READS, “AVOID WHENEVER POSSIBLE SCHEDULING TEST PREPARATION, TESTS, AND INTRODUCTION OF AND/OR DUE DATES FOR LONG-TERM ASSIGNMENTS, WHEN THESE ARE WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE DISTRICT, IN CONSIDERATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC HOLIDAYS”.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Discussion: Potential change of “holiday” wording, etc.

Michelle Horgan NO;

Peter Wolczik YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority (2:1) roll call vote of three (3) members present.

- Public Comment (B2002, B2010, BEDH)

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

Review of the public comment policies, as written in the above exhibits.

The *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* agree to the changes outlined in the [attachment](#), which are also included as exhibits in the 01/06/2021 School Committee meeting agenda.

Changes to the policy include clarifying language throughout; (bullet point 1) citizen “may be asked” to sign in; changing the length of public comments from 15 to 20 minutes, with language added that such time may be extended at the discretion of the committee; (bullet point 2) replacing “city/town” with

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“address”; (bullet point 3) adding “and objective criticisms of school operations and programs” to the scope of authority of the school committee;

Ms. Siedzik believes that parents should be afforded the opportunity to speak freely about their own children (students in district), however there is some disagreement from Ms. Presser about this issue. Ms. Siedzik recommends that the Chair remind the community about the permanence of comments before beginning the public comment portion of the meeting.

I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY, AS DISCUSSED THIS EVENING AND DETAILED ABOVE, AND FURTHER DETAILED IN THE [ATTACHMENT](#).

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES.

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

The first reading of the Public Comment Policy will be scheduled for the 01/06/2021 School Committee meeting.

- Weapons

[Exhibit 1](#)
[Exhibit 2](#)

Discussion regarding the Weapons policy, as shown above in exhibits 1-2, above. There is discussion surrounding clarifying potentially confusing language and a brief discussion regarding the rights and responsibilities of students. The original policy and the changes made to that policy are detailed in the [attachment](#), also included as exhibits to the 01/06/2021 regular School Committee meeting agenda.

I MOVE THAT WE ADOPT THE CHANGES TO THE WEAPONS POLICY, AS DISCUSSED THIS EVENING, AND AS SHOWN IN THE [ATTACHMENT](#).

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Horgan	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES.

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

The first reading of the Weapons Policy will be scheduled for the 01/06/2021 School Committee meeting.

4. Other items unanticipated by the Chair

None.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

After discussion regarding members' availability and School Committee meeting calendar, the next *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, 01/14/2021 at 7:00 PM, with the following agenda items:

- School Committee member Dana Allara will attend the meeting as a guest to discuss policy and procedure regarding executive session minutes;
- Ongoing Policy Review (starting at IJOA).

6. Adjournment

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 12/14/2020 MEETING AT 8:41 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Peter Wolczik YES;

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

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

Respectfully submitted January 14, 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: Meeting ID: 988 2355 3734 Passcode: 378501. 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.