



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

School Committee Meeting
Zoom Virtual Meeting [Link](#)
Zoom Webinar ID: 953 0459 7466
Meeting Password: 026270
Wednesday, September 30, 2020
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Present:

Michelle Bailey, Chairperson
Michelle Horgan, Vice Chairperson
Dana Allara, Secretary
Anna Siedzik, Vice Secretary
Peter Wolczik
David Polito
Stacey Metternick

Also Present:

Mary Beth Banios, District Superintendent
Vincent Leone, Assistant Superintendent to Finance and Administration
Thomas Geary, Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations
Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal
Craig Genuardo, Athletic Director
Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary
Maribeth Ting, Wenham Public Health Nurse
Lea Tabenkin, District Nurse Leader, High School Nurse
Diane Bucco, Wenham Town Clerk

1. Call to Order

7:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Bailey calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. This meeting is being recorded by HWCAM and held remotely per the Governor's emergency order.

2. Citizen's Comments

[Exhibit](#)

Any citizen wishing to speak before the Committee shall identify himself or herself by name and address. Speakers will be allowed three (3) minutes to present their material. After Citizen's Comments, the chat feature will be turned off. If members want to be recognized, they can use the raise hand feature. Total comment time will be limited to 20 minutes.

Ms. Bailey reviews the School Committee's citizen comment policy, highlighting that each citizen will be limited to 3 minutes, with a total of 20 minutes dedicated to citizen's comments. Further, comments must be related to issues covered in the meeting's agenda, and no comments regarding specific district staff are permitted.

Maureen Weihs [address unknown]: Ms. Weihs is a parent of Hamilton - Wenham Senior. in the district. She explains that district seniors face a unique challenge in applying for colleges, highlighting the importance of first and second quarter grades, teacher engagement, and developing skills to carry on in their higher education. Ms. Weihs notes that the "information gathering" narrative is a fairly constant

response from the district, but - especially for seniors - this will need to change moving forward. The amount of teachers leaving the district should come as no surprise given the communication from them beforehand. Finally, she points out that the hybrid model was not fully nor accurately explained to families; she certainly would not have voted in favor of the hybrid plan had she heard accurate information regarding the plan. She urges the School Committee to explain the hybrid and remote learning models in accurate detail and full transparency during tonight's meeting.

Ms. Bailey asks the next citizen, *Amy Katz, 116 Gregory Island Rd. Hamilton*, if her comment pertains to the hybrid/remote learning model. Ms. Katz confirms that her comment relates to this topic, at which point Ms. Bailey says that it would be best if community members with similar comments instead email the School Committee.

Mr. Polito challenges Ms. Bailey's comments, noting that the Chair is censoring citizen comments by restricting topics. Citizen's comments have historically been an open forum. Mr. Wolczik concurs. Ms. Bailey states that past meetings have been liberal in adhering to the policy, however, it has always been within the Chair's discretion to limit citizen comments to topics listed on that meeting's agenda (citing District Policy, Section B - School Committee, [B2002 - Public Participation at School Committee Meetings](#), policy bullet point #3¹).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADD DISCUSSION OF STAFFING LEAVES AND COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES ON STUDENT LEARNING TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA PER DISTRICT POLICY, SECTION B - SCHOOL COMMITTEE, [B2001 - BY LAWS](#), ARTICLE 6: THE CHAIR MAY ADD TO THE AGENDA ITEMS THAT HE/SHE DID NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATE NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. NO ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA, EXCEPT FOR BRIEF INFORMATIVE COMMENTS, MAY BE INTRODUCED FOR COMMITTEE ACTION UNLESS AGREED TO BY 2/3RDS VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Peter Wolczik.

Mr. Polito moves to vote.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE END DISCUSSION AND VOTE.

MOTION by David Polito.

Discussion: Regarding School Committee and parliamentary procedure, with Ms. Bailey explaining that a *Motion to Vote* means ending all discussion and voting on the motion on the floor. Continued discussion regarding the motion(s) on the floor.

MOTION TO VOTE:

David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	NO;
Peter Wolczik	NO;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	NO;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION FAILS (3:3).

¹ Topics for discussion are limited to those items on the School Committee meeting agenda for that evening. Citizens wishing to introduce a new topic are advised to contact either the Superintendent of Schools or the Committee Chair in writing at least one week prior to the date of the meeting.

There is a lengthy debate regarding Ms. Siedzik's motion to add the topic to the agenda, which Ms. Bailey points out will require a 2/3 majority vote in order to pass. Ms. Siedzik explains that her motion is predicated on the School Committee's own policy, as noted, and that she has called attention to this topic at past meetings, without satisfactory responses. She notes that the issue is one of urgency, and that adding the discussion to the agenda would serve the public, who have been vocal about wanting further details about the plan moving forward.

Ms. Allara believes that the Superintendent's report later in the meeting would cover some of the information requested by the community. Ms. Allara expresses her concern about adding an agenda item with no feasible resolution or discernible action.

Ms. Horgan agrees that the School Committee needs to talk about issues, but she is concerned that the proposed agenda item would publicize private HR information.

Mr. Polito agrees with Ms. Siedzik: the discussion should be added to the agenda as it is absolutely critical, as the community has indicated, and adding the discussion to the agenda this evening ensures that important issues are addressed. This will put the community's collective mind at ease.

Ms. Banios indicates that the district has resolved - or is working to resolve - personnel issues. She asks that both the community and the School Committee continue to approach this with patience and flexibility. She does not believe that addressing specific staffing concerns during tonight's meeting, in a public setting, is appropriate.

Ms. Siedzik reiterates her intention in making the motion: to allow a public conversation about receiving and implementing feedback, as well as general district staffing (*not* requiring specific/protected staff information).

Mr. Wolczik agrees with Ms. Siedzik and Mr. Polito that this discussion is crucial and should be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Ms. Bailey states that she and Superintendent Banios have already spoken regarding the potential need for an emergency meeting to address this issue later in the week. She adds that the motion on the floor is unprofessional, and she would have appreciated a more appropriate channel of giving advance notice of intent to make the motion. There is some disagreement and obvious tensions regarding appropriate School Committee protocols and responsibilities of the Chairperson.

There is discussion regarding the handling of information not intended for the public; potential need for a meeting in Executive Session; transparency with the community; etc.

Ms. Siedzik reiterates that she has followed all district policies and she brought the issue up professionally and with consideration of the number of other topics on the agenda this evening. She disagrees with Ms. Bailey's earlier comments about the unprofessional/disrespectful approach of bringing forward this motion.

Superintendent Banios explains that the district plans to be fully staffed at the High School and Elementary Schools upon schools opening tomorrow. In addition, the one Middle School staffing concern that came up today is being resolved.

Mr. Polito interjects, noting that discussion is occurring before the School Committee has voted on the motion. Ms. Banios continues her explanation, again highlighting how important it is for the School Committee and community to remain patient. Mr. Polito indicates that this discussion could violate Open Meeting Law. Ms. Bailey disagrees, stating that the information would have been part of the Superintendent's Report.

ORIGINAL MOTION TO ADD TOPIC TO AGENDA:

Anna Siedzik	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	NO;
David Polito	YES;
Dana Allara	NO;
Michelle Bailey	NO.

MOTION FAILS (3:3).

Amy Katz, 116 Gregory Island Rd. Hamilton: Ms. Katz is a parent to a HWRHS Junior. She has sent numerous emails without receiving a response. Ms. Katz hopes that the teachers' accommodations will be granted. She also hopes to hear a more detailed plan incorporating classes led by Hamilton - Wenham district teachers. She asks for flexibility in granting accommodations and ensuring district teacher led classes - the same flexibility that the district has asked of the community.

3. New Business

a. Adjustments to 2020-2021 School Year Calendar

[Exhibit](#)

Discussion regarding moving the Teacher Work Day originally scheduled 10/09/20 to 11/03/20; parent-teacher conferences; Wednesday as a teacher planning day; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: 20/21 calendar changes and potential cohort inequities; recuperation days needed; presidential election; etc.

Peter Wolczik	NO;
Dana Allara	YES;
David Polito	NO;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	NO;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION FAILS (3:3).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAKE THE WEDNESDAY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2020- 2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: This vote would allow teachers to have adequate preparation time allotted on Wednesday school days.

Anna Siedzik	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;

Peter Wolczik YES;
David Polito YES;
Dana Allara YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO MAKE THE CHANGE WITH REGARD TO THE OCTOBER 9TH HOLIDAY AND THE NOVEMBER 3RD ELECTION DAY, AS SHOWN IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) ON THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Regarding previous motions; intention of the motion on the floor; cohort inequities; anticipated need for a break; voting challenges during pandemic; etc. Dianne Bucco, *Wenham Town Clerk*, appears to explain the voting challenges and proposal in more detail. Superintendent Banios adds to the discussion regarding the impact on student learning and adjustments to district staff time and responsibilities.

Dana Allara YES;
Peter Wolczik YES;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Anna Siedzik YES*;
David Polito YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of five (5) members present. (Dana Allara unintentionally excluded from this vote).

* With apologies to Cohort A.

Superintendent Banios will make both these calendar changes and send it out ASAP.

b. Vote COVID MOA with HWEA

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE HAMILTON-WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE HAMILTON-WENHAM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR THE OPENING OF SCHOOLS AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) IN THE AGENDA.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: District's ability to fulfill responsibilities relating to positive COVID cases and past teaching loads outlined in the memorandum of agreement. Further discussion regarding learning models including synchronous learning and effect on expectations about teachers' workload.

Dana Allara YES;
Peter Wolczik YES;
David Polito YES;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Anna Siedzik YES;
Michelle Bailey YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

c. Fall Sports Fees

[Exhibit](#)

Craig Genuardo, *Athletic Director*, explains the Fall Sports fees, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Discussion surrounding equalizing sports fees between gendered sports; equalizing fees between sports; etc. Ms.

Siedzik notes the sports fee structure does not allow equal access to sports and encourages an anti-sexist approach to developing the district's sports fees. Mr. Genuardo explains that he is hopeful that this issue can be resolved in the near future, but explains the difference in fee structure presented. Further discussion regarding fee structure and the role of the School Committee in approving those sports fees.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FALL SPORTS FEES AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Discussion: Further discussion regarding preparations for sports season. Mr. Wolczik shares Ms. Siedzik's equity concerns.

Michelle Horgan	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES*;
Dana Allara	YES;
Peter Wolczik	YES
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

* Ms. Siedzik votes in the affirmative with faith that the sports fees equity issues will be fixed. Ms. Siedzik notes that she will vote no in the future should similar sports reflect unequal fees.

d. Boys Soccer Booster Request to Fund an Assistant Coach (originally E) [Exhibit](#)
Craig Genuardo, *Athletic Director*, appears this evening asking the School Committee to accept the Boys Soccer Booster request to fund an assistant coach, as detailed in the 09/29/20 letter from Dina Coffey, *HW Goal Club President* (as shown in the [exhibit](#)). Discussion regarding how the Boosters function and how coaches and assistant coaches are paid, if at all. Discussion regarding gender equity and potential inequities in the current structure and actions of district and booster groups.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO FUND AN ASSISTANT COACH FROM THE HAMILTON WENHAM HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER BOOSTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,306, AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION IN THAT AMOUNT, AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#).

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik	YES
Anna Siedzik	NO*;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority (5:1) roll call vote of six (6) members present.

* Ms. Siedzik notes that if this is brought back as a request for *both* the boys and girls teams, she will vote in the affirmative.

e. FY22 Budget Development Timeline (originally D) [Exhibit](#)
Mr. Leone presents the details of the FY22 Budget Development Timeline, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). The exhibit and discussion are for information purposes only; no vote from the School Committee is needed. Discussion regarding scheduling future School Committee meetings in order to address the budget.

Discussion about whether a budget workshop is necessary this year; there is no vocalized support of hosting a budget workshop similar to the two large meetings hosted for the FY20 budget workshop.

f. Member Request to Generate an Analysis of Custodial and Maintenance Contractor Costs

Discussion regarding the timeliness and urgency of Mr. Wolczik's request for the district administration to generate an analysis of custodial and maintenance contractor costs. Mr. Wolczik believes that hiring contractors to complete the work that would have normally been completed by the (now laid-off) maintenance staff was a mistake and has the potential to negatively impact the budget. He is concerned that the district will end up spending an amount that far exceeds what would have been paid out to maintenance staff should they have been kept on the payroll.

Discussion regarding the district's current capacity to meet this request; strategy in prioritizing work based on the current crisis situation; expectations of district administration; etc. Discussion regarding providing the information requested, with Mr. Leone explaining that this level of detail would require him working with Thomas Geary to analyze costs, including each individual contractor invoice.

Mr. Polito and Ms. Siedzik point out that continuing to defer this, alongside many other issues, is dangerous. Discussion regarding the importance of this topic and the timeline in the School Committee receiving this information.

Mr. Wolczik agrees that waiting for the first quarter budget report, as normally anticipated in the School Committee's schedule, is acceptable. Mr. Leone recommends that the School Committee wait to receive this information until the first quarter report and budget forecast, in order to situate employees and allow additional moving parts to stabilize. There are no objections to this suggestion. The information will be provided during Mr. Leone's first quarter budget report and forecast.

g. Vote to approve the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student Handbook [Exhibit](#)

Eric Tracy, HWRHS Principal reviews the minimal changes made to the *HWRHS Student Handbook*, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). Mr. Tracy explains that this year's changes include addition of new position names and contact information, updating or correcting staff email addresses, as well as date changes.

I MOVE THAT WE TABLE THE AGENDA ITEM, *VOTE TO APPROVE THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK* UNTIL THE NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING, GIVEN THAT THE [EXHIBIT](#), A 101-PAGE DOCUMENT, WAS RECEIVED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AT 2:11 PM TODAY, WHICH DISALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEES' REVIEW.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by David Polito.

Discussion: Timeliness of a motion to approve the Student Handbook and whether the agenda item could have been anticipated. Discussion regarding whether approving the handbook is of an urgent nature, and whether last year's Student Handbook expires this year. Superintendent Banios explains that approving a Student Handbook every year is best practice, and reiterates the nominal changes made to this year's handbook. She understands the School Committee needs additional time to review the document, however she asks the School Committee to consider voting to approve the COVID related appendix, which has a direct impact on families and students planning and preparing for the school year.

Anna Siedzik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;

Peter Wolczik YES*;
Michelle Bailey YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

* Mr. Wolczik apologizes to Mr. Tracy for the amount of time he has to invest with this issue.

The agenda item, *Vote to approve the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School Student Handbook* is tabled until the next School Committee meeting, Tuesday, 10/06/20 at 6:00 PM.

4. COVID Management

a. Update on communication for positive COVID case in schools

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios explains that this agenda item seeks to inform the School Committee of the district's plan of communication and action should there be a positive COVID case in the schools. Thomas Geary, *Director of Maintenance, Facilities & Operations*, Maribeth Ting, *Wenham Public Health Nurse*, and Lea Tabenkin, *District Nurse Leader/ High School Nurse* appear to explain the process in more detail.

Mr. Geary, Ms. Ting, and Ms. Tabenkin explain the details of the district's communication plan in response to positive COVID cases, including a sample letter based on the DESE communication toolkit, as illustrated in the [exhibit](#). Discussion regarding district's SNAP health portal; necessary health software purchase and implementation; parent/family responsibility; further technology tools; etc. Discussion regarding the district's responsibility and efforts to keep HIPAA and FERPA information confidential. Detailed discussion regarding how the district plans to protect student information while also providing protection for all student health. Discussion regarding the "close-contact" interview process, reasonable evaluation concerning COVID positive cases, and identifying those most at risk. Further discussion regarding specific implementation of these efforts. This discussion is for the School Committee's information and understanding only; no School Committee vote is necessary.

b. Reopening Plan Language for COVID Management Team

[Exhibit](#)

Superintendent Banios reviews the COVID Management Team's adjusted Reopening Plan Language, as shown in the [exhibit](#). Ms. Allara explains the 8/14/2020 School Committee meeting and decision. The draft minutes from 8/14/2020 indicated that there was a motion made by the School Committee to authorize Superintendent Mary Beth Banios to take action regarding the COVID Response Team, however, no such motion was made, as the School Committee ultimately decided it was unnecessary. The language is not in conflict with any motion made (as no motion was made), however the proposed language change clarifies that the COVID Response Team is an advisory team that makes recommendations surrounding the appropriate mode of learning. The change to the language clarifies that the COVID Response Team makes a recommendation regarding the mode of learning, but that Superintendent Banios makes the final decision.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE CHANGES TO THE LANGUAGE IN THE PLAN AS PRESENTED IN THE [EXHIBIT](#) THE PARAGRAPH DISCUSSING THE COVID-19 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

David Polito NO;
Dana Allara YES;
Anna Siedzik YES*;
Michelle Horgan YES;
Peter Wolczik YES*;
Michelle Bailey YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority roll call vote (5:1) of six (6) members present.

* Ms. Siedzik votes in the affirmative, however, she notes the problematic nature of removing language from the document while considering the document.

** Mr. Wolczik asks if another motion can be made to change the language (which was already removed during discussion). There is ongoing discussion regarding the changes made to the document.

Discussion regarding best practices procedurally when considering exhibits and changing language. There is some discussion regarding preventing documents from being changed in the future, with a brief discussion regarding potential strategies to prevent confusion (perhaps uploading the documents as pdfs rather than live and editable Google Docs).

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE EDIT THE DOCUMENT AS SHOWN IN THE EXHIBIT BY REMOVING (STRIKETHROUGH) THE LANGUAGE ON PAGE 2:

STAFFING DURING HYBRID AND FULL IN PERSON MODELS IT IS THE EXPECTATION THAT ALL STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TEACH IN THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS DURING THE HYBRID OR IN PERSON MODEL. THE DISTRICT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A REMOTE TEACHING OPTION TO STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO TEACH IN PERSON BECAUSE OF DOCUMENTED MEDICAL CONDITIONS MAKING THEM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO COVI-19 OR CHILD CARE RESPONSIBILITIES CONSISTENT WITH FFCRA.

WITH THE NOTATION THAT SUCH LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED IN THE EXHIBIT IN ERROR, AND WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THIS MEETING.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
David Polito	NO;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES through majority roll call vote (5:1) of six (6) members present.

5. Chair's Report

a. School Committee Retreat Dates

The School Committee's retreat will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 6:00 PM. The retreat will be hosted in-person in the Buker Multipurpose Room, with proper social distancing enforced. Ms. Bailey and Superintendent Banios will work collaboratively to develop the agenda, which will need to be posted by this Friday, 10/02/2020. Any requests for agenda items to be addressed should be emailed to Ms. Bailey and Superintendent Banios.

Mr. Wolczik asks for discussion regarding the district's learning management system at the 10/06/20 retreat/ meeting, as he has asked numerous times for this issue to be addressed. Further discussion regarding procedure to discuss the topic of the district's learning management system. There is agreement that the issue be discussed in a future *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee*, however there is no clear action steps outlined regarding how this issue would be introduced at the *Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee*.

b. Defining Charge of Sub-Committees

All subcommittee name changes and finalized subcommittee charges will need to be approved during the School Committee's second meeting in October.

Other

- Ms. Bailey brings up the videos compiled by the schools, which she hopes will be shared on social media platforms.
- Ms. Bailey requests updates from Friends groups at the next meeting.
- Ms. Bailey will follow up with SEPAC to receive an update on their meeting last night.

6. ~~Superintendent's Report~~

7. Committee Reports

a. Capital/Financial Planning Subcommittee

Ms. Horgan reports that the subcommittee met this past month, and they plan to meet again in November to hear from Mr. Leone regarding FY21 Budget process and other district financial concerns/updates.

b. Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Siedzik reports that the subcommittee will meet on 10/14/20 to address Religious Observance, Harassment, and Weapons policies. The agenda for this meeting still needs to be posted. The subcommittee will also need to formally adopt the charge.

c. Negotiations Subcommittee

No update.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Warrants

- Voucher No. 1011
- Voucher No. 2940
- Voucher No. 1012
- Voucher No. 2942
- Voucher No. 2941
- Voucher No. 9

[Exhibit](#)

b. Minutes

- August 10, 2020
- August 14, 2020

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES DATED 08/10/20; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES DATED 08/10/20 AS WRITTEN IN THE CONSENT AGENDA; THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Discussion: Ms. Siedzik inquires about the strikethrough language appearing in the 08/10/20 meeting minutes, as detailed in the minutes in the [exhibit](#). Ms. Lettvin, *Recording Secretary*, explains that the items appeared on the meeting agenda, however they were not addressed in any capacity during the meeting.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Bailey	YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of six (6) members present.

9. Other

- A. Topics for next meeting (Next Meetings: Retreat - Tuesday, 10/06/2020; Regular Meeting - Wednesday, 10/21/20)

The School Committee meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, 10/07/20, is cancelled. Ms. Siedzik is concerned that this meeting is no longer taking place, and that the next School Committee meeting will be a few weeks away.

Ms. Siedzik attempts to offer the agenda items she wishes to address at the next meeting. Ms. Bailey states that there is no need for discussion about topics for future meetings. She explains that for the past 3 meetings, she has asked Superintendent Banios to remove the *Topics for Next Meeting* from the meeting agenda. Ms. Bailey states that the topics for future meetings can be emailed to her, and it is therefore unnecessary to discuss this during the meeting.

Ms. Bailey expresses her frustration regarding ongoing discussion about agenda items. Further, she notes her frustration regarding the length of this meeting; asking for members to be brief in their discussion, and refrain from grandstanding. Ms. Bailey continues, noting that 45 minutes of the meeting were wasted because she was misled on the policy Ms. Siedzik referenced earlier in the meeting. Ms. Bailey notes that the policy Ms. Siedzik referenced specifies that the chair can add an agenda item. There are disagreements about this issue and others, with notable tension throughout discussion.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:48 PM.

**MOTION by Michelle Bailey; NO SECOND.
MOTION FAILS.**

Ms. Bailey exits the meeting at 10:48 PM.

Ms. Siedzik notes that she erroneously referred to School Committee policy [B2001](#) earlier in the meeting. “The Chair may add to the agenda items that he/she did not reasonable anticipate needed to be discussed at the meeting. No item not on the agenda, except for brief informative comments, may be introduced for Committee action unless agreed to by 2/3rds vote of those present.” Ms. Siedzik asserts that while the language of B2001 is somewhat ambiguous, the language of [B2002](#) point number 3 is more definitive: “However, the School Committee may choose to add to the agenda a topic proposed by a guest who wishes

to address the Committee, if a majority of School Committee members at that meeting approve the agenda change”.

Ms. Siedzik requests the following agenda items, which she will also email to Ms. Bailey:

- Staffing and educational outcomes for students, coverage (public meeting);
- Feedback and plan iteration moving forward (public meeting);
- Enrollment update and staffing spread;
- Executive session with legal counsel, Naomi Stonberg present in order to address liability and ADA accommodations;
- November/ future meeting to address athletic user fees and athletic programs (Criag Genualdo)

Mr. Wolczik requests the following agenda items, which he will also email to Ms. Bailey:

- Custodial/maintenance staffing update.

Mr. Polito requests the following agenda items, which he will also email to Ms. Bailey:

- The School Committee Chairperson requesting removal of the topic Items for Future Meetings from the agenda of regular School Committee meetings;
- Other actions limiting/silencing voices of School Committee members and the general public.

Ms. Siedzik agrees with Mr. Polito’s request for this issue to be addressed.

Ms. Horgan asks if a meeting scheduled for 10/07/20 is possible. Superintendent Banios says the meeting was scheduled as a placeholder. Ms. Siedzik is concerned about the length of time between meetings. The Policy Subcommittee agrees to reschedule their 10/14/20 meeting to accommodate a School Committee meeting to address urgent concerns listed above, if possible.

10. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON - WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 09/30/2020 MEETING AT 10:56 PM.

MOTION by Dana Allara; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Peter Wolczik	YES;
Anna Siedzik	YES;
Dana Allara	YES;
David Polito	YES;
Michelle Horgan	YES;

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of five (5) members present.

Respectfully submitted October 27th, 2020 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 webinar id:953 0459 7466; password: 026270. 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.