

Approved 12-15-16

Date: November 17, 2016  
To: School Committee Members  
From: Michael Harvey, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: Joint meeting of the FinComs of Hamilton and Wenham, along with the  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee

**Joint meeting of the School Committee and the Hamilton & Wenham Finance Committees  
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mike Lucy and Stacey Metternick called the joint meeting of the Financial Committees of the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham, along with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee to order at 6:40 pm at the Buker School.

Present from the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee:

Jeanise Bertrand  
Deborah Evans  
Josh Liebow  
Stacey Metternick  
David Polito

Michael Harvey  
Jeff Sands

Present from the Financial Committees of Hamilton and Wenham:

Alexander Begin (Wenham)  
Ned Flynn (Wenham)  
Mike Lucy (Wenham Chair)  
Richard Quinn (Wenham)  
Mike Therrien (Wenham)  
Nicholas Tensen (Hamilton)  
John Kain (Hamilton)  
John Pruellage (Hamilton)  
Philip Stearns (Hamilton)  
E. David Wanger (Hamilton Chair)

Also Present:

Brian Connolly (Hamilton Finance Director)  
Peter Lombardi, Wenham Town Administrator  
Nancy Bergner, secretary for Hamilton-Wenham School Committee  
Catherine Tinsley, secretary for Town of Wenham

Call to order Finance Wenham: Michael Lucy, Chair

Call to order Finance Committee Hamilton: David Wanger, Chair

Call to order School Committee

*Welcome and Introductions*

Purpose of the session: Collaborative dialogue; an ongoing conversation as to how we collectively manage our twin goals -- a great school system, at an affordable price

- I. Overview from Wenham FinCom's Peter Lombardi: Perspectives re: FY 18 Budget parameters, pressing issues, opportunities; of particular note is the decline in student populations in Wenham.
- II. Overview from Hamilton FinCom's David Wanger: Perspectives re: FY 18 Budget parameters, pressing issues, opportunities;
- III. Overview from Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee & Leadership: Perspectives re: FY 18 Budget parameters, pressing issues, opportunities;
  - A. From Hamilton's perspective, the previous practice of Chairs of each town meeting with Superintendent was acknowledged as desirable for setting the stage for meetings such as this one.
  - B. Hamilton's population is aging, leading to a change in perspective on where tax revenue should be allocated, documented by the decisions of the Special Town Meeting.
  - C. There is no indication that the Town Meeting will be any more generous than the Special Town meeting
  - D. Level service, level funding is respectfully requested to be pursued. Also ongoing communication so that Hamilton may know where ongoing issues stand: Capital Campaign, Turf Field, etc. Tax burdens have a negative impact on the growth of the town, and the SC is asked to be sensitive to this.

*Discussion*

Concerns about the budget process with regard to being a regional school district were expressed and explored. The reality of cuts vs. over rides were raised. The School Committee expressed its desire to continue with these kind of meetings, begun 3 years ago, so that School Committee's budget development can occur with reference to the expectations and concerns of the towns. The

meeting was encouraged to move forward in the agenda to hear about the School Committee's perspective.

IV. Next steps: budget development schedule, Next Meeting, etc. Jeff Sands and Mike Harvey explained the process and projected dates; explained FY 18 Budget projections.

The School Committee welcomes any and all interested FinCom members to School Committee meetings.

*Discussion*

A Hamilton FinCom member raised the question of shared services/equipment/IT, etc. It was acknowledged that these are already shared in various instances, and that there is a solid exchange of costs, expertise. Stacey Metternick thanked the FinComs for meeting with the School Committee.

V. Adjournment of meeting of the School Committee with the joint FinComs

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE WENHAM FINCOM VOTE TO ADJOURN**

**Motion by PETER LOMBARDI seconded by RICH QUINN**

***UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED***

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON FINCOM VOTE TO ADJOURN**

**Motion by DAVID WANGER seconded by JOHN KAIN**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO RECESS.**

**Motion by DEB EVANS seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND**

***UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT 7:33 PM***

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner

Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting