

Approved 2.2.17
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District
Office of the Superintendent
Wenham, Massachusetts 01984

**MEETING MINUTES FROM A JOINT MEETING OF
THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE
HAMILTON WENHAM FINANCE COMMITTEES & HAMILTON and WENHAM
BOARDS OF SELECTMEN**

Date: January 26, 2017
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

CALL TO ORDER: Stacey Metternick, Mike Lucy, Wenham David Wanger, Scott Miller
Hamilton called the joint meeting of the Financial Committees of the
Towns of Hamilton and Wenham, The Selectmen of the Towns of Hamil-
ton and Wenham, along with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School
Committee to order at 6:08 pm at the Buker School.

Present from the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee

Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Deborah Evans
Gene Lee
Josh Liebow
Stacey Metternick, School Committee Chair
David Polito

Also Present:

Mike Harvey, Superintendent
Jeff Sands
Nancy Bergner, SC Clerk

Present from the Hamilton Fin Com:

Darcy Dale
John Pruellage
Phillip Stearns
Nicholas Tensen
E. David Wanger, Chairman

Present from the Financial Advisory Committee of Wenham
Michael Lucy, Chair
Alexander Begin
Richard Quinn
Mike Therrien

Present from the Wenham Board of Selectmen
Catherine Harrison, Clerk
Also present, Peter Lombardi, Wenham Town Administrator

Present from the Hamilton Board of Selectmen
Scott Maddern
Shaun Farrell
Allison Jenkins
Bill Wilson

Welcome and Introductions:

- I. H-WRSC Chair Stacey Metternick, welcomed members of both FinComs and Selectmen and stated the purpose of the meeting: Presentation of Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District's FY2018 School Budget, with opportunity for questions from the Hamilton and Wenham Financial Advisory Committees of the Town of Hamilton and the Town of Wenham, representatives of the School Committee answering.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Discussion of Regional Agreement Apportionment Proposal

From the Regional Agreement:

(D) APPORTIONMENT OF OPERATING COSTS

Operating Costs apportioned to each of the Member Towns for fiscal years commencing on and after July 1, 2000 shall be determined as follows:

- (1) The District shall determine its net allocation of Operating Costs, which shall be the District's total operating budget, net of any estimated state assistance for Operating Costs of the District and any other funds applied thereto. Operating Costs shall then be allocated to each of the Member Towns on the basis of each such Member Town's average enrollment in the District determined as of October 1 of each of the last three years immediately preceding the fiscal year for which such allocation is to be determined.*

A. Deborah Evans provided history of the Apportionment Proposal Development

Discussion: Census housing data vs. School District enrollment data; review of who was involved in data collection and clean-up; concern expressed about time constraints of this meeting and the timeline for the School District Regional Agreement; Relative investment of the two communities in terms of land provided for schools was raised; Concerns about process and collaboration; Impact of Affordable Housing issues; Timeframes each town would prefer to work with in regard to the Regional Agreement.

Stacey Metternick closed the joint meeting, with members of each other body adjourning their gatherings.

**JOINT MEETING OF
HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
&
HAMILTON & WENHAM FINANCE COMMITTEES**

Present from the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee:

Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Deborah Evans
Gene Lee
Josh Liebow
Stacey Metternick, School Committee Chair
David Polito

Also present

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Bergner, SC Clerk

Present from the Financial Advisory Committee of Hamilton:

Darcy Dale
John Pruellage
Phillip Stearns
Nicholas Tensen
David Wanger, Chairman

Present from the Financial Advisory Committee of Wenham

Michael Lucy, Chair
Alexander Begin
Richard Quinn
Mike Therrien

Also present

Peter Lombardi, Wenham Town Administrator
Catherine Harrison, Wenham Board of Selectmen

I. H-WRSC Chair Stacey Metternick, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. The Hamilton and Wenham Financial Committees also convened their meetings

II. Presentation & Discussion of FY18 Budget presented by Mike Harvey

See School Committee packet for the FY18 Budget, which was calculated on the basis of Leveled Services, out of respect for the financial concerns of the Towns.

Jeff Sands presented details of the budget and related key assumptions

Questions from the Boards and Committees were entertained and answered, with reference to the information in the packet and background narratives.

Gross operating budget drivers were explained; concern expressed about facilities/maintenance budget items being delayed at ultimately a greater cost to the communities; genesis of the 5 Year Capital Plan explained.

Trends over the past 5 years [Deb Evans has additional older data which she is happy to share with any of the Towns' officials]

Review of Budget Timeline

Discussion: Clarification on locating budget information on the District website; question regarding what might be done for the uncontrolled variables such as out-of-district tuition; "Circuit breaker" reimbursements to help schools which have incurred costs above a certain amount; Potential of needing overrides to support future budgets; Questions regarding enrollment levels related to students at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Gordon College. This data is not gathered.

III. Vote to Adjourn

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 8:19 PM.

MOTION by Josh Liebow; SECONDED by Gene Lee

Unanimously approved by 7 members present; none opposed, no abstentions

Other committees and boards from the Towns also adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner

Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting