

MEETING MINUTES
FROM PUBLIC HEARING
ON SCHOOL CHOICE FOR
THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
December 1, 2016

Present:

Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Deborah Evans
Stacey Metternick
David Polito
Josh Liebow

Also present:

Michael Harvey
Jeff Sands
Nancy Bergner
Jack Gordeau, Student Rep

Chair Stacey Metternick called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

Michelle Bailey read the procedures for conducting a public hearing and asked administration to provide a report prior to the public comments.

Discussion among School Committee members about what might be helpful to present at this time. The School Committee's current School Choice policy and recent Spotlight Newsletter report was read by Michelle Bailey. (Reference Spotlight). It was noted that the Spotlight contained an error in the number of choice students at the High School is 65, not 56, but the total enrollment of 574 was correct. The overall purposes of this hearing in providing a context in which the voice of the community may bring concerns before the School Committee which will inform their deliberations.

Public Comment:

Norm Cramer Forest Street South Hamilton made a statement in support of continuing Hamilton-Wenham's continued engagement in School Choice because of its benefit to the District in terms of financial resources, promoting greater diversity in the school community, and stabilizing enrollment. Eliminating or reducing the Choice program

negatively impacts the district. Increasing the number of students accepted benefits the district.

Richard Boroff of South Hamilton made a statement in support of continuing the districts engagement in School Choice. He also urged the committee to consider adding "tuitioned" students (at a higher tuition rate than Choice students) possibly from overseas.

Brad Tilley of Essex Ave. South Hamilton inquired how much do we get from each student?[\$5000]. How much do we spend per student for residents? [\$15,000]. Questioned the fiscal advisability of promoting Choice. Challenged the perception that Choice promotes diversity.

Four statements in support of Choice were received by the Committee via email.

I MOVE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER EXEMPTION NUMBER 2, TO CONDUCT STRATEGY SESSIONS IN PREPARTATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH NONUNION PERSONNEL, THE TREASURER. I FURTHER MOVE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONDUCT CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-UNION PERSONNEL, THE SUPERINTENDENT AND TO INCLUDE THE SUERINTENDENT AND NANCY BERGNER, CLERK, TO RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.

MOTION by Michelle Bailey; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand

Roll Call:

Michelle Bailey – Yes

Jeanise Bertrand – Yes

Deb Evans - No

Josh Liebow – Yes

Stacey Metternick – Yes

David Polito - Yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner
Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting