

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, April 27, 2017 7:00 PM
Buker School Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

Michelle Bailey
Jeanise Bertrand
Kerry Gertz
Gene Lee
Josh Liebow
Stacey Metternick
David Polito

Also present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent
Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent
Nancy Bergner, H-WRSC Meeting Clerk

I. Call to Order

Mike Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:05

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Citizen's Comments

There were no citizens' comments

IV. New Business

A. SC Reorganization

1. Election of Officers

a) Nominations for Chair

(1) Josh Liebow and Michelle Bailey were nominated. Nominees made statements of intention, vision and qualifications for office.

Voting: 4 for Josh Liebow; 2 for Michelle Bailey; Kerry Gertz abstained

b) Nominations for Vice Chair

(1) Michelle Bailey and Gene Lee were nominated. Michelle Bailey declined the nomination.

Voting: 6 for Gene Lee; Kerry Gertz abstained

c) Nominations for Secretary

(1) Kerry Gertz was nominated, accepted the nomination and elected unanimously.

d) Nominations for Assistant Secretary

(1) David Polito was nominated, accepted the nomination and elected unanimously.

B. SC Reorganization of Sub-Committees

1. Capital - Finance -Regional Agreement
 - a) Michelle Bailey, Stacey Metternick, Gene Lee
2. Policies - Legislative
 - a) Kerry Gertz, David Polito, Jeanise Bertrand, Gene Lee, Josh Liebow
3. Communications and Turf
 - a) David Polito, Stacey Metternick, Jeanise Bertrand, and, for Turf Community Volunteer Phil Tocci.
4. Negotiations
 - a) Kerry Gertz, Josh Liebow, Gene Lee
5. Longmeadow Working Group
 - a) Appointments for this sub-committee were shelved until May 11 meeting.
6. Warrants: two groups with Chair as a sub. Each group should select a lead person.
 - a) Group 1: Michelle Bailey, Stacey Metternick, and Gene Lee (May 9, June 6, further dates TBA)
 - b) Group 2: Kerry Gertz, Dave Polito, and Jeanise Bertrand (May 23, June 20, further dates TBA)

Discussion: history of and options for meeting dates in light of payroll obligations. Jeff Sands will build a draft schedule with meetings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for revision and approval to be presented on 5/18 meeting.

C. Selection of School Liaisons

1. Winthrop Liaison: Kerry Gertz
2. Cutler: Gene Lee
3. Buker: David Polito
4. Middle School/High School: Michelle Bailey (via email)

D. Warrant Sub Committee report

1. April 11, 2017 Exhibit A
2. April 25, 2017 Exhibit B

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE WARRANT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS OF APRIL 11 AND APRIL 25, 2017 AS PRESENTED IN EXHIBITS A AND B .

MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Michelle Bailey

Unanimously approved by 7 members present

E. Draft 5 Year Capital Plan Exhibit C1 & C2

Discussion:

- Explanation of annotations, color coding was given.
- Mike Harvey walked SC through categories, in light of discussions at the March workshop.

- Question raised about swipe cards replacing keys, security cameras for key locations around the building (interior and exterior) which include tapes. Question about purpose was made—to monitor students? or people generally using the building? This is an enhanced security measure.
- Balance of making buildings safer, cleaner with concerns about age of buildings, looking ahead to future needs, possibility of new construction. What is necessary infrastructure repair and maintenance, what is “mission critical?”
- Discussion of metrics used to determine populations—Town Censuses, real estate transactions, live birth reports.
- There is a mandate from the Fire Chief and Fire Department to have sprinklers installed at Winthrop in order to obtain occupancy in the autumn of 2018. A debt exclusion outside of the budget cycle could be problematic. What about asking the Fire Chief for an extension on this so that a debt exclusion could be worked into existing budget cycles? Given that the District has already had a three year window to address this, we cannot presume that the extension will be granted. Towns may need to recognize that the Fire Department holds the power to hold or grant occupancy permits, adding urgency to this issue.

F. Turf Field Update

Dave Polito met with Mr. Simmons and Mr. Tocci to show the SC interest in this community issue of building new fields for use by the District and the Community. Simmons and Tocci are looking for approval from the SC on the findings of the report, and that the SC is willing to accept the building of Turf Fields on school grounds. Once the SC has given this kind of approval, the Turf Committee can move forward on trying to get their plan approved by the Towns, and seek help through private fundraising. Dave reiterated that a meeting with the Superintendent would be necessary to make sure all is set up properly from the beginning, in order to avoid mid-stream corrections. The SC is asked to accept the findings of the Turf Committee, that the High School/Middle School is the recommended site for turf or grass field development. Eventually, zoning, conservations Boards will also be involved. Jeff suggests that we move forward with pursuing permits at this time, so that plans can move forward. Tonight, Jeff’s advice is that we complete the Gale Study. The Committee and the Chair would need to sign permits and legal documents in order to complete the Gale Study. The School Committee simply needs to task Jeff and Mike with moving the study forward. When it is necessary for the SC to vote on decisions/permit costs, etc., Jeff will bring specifics to the Committee. What is our duty to the Voters? Our duty to complete the Study? We already voted to do the Study. The Study needs to

be completed so that we can make decisions based upon its findings. All the study costs are covered by the CPC. Therefore, Jeff and Mike should give Gale the go-ahead to Gale for completing the Study.

- G. “Northshore Education Consortium establishing a Capital Fund” Exhibit D
Mike explained our association with the Consortium. The regulations and rationale are in Exhibit D.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE NORTSHORE EDUCATION CONSORTIUM ESTABLISHING A CAPITAL FUND AS PRESENTED IN EXHIBIT D.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand
Unanimously approved by 5 members present; David Polito abstained**

- H. Warrant Sub-Committee Calendar Exhibit W
I. Policy 1st Reading Private Funding Exhibit E
Michelle Bailey presented, explaining revisions based upon review of other districts’ practices and the advice of legal counsel. Feedback on this policy is welcomed. Donors should be encouraged to consult with tax advisors about how to give in such a way that their donation is tax deductible.

V. Consent Agenda

Michelle Bailey requests that items A , E and O be removed.

- A. Minutes of April 6, 2017 Exhibit F
B. Minutes of April 11, 2017 Exhibit G
C. Minutes of March 2, 2017 (amended) Exhibit U
D. Minutes of March 16, 2017 (amended) Exhibit V
E. Donations for DECA International Career Development Conference Exhibit H
F. B2001 Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District “By-Laws” Exhibit I
G. B2003 Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members Exhibit J
H. B2004 Remote Participation Exhibit K
I. B2005 School Committee member Ethics Policy Exhibit L
J. B2007 School Committee-Staff Communications Exhibit M
K. B2008 Executive Sessions Exhibit N
L. B2009 Special Procedures for Conducting Hearings Exhibit O
M. B2010 Guidelines for Public Comment Exhibit P
N. B2011 Memorials for Deceased Students of Staff Exhibit
Q
O. B2012 Relations with Nonpublic Schools Exhibit R
P. B2013 Policy Revision and Review Exhibit S
Q. G7018 Tutoring for Pay Exhibit T

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA’S REMAINING

ITEMS FOR THE APRIL 27 SC MEETING. COMMENTS WILL BE ENTERTAINED ON ITEMS A, E, AND O. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand
Unanimously approved by 6 members present**

Michelle Bailey will review Item A (April 6 minutes) and email Nancy Bergner with changes to be made.

Discussion on Item E—Why are some donations approved by a School Committee vote, and others simply enfolded into Consent Agenda approvals?

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE DONATION FOR DECA NOTED IN EXHIBIT H FOR THE DECA INTERNATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand
Motion passed by an affirmative vote of 5 members present. One vote against.**

Discussion on Item O—

- The approval of nonpublic schools is delegated to the SC by the State. The policy was created in a previous year. While the state has delegated the power to local school committees, no guidance was provided for School Committees on determining approval. DESE has suggested issues to consider, but there is no solid policy on approving nonpublic institutions.
- SC member suggests that we consider the level of community support; DESE suggests that we should not consider this issue. The SC may not require a private school to turn over their books, although inquiry could be made into tuition, etc. The SC could make inquiry into qualifications of the governing board.
- An issue for the schools is that taking property off the tax rolls in order to provide space for an educational not-for-profit, there is a definite cost to the tax payers which does not benefit the public schools. The policy working group should revisit this item (Exhibit R) and advise the School Committee on possible revision to the policy.

VI. Superintendent's Report

- A. Leadership searches for positions to be filled by the end of May. There are opportunities for parents to serve on the search committees. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Harvey.
 - 1. K-5 Elementary ELA coordinator
 - 2. Secondary Special Ed Coordinator
 - 3. Director of Student Services search
- B. League of Women Voters: May 2, 2017 at 7 PM “Power and Citizenship in our Community; an Evening with Eric Liu”
- C. Upcoming events
 - 1. Winthrop School Open Houe May 1 5:30
 - 2. National Honor Society induction May 3, 7 pm at High School
 - 3. May School Committee Meetings on May 4 and May 18

4. Joint BOS SC Meeting May 11
5. May 10 HS art show
6. MS Spring Art Show May 16
7. Sr. Prom May 19
8. Elementary Spring Concert 6:30 May 22
9. Middle School Orientation May 24
10. Grade 8 Science Fair May 25
11. Scholarship Night May 30
12. Senior Farewell May 31
13. Candlelight 8 PM June 1
14. Commencement June 3 at 10 AM

VII. Other Topics for Future Meetings

- A. May 4
 1. Vote to set the last day school
 2. SC goals 2017/2018
 3. Report from district treasurer
 4. Report from Student Services Department members
 5. Presentation from Exchange Student
 6. Process for establishing the Whittier Science Fund
 7. Regional Agreement issues
- B. May 18
 1. Bay State Textiles clothing donation discussion
- C. Possible topic for another future meeting:
 1. Revisit 2016/2017 goals to address some which may have not yet be implemented.

VIII. Vote to Adjourn

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL
COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:36 PM.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand
Unanimously approved by 6 members present**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner
Clerk, H-WRSC Meeting