

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, April 6, 2017 7:04 PM  
Buker School Multi-purpose Room

Present:

Michelle Bailey  
Jeanise Bertrand  
Deb Evans  
Gene Lee  
Stacey Metternick, Chair  
David Polito

Also present:

Michael Harvey, Superintendent  
Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent  
Jack Godreau, Student Representative

**I. Call To Order:** Stacey Metternick called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Chair's Report**

- A. Please be sure you get out to vote.
- B. Buker's Bookfair and Grandfriends' Day is tomorrow.
- C. Executive Session minutes must be reviewed annually, according to policy and Open Meeting Law. All the HWSC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes for the year have been approved and released.
- D. Capital Plan will be delayed in order to acquire all pertinent and accurate information to inform the discussion at our next meeting.
- E. Our Chair meeting to discuss agenda for the next meeting was last week. There will be a discussion of alternative measurements for apportionment, shared enrollment study to look at town demographics, value of tax free properties or reverse pilot as possible variables in the formula, and the process for further evaluation and discussion options, selection of School Committee members with minimum representation commitments. Methodology of nominations—should Town Clerks, rather than the School Superintendent's Secretary, be in charge of nomination papers? Long Meadows Study Group was passed at Town Meetings. How do we want to see that group formed? Hamilton wants to discuss possible amendment to Winthrop lease for potential changes to use.
- F. Thanks to Deb Evans for your service on the School Committee.

**IV. Superintendent's Update**

Thanks to Hamilton and Wenham Town Meeting

I want to say "thank you" to the voters at Hamilton and Wenham Town Meeting for overwhelmingly supporting the Hamilton-Wenham Regional District's FY18 Budget at April 1st's Annual Town Meetings. I also want to thank the members of the Boards of Selectmen and the Finance

Committees from Hamilton and Wenham for their support for the FY18 Budget. This was an incredibly challenging budget season. This was mostly due to the shift in our enrollment from Hamilton to Wenham. I truly appreciate the spirit of collaboration that exists between the Towns and the H-W District. As we look towards next year's FY19 budget development, which is shaping up to be an even more challenging process, we will need to rely on our shared dedication to providing the resources that prepare our students to be "future ready" more than ever.

#### Thanks to School Committee Member Deb Evans

Tonight is the final full meeting in the term of School Committee Member Deb Evans. For the past four years, Deb has been a true champion of education for the children of the HWRSD. Her passion, her willingness to ask the difficult questions and her ability to work collaboratively to find solutions will sorely be missed. I want to personally thank Deb for her service to the HWRSD, and wish her all the best in her "retirement" from public service!

#### Leadership Searches

The HWRSD is in the process of conducting several leadership searches. We have openings for K-5 Elementary ELA Coordinator, and Secondary Special Education Coordinator. The postings for these positions will close on April 21st. Applications can be submitted at [www.schoolspring.com](http://www.schoolspring.com). Director of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Peggy McElhinney is leading the ELA Coordinator Search and Director of Student Services Kathy Harris is conducting the Secondary Special Education Coordinator Search. In both searches, Ms. McElhinney and Ms. Harris will be assembling screening committees of relevant staff and members of the community to conduct initial interviews. Our plan is to have finalists selected by the end of May. Parents who are interested in volunteering to serve on the Secondary Special Education Coordinator Search Committee should send a letter of interest to the Special Education Department, 5 School St., Wenham, MA c/o Elaine Rogal ([e.rogal@hwschools.net](mailto:e.rogal@hwschools.net)).

This week, I also received notice from Director of Student Services Kathy Harris that she plans on retiring as of June 30, 2017. I want to thank Kathy for her service to the students of Hamilton and Wenham. Student Services Director is an incredibly demanding position, which requires in-depth knowledge of special education law and procedure, mastery of the intricacies of special education funding and most importantly, compassion for the needs of some of our most challenged learners. To say that Kathy has all of these qualities and more is an understatement. She will be sorely missed.

We have posted position of Director of Student Services to [Schoolspring.com](http://Schoolspring.com) with a closing date of April 28th and are in the process of developing a search timeline and list of search committee members. Parents who'd like to serve on the Director of Student Services Search Committee can send me a letter of interest [m.harvey@hwschools.net](mailto:m.harvey@hwschools.net)

#### HW League of Women Voters Presents Eric Liu at HWRHS on May 2nd

The Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters is proud to present "Power and Citizenship in our Community; an Evening with Eric Liu" at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School on May 2nd at 7:00 PM. Eric Liu is the founder and CEO of Citizen University and executive director of the Aspen Institute Citizenship and American Identity Program. He is the author of several books, including *You're More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen's Guide to Making Change Happen*, *A Chinaman's Chance*, *The Gardens of Democracy*, and *The Accidental Asian*. Eric served as a White House speechwriter and policy adviser for President Bill Clinton. He is a regular columnist for CNN.com and a correspondent for TheAtlantic.com. In his TED Talk, *Why Ordinary People need to Understand Power*, he says that it is our responsibility to 'Make civics sexy again!'

#### School Choice Update

There were 39 grade nine applications for School Choice for 2017-2018 at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School. There were also 16 applications from grades 10-12. Of these 39 applicants, we offered 24 applicants spaces in the incoming freshman class. As of today, 15 have registered. We are targeting 20 9th grade students in total.

### National History Day State Competition Results

Congratulations to all of the 2017 Massachusetts State History Day winners and Honorable Mentions! On Sunday April 2nd, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School and Miles River students competed against 25 other Massachusetts schools. Three of our projects are advancing to the National History Day contest, which will be held at the University of Maryland this June. The advancing projects are: "Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution: Taking a Stand Against Corruption and Imperialism," a group website by Will Curtis, Lily Dixon, Nick Oo, and Parker Tocci; "William Wilberforce: Pioneer for the Stand Against the Slave Trade," a group exhibit by John Farnham, Cameron Grinnell, Grace MacCurrach, and Alex Renaud; and "Gorbachev: Taking a Stand for Peace and Democracy," a group documentary by Sean Li, Jack McMahan, Ian Park and Henry Smith

This year's theme is *Taking a Stand in History*. A special thank you to all of the teachers who have worked closely with the students since September on their research projects: Kristen Borges, Brett Burnett, Vinnie Bucci, Rob Emmett, Johann Knets, and Tyler Walker. A very special congratulations to Vinnie Bucci who was named the recipient of the 2017 Massachusetts History Day Outstanding Teacher Award!

For the full list of results, please see:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B68YPBGpJJJeC15UF9ibHNSM2c/view>

### MCAS Update

MCAS testing began this week for all students in grades 3-8. Students took the English Language Arts sections of the exam this week. Students in grades 4 and 8 took the computer-based version of the exam. Thanks to our Technology Department and Director Alan Taupier for their work in making sure this went as smoothly as possible. We had reports of a few minor glitches, but were able to quickly sort them out and complete the testing. I met with students in Grade 4 this week and they thought that they were well prepared for the computer interface and reported that they liked taking the test on a computer. Testing will resume in May when we administer the Mathematics portion of the MCAS.

### MRMS Arts Night

Congratulations to Arts Curriculum Leader Kirsten Losee and the Middle School Arts Department for a successful Miles River Middle School Arts Night. On Tuesday evening, parents and members of the public were treated to performances by the Middle School Chorus, Jazz Band, Ukulele String Jam, and Theater Arts Classes. Additionally, student created artwork was on display throughout the building. It was a great night to celebrate the arts at Miles River!

### Mr. Shailor Honored at METG State Finals

Congratulations to our beloved Drama Director Mr. Christopher Shailor who received the David Dooley Unsung Hero Award the METG State Finals!

### HWRHS Counseling

Thanks to HWRHS Guidance Counselor Julia Cahill-O'Shea for organizing the presentation, "Mental Health Stability in College: A Panel Discussion," which took place at HWRHS on Wednesday evening. The panel consisted of mental health and wellness professionals from several of our local colleges and universities and offered a great deal of information for parents and

prospective college students on the resources available for students in these schools. The program was co-sponsored by the National Alliance in Mental Illness—Greater North Shore.

Joint Meeting with Hamilton and Wenham Selectmen

We are planning a meeting with the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen to discuss the Regional Apportionment Formula. As of today, 11 of 18 people have responded to the poll. Currently the best date seems to be Thursday, May 11th. I have reached out to those who have not responded to the poll and will keep the Committee informed as we select a date.

Custodial Union wishes to pursue a grievance. A meeting with representatives will be held by May 22, with a followup with the School Committee by June 13. The SC should decide whether to address it as a full committee, or to appoint the negotiations sub-committee (Gene, Michelle and Stacey) to pursue it and present it to the entire School Committee for a vote.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO EMPOWER THE NEGOTIATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE TO WORK THROUGH THE CUSTODIAN’S GRIEVANCE.**

**MOTION by Deb Evans; SECONDED by Gene Lee**

**Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

Mike Harvey will convey this information to the Custodian’s Union.

**V. Consent Agenda**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 6 SC MEETING. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand**

*Discussion:* Minutes of March 2 need to be removed in order to revise. March 16 minutes lack an adequate summary on Financial Update and should be removed and amended to reflect discussion content. 8th Grade Waiver Request needs more information in order to deliberate on the issue.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE WARRANT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, AS IS, WITH NO CHANGES.**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by Deb Evans Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

*Discussion:* Recording Secretary will review the recording from March 16th and revise with a financial update.

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|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| A. Minutes— March 16, 2017           | Exhibit A |
| B. 8th Grade Waiver Request          | Exhibit B |
| C. Minutes— March 2, 2017 (Revision) | Exhibit C |
| D. Warrant Sub Committee Report      | Exhibit D |

*Discussion:* There is a request to allow Grade 8 students to play on the JV team, which has lost players due to injury and projected absences during April vacation. We are in a situation with a minimum roster impacted by injuries and therefore playing short. Another option would be to allow Varsity players to play on the JV team.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUPPORT THE 8TH GRADE WIAVER REQUEST TO ALLOW 8TH GRADE BOYS TO PLAY JV LACROSSE FOR THIS ONE YEAR ONLY.**

**MOTION by Deb Evans; SECONDED by David Polito. Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

*Discussion:* Minutes of March 2 should have included a list of all documents referenced in a meeting. A document, *District Treasurer's Reporting Lines*, was submitted during the meeting, referenced, and should be listed at the bottom. In addition, under New Business, there should be a bullet under "A," noting that there was discussion of how the committee wanted apportionment to be recommended at the two town meetings.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2017 MEETING**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by Deb Evans. Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

**VI. New Business**

**A.** Student Government Presentation on fundraisers, activities and honors. Donations of clothing for the Peru trip are still being accepted.

**B.** Hamilton & Wenham Police Departments to present the ALICE Program Exhibit E1&E2

Overall, doing something is always better than doing nothing. Training staff to engage in a variety of effective resistance to a shooting incident increases positive outcomes. The goal of **ALICE** is to minimize fatalities and injuries.

**Alerts**—deliver information, not commands

**Lockdown**—buys time

**Inform**—real-time information allows for decision making on the ground by those immediately in danger

**Counter**—interrupt the skill set required to shoot effectively. noise, movement, distraction, distance

**Evacuate**—If perpetrator is outside, stay inside. If he/she is inside, get out

Discussion:

- Public safety officers want to institute ALICE in order to enhance the District's current efforts to ensure safe schools. Binders were delivered to SC members highlighting other local districts which have adopted ALICE. Fire Departments and Police Departments in Hamilton and Wenham are unanimously behind this. Proactive resistance is recommended at the federal level.
- Student Resource Officers are liaisons for students, staff and parents. See Massachusetts General Law Ch. 71 Sec. 37 P (b)
  - The request of the Fire and Police Departments is that ALICE be instituted in all our schools, and that School Resource Officers be placed in the District. While the decision rests with the Superintendent, community education and buy-in makes implementation most effective. Jeff Sands is a certified ALICE implementor who helped to establish the program in Tewksbury, and could offer that expertise, if the district adopts this approach.
  - Are there programs which have similar features but are not called ALICE? Yes, but the ALICE program is being presented because the public safety officers be-

lieve this to be the best way to serve students, and would be an improvement on the current policies, which are dated and have been shown to be less effective.

- Why would this district choose the ALICE brand rather than other similar programs? A SC member has heard of an “ALICE” school which rolled back its program after several years in response to feedback from parents. Do we really want to use this particular program? Discussion was weighted toward the benefit of using a well defined/developed program with certified trainers, documentation and materials. This ALICE program offers an efficient way to implement an improved safety measure for the schools.
- The public safety officers emphatically stated that a program like ALICE is necessary.
- Concern about aspects of training children appropriately was expressed, while affirming the importance of moving forward with something to proactively improve our safety and security protocols.
- Must these proposals for ALICE and the School Resource Officers be concurrently implemented, or are they separate? SROs are required by statute, contingent upon funding. What are we looking at financially to implement ALICE? 2-1/2 and 3 years timeframe. Budget dependent on number of staff trained, training the trainer, training the students. Police Departments and Fire Departments are also impacted in funding for this kind of program. To implement a district SRO? Hard numbers are not available.
- Are the costs of ALICE and SROs borne by towns? schools? a combination? For HWRSD, our regional status adds some complications
- Mike can take next steps in developing a proposal/recommendation on this in order to cultivate the greatest possible level of collaboration in the community. Jeff and Mike will write a proposal to be presented to the committee for a vote.
- Comment from MRMS nurse: This is a learned skill which requires ample opportunity to rehearse these skills in an age appropriate way.
- Jan Soolman (Wenham resident): Given that it is not just about the guns, but also about mental health, is there a mental health component for improving school safety and security? Would the presence of a SRO help in identifying children at risk? A SC member brought up the possibility of enhancing prevention through increasing our services via a School Psychologist.

### C. Turf Field

Phil Tocci emailed Stacey, (cc'd Shaun Timmons) with the following, as he is not able to attend tonight:

- He encourages the committee to reform the working group with the charge to evaluate the latest design from Gale Associates; present a comprehensive development plan, fund raising strategy and to evaluate the discerning differences between natural and synthetic turf as it relates to cost, maintenance and active field use safety. Working group should be comprised of SC members, Community members and reps from each town government. Phil is willing to be an active volunteer if the SC is willing to pursue the re-establishment of a working group, per Phil's recommendation.
- Discussion ensued, revisiting the history of previous Turf Field related groups. There is still strong interest from the general community, and people on the SC willing to be involved. SC members agree that involvement by Selectmen or their appointees be increased.

- Concern about mixing Turf Field issues into apportionment discussions was expressed. It's important for the Turf Field solution to be a community, rather than a School Committee solution. It is important to move on this while the Gale information is still current.
- David Polito will initiate lunch or another meeting with Phil to pursue developing/reforming a new working group.

**D. Policies 2nd Reading:** there have been no edits suggested after the first readings.

- Purchasing \$10,000-\$49,999 Exhibit G
- Purchasing over \$50,000 Exhibit H
- Student Activity Accounts Exhibit I
- Student Fund-Raising Activities Exhibit J

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE FOUR POLICIES AS PRESENTED IN EXHIBITS G-J ON THE APRIL 6 AGENDA.**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by Deb Evans. Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

**E. Grant Money from EdFund – Winthrop School \$398.95 Exhibit K**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE ED FUND GRANT TO THE WINTHROP SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$398.95 FOR A FILM MAKING KIT.**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by David Polito  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

**VII. Other**

Appreciation for Deb Evan's service was expressed. Deb affirmed the worth of service, and encouraged others in the community to invest through serving on this committee.

**VIII. Topics for next meeting**

**IX. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:19 PM.**

**MOTION by Gene Lee; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand  
Unanimously approved by 6 members present; none opposed, no abstentions**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner  
Clerk, H-WRSC Meeting