

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, May 4, 2017 7:00 PM  
Buker School Multi-Purpose Room

Present:

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

Also present:

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

**I. Call to Order**

Josh Liebow called the meeting to order at 7:02

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Citizen's Comments**

There were no citizens' comments

**IV. Chair's Report**

- A. MASC Rep Mike Gilbert has been in contact with us to train Committee Members
- B. May 11 Joint Meeting with Hamilton and Wenham Selectmen. Items include—
  - 1. Discussion of current Apportionment Formula
  - 2. Initial discussion of potential changes to Apportionment Formula
  - 3. Shared Enrollment Study
  - 4. Selection of Committee Members and proposed changed methodology for nominations
  - 5. District Agreement
  - 6. Longmeadow Joint Study
  - 7. Renewal of Winthrop Lease discussion with Hamilton BOS: The BOS will not ask for an amendment of the lease.
- C. Lisa Heitz—Candlelight ceremony and graduation June 1 and 3

**V. Superintendent's Report**

- A. National Honor Society Inducts 43 New Members

- 1.** Congratulations to the 43 HWRHS students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on Wednesday, May 3rd in a ceremony in the Ferrini Auditorium. Four of these students are members of the Class of 2017 and thirty-nine are from the Class of 2018. A special tradition at HWRHS is that the current members of the National Honor Society each present a new inductee to the audience with anecdotes about how the new inductee represents the Four Qualities of NHS: Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Service.
- B. HW DECA Students Successful at International Career Development Conference**
- 1.** The Hamilton-Wenham DECA team was very successful at the International Career Development Conference last week! Four out of four competitors from HWRHS were recognized with awards for their performances. This is an amazing feat for a small, first-year program. Congratulations to our students. Here are the highlights:
    - a)** \* Taylor Ross competed in Quick Service Restaurant Management and achieved a first place medallion in a role-play for her competitive section.
    - b)** \* Sam Boudrot competed in Principles of Finance and achieved a finalist medallion for placing Top 20 overall of all competitors in the category.
    - c)** \* Lauren Verge and Valerie Wise competed in Travel & Tourism Team Decision Making and achieved a first place medallion in a role-play for their competitive section and a finalist medallion for placing Top 20 overall of all competitors in the category.
    - d)** \* James Goudie worked on Jaron May's campaign for Executive Student President of DECA. Jaron was successfully elected to the position, beating out 4 other candidates.
    - e)** \* Arthur Doggett and Amy Thissell graduated from the Aspire and Elevate leadership academies as part of the emerging leader series.
    - f)** \* There was also a prom-posal where Sam Boudrot asked Taylor Ross to senior prom! (She said yes! )
  - 2.** Congratulations also to DECA Advisor and HWRHS Business Teacher Laura Wheeler for leading this new program.
- C. Miles River Students Successful at METG Drama Festival**
- 1.** Students from Miles River Middle School had an impressive showing at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild Drama Festival on Saturday, April 29. The following students were honored with all-star company awards:
    - a)** \* Margo Tsouvalas: Excellence in acting
    - b)** \* Ian Castracane: Excellence in acting
    - c)** \* Leo Kagan: Excellence in acting
    - d)** \* Alethea Vickerman: Excellence in acting
    - e)** \* Haven O'Sullivan: Excellence in lighting design and stage management

**D. Town Clerk's Showcase of Local Officials**

1. The second week in May is Municipal Clerks Week, which this year coincides with Public Service Recognition Week. In commemoration of these events, local Clerks are hosting a “Clerk's Showcase of Local Officials” on Monday May 8, 2017 from 4-7pm at the Hamilton Wenham Library. Government officials from several municipalities will be present at this open house style event to meet with residents of all ages from area communities. The officials will be ready to answer questions from the public about what they do for their communities and why. Many will be willing to explain how they have chosen this field for their careers.

**E. Upcoming Events**

1. \* Joint School Committee and Board of Selectmen Meeting, 5.11.17, 7:00 PM at Buker School
2. \* HWRHS Spring Art Show and Concert, 5.10.17 at 6:00 PM at HWRHS
3. \* Middle School Spring Arts Show, 5.16.17 at 7:00 PM at HWRHS
4. \* School Committee Meeting 5.18.17, 7:00 PM at Buker School
5. \* Senior Prom, 5.19.17 at 6:00 PM, Hellenic Center, Ipswich
6. \* Elementary Spring Concert, 5.22.17 at 6:30 PM at HWRHS
7. \* Middle School Orientation Meeting for Incoming 5th Grade Parents, 5.24.17 at MRMS
8. \* 8th Grade Science Fair, 5.25.17 at 6:45 PM at MRMS
9. \* HWRHS Scholarship Night, 5.30.17 at 7:00 PM at HWRHS
10. \* HWRHS Senior Farewell, 5.31.17 at 5:30 PM at HWRHS
11. \* HWRHS Candlelight Ceremony, 6.1.17 at 8:00 PM at HWRHS
12. \* HWRHS Commencement, 6.3.17 at 10:00 AM at HWRHS

**VI. Consent Agenda**

**1. Minutes of April 27, 2017**

Exhibit

A

Points of clarification:

- Remove Josh Liebow Gene Lee from Policy working group list.
- Since the district has known about the Fire Department's mandate concerning installation of sprinkler system for over three years, the request for funding on this expenditure is not unexpected.
- *Sean Timmons* rather than Simmons

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA'S MINUTES OF APRIL 27, WITH CLARIFICATIONS AND NAME CORRECTION ABOVE NOTED. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Jeanise Bertrand  
Unanimously approved by 7 members present**

**VII. New Business**

**A. Vote to set Last Day of School**

1. Mike Harvey recommends Tuesday June 20, with early release at 11:15 and 12:05, no lunch provided.

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE TUESDAY JUNE 20 AS THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, WITH EARLY RELEASE (11:15 AM FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL, 12:05 PM FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS). THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick  
Unanimously approved by 7 members present**

**B. Rotary Exchange Student Presentation: Matias Lizondo Parada**

Matias talked about his positive experience at HWRHS, affirming that he would recommend that friends from Bolivia consider doing an exchange at Hamilton-Wenham, and that he believes HWRHS students should consider an exchange experience in his country as well. He discussed his language fluency, involvement in extra-curriculars, and adjustment from a Bolivian urban environment to Boston's North Shore. He plans to work as a part time English teacher as a way to help fund his college expenses in the coming year.

Note: HW has hosted 15 exchange students, and has sent out 10. Families interested in going on exchange or hosting exchange students should contact Betsy Manzelli of Rotary Youth Exchange at [btzmnz1@gmail.com](mailto:btzmnz1@gmail.com).

**C. Report from Treasurer Don Gallant**

Exhibit B

This is the first Semi-Annual report from the Treasurer to the SC

Question about iPad account: *Why was there a balance on July 1?* Because we collect right up through June 30, and do not get the bills until later in the year.

The Student Activities list was updated in July of 2015.

There are scholarships given by families which are not listed on the District's Scholarship list, as these memorial scholarships are private.

*What about the scholarships with negative balances or very low balances?*

These are scholarships which need to be closed in the next quarter.

*Who currently oversees the grants?* Every grant has a grant manager, overseen by Vinnie and Jeff's offices.

Trainings scheduled for the Assistant Treasurer are sufficient for the tasks associated with her position. Further training will be scheduled as necessary.

Now that the state pays monthly rather than quarterly, we no longer have issues with cash flow

## **D. Student Services Report**

1. Kristen Lazzaro, Director of Guidance and Counseling Exhibit C

A presentation on the status and needs of the District's Guidance and Counseling services. The department will be updating and developing curriculum moving toward Guidance Counselors as Teachers.

Kristen served at Triton before coming to HWRSD

There is one adjustment counselor/social worker and one guidance counselor at MRMS

Given the labor intensive process of guiding HS students toward college, how is this best accomplished? Rather than keeping the entire process 1:1, some of the information transfer is more effectively accomplished through Guidance Counselor-taught classes.

There are three full time guidance counselors at the HS, 2 full time adjustment counselors

Student centered groups are lunch group/pragmatic group/groups structured around IEP goals

How can we enhance a proactive approach to social emotional issues? Giving guidance counselors access to classrooms for targeted teaching helps to bring pertinent strategies and information to students at the front end, rather than waiting for students in crisis to seek out help after a crisis is underway?

Behavioral Risk Assessment data from this year's assessments will be shared when the aggregate data is made available.

Guidance Caseloads: Are they negatively impacted by staffing changes? Caseloads are still very manageable, similar to surrounding schools and to the loads they have historically carried. Although some students have expressed concerns about accessibility to counselors, this is a function more of scheduling (students often see guidance counselors during the Power Block) than of staffing.

Recommendation to seek connection with Al-Anon as another affiliation which would be helpful to students.
  
2. Lisa Cheney, Preschool Coordinator Exhibit D

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant: playgroups, parent workshops, referral services, general outreach to children 0-5.

Website is [WWW.EarlyChildhoodPartners.weebly.com](http://WWW.EarlyChildhoodPartners.weebly.com)
  
3. Kathy Harris, Managing Director Exhibit E and E1

Social/Emotional needs are becoming a more acute feature of the populations we serve.

Equity and consistency to families including kids with disabilities is a high priority.

This is Kathy's last presentation to the SC meeting, as she is retiring at the end of the year. She will be available to help transition the next person to this position. Her contributions are acknowledged with gratefulness.

Out of district program (p. 4). Number of students outplaced are increasing as number of students in the district are decreasing. Why? Number of ILP elementary students are transitioning out for Middle School. A number of students already in outside placements have moved into the district, and we are accountable for them. We have had challenges in responding to unilateral placements which are followed by parent requests for tuition assistance. Middle School and High School programming is largely adequate for many of the needs. The big challenge across the board are significant mental health issues. Kathy is discussing the possibility of providing these kinds of services in district in conjunction, perhaps with the North Shore Consortium. There are some kids in out of district settings although a case could be made that HW is able to meet their needs. Most out of district placements are, however, in the right places for their needs. Our challenge is to provide appropriate programming at the secondary level for students with social/emotional/mental health issues without isolating or pigeonholing kids.

We have no students with physical disabilities? Clarification—this year we do not have students with physical disabilities classified as the primary disability.

Are the 42 outplacements accounted for in the budget? Are they part of the HS program? Since December, a couple of outplacements have been added. Some students have moved into the district. Requests for outside placements trigger a process for evaluating the services we provide in district and help to evaluate out of district options which may be indicated. Jeff and Kathy will meet to reconcile known outplacements with current budget. After their reconciliation, the SC will be updated.

**E. Donations:**

Exhibit F

1. HW Baseball Boosters: Field Equipment \$530.04
2. Buker Elementatry School Friends: Field Trips \$2,298.00
3. HWRHS and MRMS Friends Groups: DECA \$500.00

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE DONATIONS LISTED IN EXHIBIT F.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick**

Clarification is needed on oversight of funds such as the ones related to DECA. Mike Harvey will check with Don Gallant and report back to the SC.

**Motion passed: approved by 6 opposed by 1.**

**F. Working Groups**

Exhibit G

Discussion of group membership, including community involvement. Take reference to Turf Working Group off at this time. Remove Gene Lee and Josh Liebow from Policy Working

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE THE WORKING GROUPS APPOINTED AT THE APRIL 27 MEETING, AS AMENDED.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick**

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

**VIII. Other**

**A. Topics for future meeting**

1. Each working group should meet to establish its charge, chair and secretary. Update at 5/18 meeting
2. Approve meeting minutes from April 6
3. Professional development for the SC—when/whom to facilitate?
4. Whittier STEM Fund
5. Eric Tracey presentation
6. Project Adventure presentation
7. Draft Warrant Committee Schedule
8. Bay State Textiles—does the district wish to pursue a relationship?
9. June School Committee meetings are the 8th and 15th

**IX. Vote to Adjourn**

**I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO ADJOURN AT 9:40 PM.**

**MOTION by Kerry Gertz; SECONDED by Stacey Metternick**

**Unanimously approved by 7 members present**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner  
Clerk, H-WRSC Meeting