

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2016
5:10 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

Larry Swartz called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM in the Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room

PRESENT:

Jeanise Bertrand, Deborah Evans, Dennis Hurley, Larry Swartz, Emily Madden Stacey Metternick

ABSENT:

Hannah Fraley

ALSO PRESENT:

Dr. Michael Harvey, Donna Bunk, Secretary

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the pledge of allegiance

I. CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments

I. CHAIR'S REPORT

No Chair's report

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No Superintendent's report

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. REGIONAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT OF APPORTIONMENT CALCULATION

DISCUSSION:

This meeting was to further discuss apportionment formula after discussion at last meeting determined SC members needed more information. Tonight's meeting is being held at 5:00 because Hamilton selectmen will be closing the ATM warrant at their meeting tonight @ 7:00 so if we decided to put something on the warrant to make a change to the regional agreement, there would be enough time to get it over to the board of selectmen. The Planning Working Group met last week and its three members agree that we should not vote a change to the apportionment formula in the Regional Agreement tonight. This is due to the School Committee, at their last

meeting, needing additional information, which demonstrated that though this issue is simple in nature, the explanation of the change is complicated. Therefore, recognizing the short period of time until, ATM, there may not be enough time to educate the community. The option to wait is further supported by the leadership of the two towns prefer to wait and pursue this issue in a working group. The plan would be to bring to fall town meetings.

The current proposal is to implement a six year rolling average, from the current three, for FY '24. This point in time is when the current elementary group, whose ratio of town of residence is almost identical to the current 3 year rolling average, will be in high school and we have little to no reliable information on the group of students who will then be in school in the lower grades. This provides a neutral point to stretch the three year rolling average from three years to six and thereby smooth out year over year increases in the cost sharing apportionment ratio between the towns. The working group could also consider whether it would be better to have a three year phase in period where the rolling average would go to 4 years in year 1 in 2024 and then 5 years and 6 years in the following two years. Key part of this is to establish a Working Group to work through options to get agreement on a proposal among the school district and the two towns, and then be able to educate the community before fall town meetings.

Motion: I move that the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee authorize the chairman and vice chairman to establish a working group comprised of leadership of the (2) towns and the district to continue discussion of the apportionment formula in the regional agreement with the goal of establishing consensus in time for presentation of a change at a fall town meeting in each member town.

**Motion by DEBORAH EVANS; seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND
5 APPROVED; ONE ABSTENTION**

VI. VOTE TO ADJOURN

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VOTE TO ADJOURN**

**Motion by DEBORAH EVANS; seconded by DENNIS HURLEY
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT 5:35 PM**

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Bunk
Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting