

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 7, 2016  
7:15 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Larry Swartz called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm in the Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.

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

Also present: Michael Harvey, Celeste Bowler, Jeff Sands, Kerrienne Heppner (Student Representative)  
Nancy Bergner, (Secretary)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

**I. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

No comments presented

**II. CHAIR'S REPORT**

- Schwartz received a citizen's call to discuss a local group's proposal to explore the possibility of opening an all girl's private day school in Wenham. The SC has a responsibility to approve private schools within the boundaries of the district. See *Boston Business Journal's* October article about this possibility. See <http://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2015/10/27/group-eyes-catholic-girls-school-in-wenham.html>

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- On Friday, December 18th, I accepted Dr. Celeste Bowler's resignation from the position of Assistant Superintendent for Learning. Dr. Bowler has decided to accept a similar position with the East Providence, RI Public Schools. As many of you know, Dr. Bowler has spent the last five years living between her home in Rhode Island and a rented apartment in Essex in order to work in the HWRSD. This move back to Rhode Island will allow her move back into her home "full-time." I would like to recognize and thank Dr. Bowler for her contributions to improving the quality of education for the students and teachers in the HWRSD and wish her the best in her new position.
- Regarding filling the position of Assistant Superintendent for Learning, I would like to take this opportunity to review our leadership structure to see if there is a more efficient and effective model that we may want to implement. I've begun meeting with Assistant Superintendent Jeff Sands, and Student Services Director Kathy Harris and we've had some great conversations as we reflect on "what's working, what is not, what we would like to begin doing, and what we would like to discontinue" in regards to our leadership operations. My plan is to share any alternate organizational model proposals with the full leadership team, members of the faculty and ultimately with the

School Committee for their input before making any decisions regarding how we will move forward.

- On Thursday, January 21st, the School Committee will convene at 6:30 PM for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Budget. Public Hearings are opportunities for members of the School Committee to gain input from constituents regarding a particular issue or topic. The FY17 Proposed Budget Documents are available at <http://www.hwschools.net/page.cfm?p=2129> under the “FY17 Budget Documents” Tab.
- Miles River Middle School presents Shrek: The musical January 14-16.
- A group of students from the Donglu Middle School in Shanghai, China will be visiting the Miles River Middle School during the week of January 25th. The Donglu Students will attend classes at Miles River and participate in a home-stay with Miles River Families for part of the week.
- On Friday, February 12th, HWRHS Science Classes will be hosting our annual visit from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Each year, the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard brings a team (~30 people) to introduce students to various STEM related fields that they work in at the shipyard. Thanks to HWRHS Chemistry Teacher Regina O’Neil and Science Curriculum Leader John Kotch for organizing this event.
- On Monday, March 28th the District will be presenting a screening of the film “Most Likely to Succeed” at 7:00 PM in the Ferrini Auditorium. The film is a great look at how schools are changing to teach students the skills they will need in order to be successful in the future. Tickets to the screening are free, but seating is limited. Tickets can be reserved at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/most-likely-to-succeed-screening-at-hamilton-wenham-regional-high-school-tickets-20570591192> After the screening, we will hold a discussion session regarding what the themes presented in “Most Likely to Succeed” mean for education in the HWRSD.

#### **IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| A. Minutes of December 17, 2015    | Exhibit A |
| B. Model UN Field Trip-Boston 2016 | Exhibit B |

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVE ALL OF THE REMAINING ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. THERE CAN BE NO FURTHER DISCUSSION NOR AMENDMENT OF THIS MOTION.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by EMILY MADDEN.**

***UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED***

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was presented.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| A. Budget Discussion (continued), facilitated by Jeff Sands | Exhibit C |
|---|-----------|

1. General discussion including Revenue Sources, Expense Offsets, Primary cost Drivers  
*Inquiries from SC members and the general public on any aspect of this proposed budget are welcome.*

The SC meetings, public hearings and town meetings leading up to the February 11 SC meeting will extend discussion and explanation of the proposed budget.

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL**

**COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE A TENTATIVE FY17 TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BUDGET OF \$31,279,282. THIS AMOUNT INCLUDES THE GENERAL FUND OPERATING EXPENSES (AFTER OFFSETS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,150,032 AND GENERAL FUND DEBT SERVICE EXPENSES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,129,250.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

2. Introduction to 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan

Discussion: This improvement plan does not assume funding sources, but seeks to accommodate the many “moving parts” which influence capital expenses. Sequencing of biggest numbers will be contingent on initiatives connected with the Master Plan.

*Inquiries from SC members and the general public on any aspect of this improvement are welcome.*

This document is fluid. We will review it again as we prepare for the Feb. 11 SC meeting. Note the *Timeline and Next Steps* part of Exhibit C, which shows the plan for including both towns and general public input on this plan and the operating budget.

3. School Committee Adopts Tentative FY17 Budget

B. Approval of Plaque for Friends of the Arts

Exhibit D

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE A FOTA PLAQUE HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PARELLI OPTICA, SPONSOR OF THE MELODY MILES RACE.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DEBORAH EVANS  
5 APPROVED, 1 OPPOSED.**

C. Donations

Exhibit E

1. Friends of Cutler School \$537.68, partially subsidizing a field trip to NSMT’s production of *A Christmas Carol*
2. Hollan Publishing \$1,500 in support of the Washington DC Trip.

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE ALL THE DONATIONS LISTED IN EXHIBIT E [FROM FRIENDS OF CUTLER SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$537.68. THE DONATION FROM HOLLAN PUBLISHING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1500.00].**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by DENNIS HURLEY.  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

D. Vote School Calendar for 2016-17

Exhibit F

Discussion regarding the pros and cons of beginning after Labor Day.

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2016/2017 SCHOOL YEAR.**

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by EMILY MADDEN.**

Discussion and questions concerning teachers' input on the calendar including holidays, workshops and citizen concerns.

**5 APPROVED, 1 OPPOSED**

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

**Motion by STACEY METTERNICK; seconded by EMILY MADDEN  
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner  
Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting