

**HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 5, 2016
7:15 PM**

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Harvey called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm in the Buker Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room.

Present: Michelle Bailey, Jeanise Bertrand, Deborah Evans, Hannah Fraley, Dennis Hurley, Stacey Metternick, David Polito

Also present: Michael Harvey
Peggy McElhinney
Jeff Sands

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

III. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

No citizen comments

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. School Committee Reorganization

B. Election of Officers

1. Chairperson—Deb Evans and Stacey Metternick nominated. After discussion, Stacey Metternick was chosen by a hand vote.
2. Vice-Chair—Hannah Fraley
3. Secretary—Michelle Bailey
4. Assistant Secretary—Dennis Hurley
5. Assistant Treasurer—David Polito

C. Michael Harvey introduced Peggy McElhinney, Director of Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction. She begins July 1.

D. Report from Brad Hill on FY17 Budget & School Legislation [postponed]

E. Reorganization of Sub Committees

- Warrant, Policy and Finance are retained as working groups. Upon consideration, committee members will email Chairperson with their preference for working group service.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO CREATE A WARRANT SUB-COMMITTEE (FUNCTIONING THROUGH SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2017) AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE WOULD BE DAVID POLITO AND HANNAH FRALEY.

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY; seconded by HANNAH FRALEY

Unanimously approved.

- Discussion of subcommittees; suggestion of the addition of a Student Achievement sub-committee. An alternative of having quarterly reports from Kathy Harris and Peggy McElhinney in order to more effectively track student achievement was discussed. More frequent reports from school councils would also serve this purpose.
- Planning sub-committee: this committee's call should include facilities. Concern expressed that persons knowledgeable regarding apportionment be available to provide continuity.

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE TO CREATE THREE SUB-COMMITTEES FOR THE NEXT YEAR, ENDING IN 2017: COMMUNICATIONS, POLICY, AND PLANNING.

- **COMMUNICATIONS: DAVID POLITO, DEB EVANS AND MICHELLE BAILEY**
- **POLICY: DENNIS HURLEY, HANNAH FRALEY AND MICHELLE BAILEY**
- **PLANNING: DEB EVANS, JEANISE BERTRAND AND STACEY METTERNICK**

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY; Seconded by HANNAH FRALEY
Unanimously approved.

Subcommittees should bring updated charges for their tasks to next School Committee Meeting

F. Selection of School Liaisons:

- Suggestion to merge MRMS and HWRHS liaisons from two persons to one. Their meetings are first Monday at 9 AM. Their next meeting is in September.
- Liaison with Buker Friends group— Jeanise shared how she participated in the past, importance of communicating relevant information shared between Buker and the SC.
- Discussion of pros and cons of SC liaisons being present at the meetings vs. maintaining close email correspondence. Each Friends association should be aware of who their liaison is. Each SC member should be in close communication with the presidents of each Friends committee.
- Liaisons are—
 - David Polito for Buker.
 - Dennis Hurley for Cutler
 - Michelle Bailey for Winthrop
 - Hannah Fraley for SEPAC
 - Jeanise Bertrand for HWHS and MRMS

Updates: Friends of Buker—Mother's day flower sale on Friday and Saturday Mother's Day weekend

Friends of the Arts: Annual Melody Miles Saturday of Memorial Day weekend—

G. EdFund Grant > Winthrop School Lego Education We Do 2.0

Exhibit A

I MOVE THAT THE HWSC ACCEPT THE GIFT OF \$795 FOR THE LEGO EDUCATION WE DO PROGRAM.

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY, seconded by JEANISE BERTRAND

Unanimously approved

H. Vote to accept Grant money from the Friends of the Arts in the amount of \$1,859.50 for the purchase of Camera Equipment Exhibit B

I MOVE THAT THE HWSC ACCEPT THE GRANT OF \$1859.50 FROM FRIENDS OF THE ARTS FOR A NIKON DIGITAL CAMERA FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL'S DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CAMERA.

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY, seconded by HANNAH FRALEY

Unanimously approved

I. Vote Last Day of School

I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON WENHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE VOTE THE LAST DAY OF THE 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR TO BE JUNE 24. THIS WILL BE AN EARLY RELEASE DAY, AND NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY, seconded by DENNIS HURLEY

Unanimously approved

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week:

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week. Please take a minute to remember those teachers who helped us to become the adults we are today, and to say "thanks" to the dedicated educators of the HWRSD who are making a difference in the lives of the adults of tomorrow.

I am happy to announce the hiring of Peggy McElhinney as the Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction. Peggy brings the right combination of education, professional experience and passion to help lead the HWRSD towards achieving its mission of preparing all students to succeed in the future. Among her many accomplishments in her nine years as the Curriculum Director at Danvers High School, Peggy oversaw the re-alignment of the school's curriculum into an Understanding by Design Model, made great strides in strengthening the math and science programs at Danvers Middle and High Schools, and worked with teachers to tie district and school improvement goals together to create professional practice and student learning goals that resulted in improved student performance. I am excited about the prospect of adding Peggy to our District Leadership Team beginning on July 1.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of the members of the Hamilton-Wenham community who took the time to participate in this process and share their views on the candidates. As we had several well-qualified applicants for this position, the feedback supplied by search committee members and faculty and administration who participated in the open interviews was invaluable in helping to identify the best candidate.

PARCC Testing in Full Swing

PARCC Testing is currently taking place in our elementary and middle schools for all students in grades 3-8. Teachers and principals report the testing is going smoothly. I also met with a group of students earlier this week to learn their impressions of the new test. They reported that the format of the questions, the vocabulary used in them and being able to give more than one response to a ques-

tion was different for them. They also reported that while they were concerned at the beginning of the session as to whether 90 minutes would be enough time to complete it, most students found that it was more than enough time. Some students even went as far to say that they felt the time limit was preferable to the untimed MCAS, since the PARCC sessions were actually shorter than what they had experienced with the MCAS.

Meeting with Andrew DeFranza, Harborlight Community Partners

On Wednesday, April 13, I met with Andrew DeFranza, Executive Director of Harborlight Community Partners. Andrew presented the plans for the proposed Miles River Village Project on land that abuts the HWRHS/MRMS Complex. I learned from Mr. DeFranza that the project is very much in the preliminary stages. The current plan is for 108 units of housing on the site. Harborlight projects about 50 students will live in this complex and therefore attend the public schools. We agreed to keep the lines of communication open as the planning for the project progresses.

Spanish Department News

World Language Curriculum Leader Kevan Sano has a lot of great news to report. Two submissions from Spanish Teachers have been accepted for inclusion in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) 2016 conference in Boston, Massachusetts, November 18-20, 2016.

Matt Jones and Sara Amancio will be presenting Hispanic Cinema: Thematic Units with Films from the Spanish-Speaking World.

Kevan Sano will be presenting Moving your students from consumers to creators: Recipes for App Smashing.

The Department also gave the National Spanish Exam to all our 8th graders, and our Spanish 2H and 3H students. Kevan anticipates many medal winners as several students scored perfect scores on the Performance Section of the exam.

For the first time, students from HWRHS travelled to Cuba over April School break. Kevan reports the trip was amazing and promises pictures and a presentation soon.

MASC Day on the Hill

On Tuesday, April 26th, I attended the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' "Day on the Hill" Program at the Statehouse in Boston. HWRHS Junior Pippa White, Senior Thomas Riccio and School Committee Member Jeanise Bertrand accompanied me. During this conference we heard from leadership from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate relative to pending legislation involved with K-12 public education. Afterwards, we were treated to a visit to the House Chamber by our own Rep. Brad Hill. The day is a great way to get students involved in the political process and to learn about the pending issues on Beacon Hill.

HWRHS Rankings

Congratulations to the faculty, staff and administration at HWRHS. US News and World Report recently released their annual list of America's Best High Schools. HWRHS was ranked #344 in the US and #13 in Massachusetts. The full report is located here: <http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/massachusetts/districts/hamilton-wenham/hamilton-wenham-regional-high-9382>

HWRHS was also listed at #625 in the Washington Post's Annual High School Rankings. This is up from #1224 in 2014.

NHD State Winners

The following students received awards on Saturday, April 9th at the Massachusetts History Day State Finals for their outstanding historical research projects. All 1st and 2nd place winners will represent Massachusetts at the National History Day State competition in Washington DC this June. Thank you to Kristen Borges, Rob Emmett, Johann Knets, and Vinnie Bucci for the many hours they spend helping our students craft historical arguments and conduct scholarly research!

Congratulations to all of the participants!

Former BPD Commissioner Ed Davis at HWRHS

On Thursday, 4/28/16, former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis presented to middle and high school students at HWRHS. Commissioner Davis gave a great description of the events of the Boston Marathon Bombings from his first-hand perspective. Thanks to the Hamilton-Wenham League of Women Voters for organizing this event for our students.

Congratulations to MRMS Dramatics Club

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Miles River Middle School Dramatics Society who earned a Gold Medal at the Massachusetts Middle School Drama Festival last weekend. The students wrote and presented the one-act play "Fighting Giants." Congratulations to MRMS Teachers Christine de Lima and Marcie Sidlowski for advising the group. Bravo!

Michael Thompson at HWRHS

On Wednesday, May 17th at 7:00 PM, Dr. Michael Thompson, author of the book Raising Cain will speak at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School about the challenges of raising sons and advice on the best practices for parenting and educating boys. This presentation is funded through a generous grant by the HW EdFund, and initially came out of a book discussion of parents and faculty members at Buker School regarding the educational performance of boys in the school.

There was a brief update on developments in the Cape Ann Superintendent Group discussions about shifting start times for schools in light of research and impacts on school communities. Michael will attend the next meeting in June and continue the discussion. Advantages for high schoolers on beginning school later in the morning may move evening homework times later into the evening, which may mitigate positive effects of starting later. Possible changes in the school day will involve discussions with the Teachers Union as well.

- Candlelight is Wed. June 1 at 8 PM at the High school gym
 - Graduation is Sunday the June 5th at noon
- SC members are strongly encouraged to attend both events. Please be sure to reserve your tickets. SC have seating in the front row.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from April 7, 2016 Exhibit C
- B. b. Minutes from April 11, 2016 Exhibit D

MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HWRSC VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, THE ITEMS BEING THE MINUTES FROM APRIL 7 AND APRIL 11. THERE CAN BE NO CHANGES OR DISCUSSION.

Motion by MICHELLE BAILEY, seconded by HANNAH FRALEY

Unanimously approved

VII. VOTE TO ADJOURN

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner
Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting