



HAMILTON-WENHAM

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

5 SCHOOL STREET, WENHAM, MA 01984 · TEL. 978-468-5310

Policy/Legislative Subcommittee Meeting ([Agenda](#))

Zoom Virtual Meeting ([recording link](#))

Meeting ID: 816 7376 3605

Passcode: 830753

Monday, October 25, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Present:

Anna Siedzik

Michelle Horgan

David Polito (6:20 PM arrival)

Also Present:

Eric Tracy, District Superintendent

Dorothy Presser, MASC Representative

Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

6:00 PM

With a quorum present, Ms. Siedzik calls the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Anna Siedzik, Michelle Horgan, Eric Tracy, and Dorothy Presser are present for the meeting, which is being held remotely via Zoom.

2. Approval of Minutes:

- April 27, 2021
- May 20, 2021

[Exhibit](#)

[Exhibit](#)

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FROM 04/27/2021 AND 05/20/2021, AS WRITTEN IN THE EXHIBITS ON THE MEETING AGENDA.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by Anna Siedzik.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of two (2) members present.

3. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

This agenda item is held until later in the meeting in order to allow all subcommittee members to participate (following agenda item #5, at approximately 6:42 PM).

4. Discussion of Policy on Length of School Committee Meetings

[Exhibit](#)

There is discussion regarding the language included in the Length of School Committee Meetings Policy, as detailed in the [exhibit](#). There is discussion regarding exceptions to the policy; categories of meetings; procedure to extend meetings and under what circumstances; etc.

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVE THE DRAFT POLICY ON LENGTH OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS, *POLICY BE*, AS PRESENTED

IN THE [EXHIBIT](#), WITH THE ADDITION OF THE WORDS “EXECUTIVE SESSION” IN THE SENTENCE DESCRIBING WHERE THE POLICY APPLIES.

MOTION by Anna Siedzik; SECONDED by Michelle Horgan.

Michelle Horgan YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of two (2) members present.

Ms. Siedzik will send Mr. Tracy a pdf of this document later this evening. This will appear for a first reading at the next School Committee meeting (scheduled 11/04/2021).

5. Discussion of Adoption of Flag Policy

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

[Exhibit 3](#)

[Exhibit 4](#)

There is discussion about other districts’ policies, as presented in the exhibits listed above.

David Polito joins the meeting at approximately 6:20 PM.

Discussion continues regarding developing the district’s flag policy, including decision-making process; government property/government speech; review process; purview of the School Committee; restrictions outlined in the policy; etc.

Subcommittee members agree that the policy will:

- Affirm that government speech is at the discretion of the elected body;
- Apply to publicly visible flag poles and/or locations where the School Committee convenes;

There is discussion regarding the process of requesting a specific flag be flown. Subcommittee members agree:

- Written requests will be addressed to the Chair of the School Committee;
- Requests will indicate the alignment with district mission goals and student learning outcomes;
- Flags will be flown for a fixed period of time, as determined by the School Committee;
- Flags will be flown in accordance with US flag code;
- All requests reviewed within 90 days of submission.

Ms. Siedzik will draft the policy as discussed this evening, and a draft will appear on the next *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee* meeting agenda. The policy will also be reviewed by the district's new legal counsel.

3. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Michelle Horgan nominates Anna Siedzik to serve as Chairperson for the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee*. Ms. Siedzik accepts this nomination.

Michelle Horgan YES;

David Polito YES;

Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

Michelle Horgan nominates David Polito to serve as Vice Chair for the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee*. Mr. Polito accepts this nomination.

Michelle Horgan YES;
David Polito YES;
Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

Anna Siedzik nominated Michelle Horgan to serve as Secretary for the *Policy/Legislative Subcommittee*. Ms. Horgan accepts this nomination.

Michelle Horgan YES;
David Polito YES;
Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

6. Discussion of Protected Class inconsistencies in Policies

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

Ms. Presser notes that the MASC is currently working on developing a new non-discrimination policy, which will also impact the protected class language. She recommends that the subcommittee hold this item until their next meeting in order to adopt the MASC approved language.

There is some discussion regarding the policies concerned and developing language that would allow MASC's recommendation to take effect automatically. There is discussion about the identification of protected classes and strategy moving forward.

All members agree to hold this item until the next subcommittee meeting. Mr. Tracy will review any changes to AC policy and make sure that next year's Student Handbook is aligned accordingly.

7. Review starting at Technology IJND

[Exhibit 1](#)

[Exhibit 2](#)

There is some discussion regarding the status of policy review and progress made as of the last subcommittee meeting (05/20/2021). Exhibit 2 reflects the changes already agreed upon - Technology Policies - by the subcommittee. This has not been presented to the School Committee for first reading because the entirety of the I section policies have not yet been completed.

There is some discussion about IJNDC, Publicly Available Internet Postings. Ms. Presser will revise the policy as discussed, and this will replace the entire current IJND policy section. Discussion regarding IJNDD, Social Media Policy.

Second readings of IJOA and IJOB and motions to approve in form took place on 05/05/2021. Discussion begins regarding IJOC, School Volunteers, including vaccination requirements; MOU; those included in the policy; fingerprints and legal requirements for volunteers.

Discussion will begin on IK at the next subcommittee meeting.

8. Other items unanticipated by Chair

None.

9. Set Next Meeting Date

There is some discussion regarding the scheduling of future subcommittee meetings, with members agreeing to schedule meetings on Mondays at 6:00 PM. Ms. Horgan notes that the Athletic Facilities group meetings occur the first Monday of each month. Ms. Presser is able to meet as long as meetings are

scheduled in advance and only occur once per month. There is some discussion about the pace of policy review, with agreement that the subcommittee will strive to review 12-15 policies per meeting.

Next subcommittee meeting dates:

11/22/2021, 6:00 PM
01/10/2022, 6:00 PM
02/28/2022, 6:00 PM
03/21/2022, 6:00 PM
04/11/2022, 6:00 PM

Members agree to continue the subcommittee meetings via Zoom.

10. Adjournment

I MOVE THAT THE POLICY/LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE ADJOURN THE 10/25/2021 MEETING AT 7:43 PM.

MOTION by Michelle Horgan; SECONDED by David Polito.

Michelle Horgan YES;
David Polito YES;
Anna Siedzik YES.

MOTION PASSES unanimously through roll call vote of three (3) members present.

Respectfully submitted November 10, 2021 by Mahala Lettvin, Recording Secretary.

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A § 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access this School Committee meeting. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable. Please [click here](#) to read the Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20.

*Zoom App Information: If you plan to participate, download the [Zoom.com](#) application now. The option to download will also be available at the start of the meeting. When opening the Zoom App, select "Join Meeting" in the upper right corner and enter the meeting id: Meeting ID: 816 7376 3605; Passcode: 830753. The community should ask questions via the "chat" function within the Zoom application during the Citizen's Comments section. During the Zoom meeting, participants will be given instructions on how to provide their comments. Unfortunately, we must limit the in-person conversations to just the Committee members. However, for the benefit of all, the School Committee meetings will be available on our local cable channel, HWCam, and [HWCam.org](#), for review a few hours after the meeting has ended. Members of the Public can access the meeting via [YouTube HWRSD live stream link](#) the next day.