

**Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District  
Office of the Superintendent  
Wenham, Massachusetts 01984**

**MEETING MINUTES FROM A JOINT MEETING OF  
THE HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE,  
THE TOWN OF HAMILTON FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND THE  
TOWN OF WENHAM FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Date: January 28, 2016  
To: School Committee Members  
From: Michael Harvey, Superintendent of Schools  
Re: Joint meeting of the FinComs of Hamilton and Wenham, along with the  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mike Lucy called the joint meeting of the Financial Committees of the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham, along with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee to order at 7:00 pm at the Buker School.

Present from the Hamilton-Wenham School Committee:

Jeanise Bertrand  
Deborah Evans  
Larry Swartz, School Committee Chair  
Jeff Sands, Assistant Superintendent  
Michael Harvey, Superintendent

Present from the Financial Advisory Committee of Hamilton

Joe Hughes  
Rick Sprenkle, Chair  
Nicholas Tensen  
E. David Wanger  
Brian Connolly, Director of Finance

Present from the Financial Advisory Committee of Wenham

Alexander Begin  
Ned Flynn  
Mike Lucy, Chair  
Richard Quinn  
Mike Therrien  
Angel Wills

Also Present:

Nancy Bergner, secretary for Hamilton-Wenham School Committee

**Welcome and Introductions:** Mike Lucy

***Purpose of the Session***

Presentation of Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District's FY2017 School Budget, with opportunity for questions from the Hamilton and Wenham Financial Advisory Committees of the Town of Hamilton and the Town of Wenham, representatives of the School Committee answering.

H-WRSC Chair Larry Swartz, as one of several School Committee members who have formerly served on Financial Committees, thanked members of both FinComs for their diligent work. Swartz introduced the data sheet provided to guide discussion.

Superintendent Mike Harvey summarized the FY2017 Budget as presented. "Level Service" is emphasized as a priority for maintaining high quality in educational service. The intention to implement the Master Plan during FY2017 was noted.

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Sands explicated the numbers and how the expenses listed translate into assessment for future needs. Explanations of salary and transportation costs in particular were presented.

Issues presented by School District:

Leveling of federal and state education grants as projected

Impact of continuing payments on current debt

Increase in total expenditures

Assumptions surrounding income projections: current budget reflects 2016 income, therefore providing a conservative estimate.

Total Revenue sources have decreased.

Net assessment numbers have increased. by 5%, with regard to apportionments. Wenham's share is increasing by 9%; Hamilton's by 3%.

Net increases and planned cost offsets, along with placeholder budgets for anticipated expenses.

Note that known retirements and associated costs of replacing staff (if replacing staff is deemed desirable) is build into the budget.

Bidding process for three-year transportation contrasts. It is important to note that transportation costs include labor cost as well as fuel cost factors. Labor costs in the bus industry have increased by 30% per hour.

Unions who negotiate with the School District include the Teachers' Union, Office Personnel Union and Custodians' Union.

Discussion of relative merits of a budget strategy beginning with Level Funding, or exploration and comparison of implications of Level Service budget vs. Level Funding budget. The Master Plan is a useful factor in the process.

Five Year Capital Plan (FY2017-FY2021) encompassing every aspect of the School Districts operations. Question of current utility costs raised, along with feasibility of installing solar panels.

Timeline of discussion and confirmation of FY2017 budget.

Questions and Comments from FinComs invited.

Impact of enrollment trends on Wenham's apportionment

Post employment benefits and their impact on non-funded liability. Recommendation that School District seek advisors to assist in addressing this.

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE WENHAM FINCOM VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2015.**

**Motion by MIKE THEISSEN; seconded by ALEX BEGIN.**

***UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.***

**MOTION: I MOVE THAT THE HAMILTON AND WENHAM FINCOMS VOTE TO ADJOURN.**

**Motion by E. DAVID WANGER; seconded by NICHOLAS TENSEN.**

***UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT 8:17 PM***

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy R. Bergner

Secretary, H-WRSC Meeting

Chair  4/13/2016