

SPOTLIGHT

1st Edition
June 2016



School Committee Reorganization

Welcome to the new members of the school committee – Michelle Bailey, David Polito – and returning members Jeanise Bertrand and Deb Evans. At the May 5th meeting, the School Committee completed its reorganization.

Officers were elected as follows:

Stacey Metternick, Chair
Hannah Fraley, Vice-Chair
Michelle Bailey, Secretary
Dennis Hurley, Assistant Secretary
David Polito, Assistant Treasurer

The Subcommittee/Working Groups were also reorganized as follows:

Warrant – David Polito, Hannah Fraley
Policy – Dennis Hurley, Michelle Bailey, Hannah Fraley
Communications – Deb Evans, David Polito, Michelle Bailey
Planning – Jeanise Bertrand, Deb Evans, Stacey Metternick

These groups will meet in the coming weeks to reorganize and develop a charge for review and approval by the entire School Committee.



Last Day of School

At its May 5th meeting, the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee voted the last day of the 2015-2016 school year to be Friday, June 24, 2016. This will be an early release day and no lunch will be served.

Miles River Village Project

Superintendent Harvey has met with Andrew DeFranza, Executive Director of Harborlight Community Partners.

Andrew provided Dr. Harvey with information regarding the Miles River Village Affordable Housing Development proposed for parcels on Longmeadow in Hamilton and abutting the HWRHS/MRMS Campus.

Harborlight Community Partners is proposing 108 units of housing and projecting about 50 students will live in the complex and be eligible to attend the public schools. Dr. Harvey will be updated as project plans progress.

District Welcomes New Director of Curriculum

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School System Welcomes Peggy McElhinney as New Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

At the May 5 School Committee meeting, Superintendent Harvey introduced Peggy McElhinney as the Hamilton Wenham Regional School District's new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Dr. Harvey explained, "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 Ms. McElhinney's 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 result in improved student performance.

We are excited about the prospect of adding Peggy to our District Leadership Team beginning on July 1.

Big Theater Wins for Two HW Schools



Theater Workshop's Award-Winning Performance of W.A.S.P.

Theater Workshop takes top honors.

Miles River Middle School Dramatics wins gold.

The HWRHS Theater Workshop took top honors at the State Festival of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild for their one-act play W.A.S.P., written by Steve Martin. Congratulations to cast and crew and to HWRHS Drama Teacher Chris Shailor.

Likewise, the Miles River Middle School Dramatics Society earned a Gold Medal at the Massachusetts Middle School Drama Festival for their one-act play "Fighting Giants," which was written by the students themselves. Congratulations to cast and crew and their advisors, MRMS teachers Christine de Lima and Marcie Sidlowski.



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DISTRICT INFO

HAMILTON-WENHAM
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEAD OFFICE
5 School Street., Wenham, MA 01984
978-468-5310

SENIOR STAFF

SUPERINTENDENT - Michael Harvey, Ed.D
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT - Jeffrey Sands
TREASURER - Don Gallant
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM - Peggy McElhinney
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT - Donna Bunk

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

CHAIR - Stacey Matternick
VICE-CHAIR - Hannah Fraley
SECRETARY - Michelle Bailey
ASST SECRETARY - Dennis Hurley
ASST TREASURER - David Polito
MEMBER - Jeanise Bertrand
MEMBER - Deborah Evans

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

WRITER - Michelle Bailey
WRITER CONTRIBUTING - Deborah Evans
WRITER - Tracy Mayor
ART DIRECTOR - David Polito



8th Grade Trips to Spain and China approved for 2017

At its June 2nd meeting, the Hamilton Wenham Regional School Committee voted to approve 2 trips for 8th graders to be scheduled for June of 2017.

These trips, requested by 6-12 Curriculum coordinator Kevan Sano-O'Brien and Miles River language teachers Catherine Frost and Xi Chen, would be the capstone of the 8th grade language experience and would also help prepare students for continued language study at the high school.

For Spanish students there will be a trip "Language Immersion through Spain: Madrid and Barcelona" from June 22, 2017 through June 30, 2017.

For Mandarin students there will be a trip "Language Immersion in Beijing and Shanghai" with an opportunity to visit the Donglu School from June 22, 2017 through July 3, 2017.

Both trips would be conducted through EF (Education First) Educational Tours.

Additional information about these trips can be found at www.hwschools.net under the School Committee tab. See the handouts from the June 2, 2016 meeting.



Discussions of Changing the Regional Agreement

Last year, the School Committee decided to create a subcommittee to look at how the cost of the school district are divided between the two towns.

The current formulation for sharing cost is based on the enrollment of students residing in each member town over the past three years. However, in some years this leads to this dramatic increases for one member town.

These swings in student enrollment and proportional costs challenge the member towns' ability to manage their own budgets and tax rates.

The School Committee would like to continue the discussions with the member towns on the best way to share the costs of the regional school district.

School Committee Chair, Stacey Metternick, will be contacting her colleagues on the select boards to gauge interest in evaluating new assessment formulas.