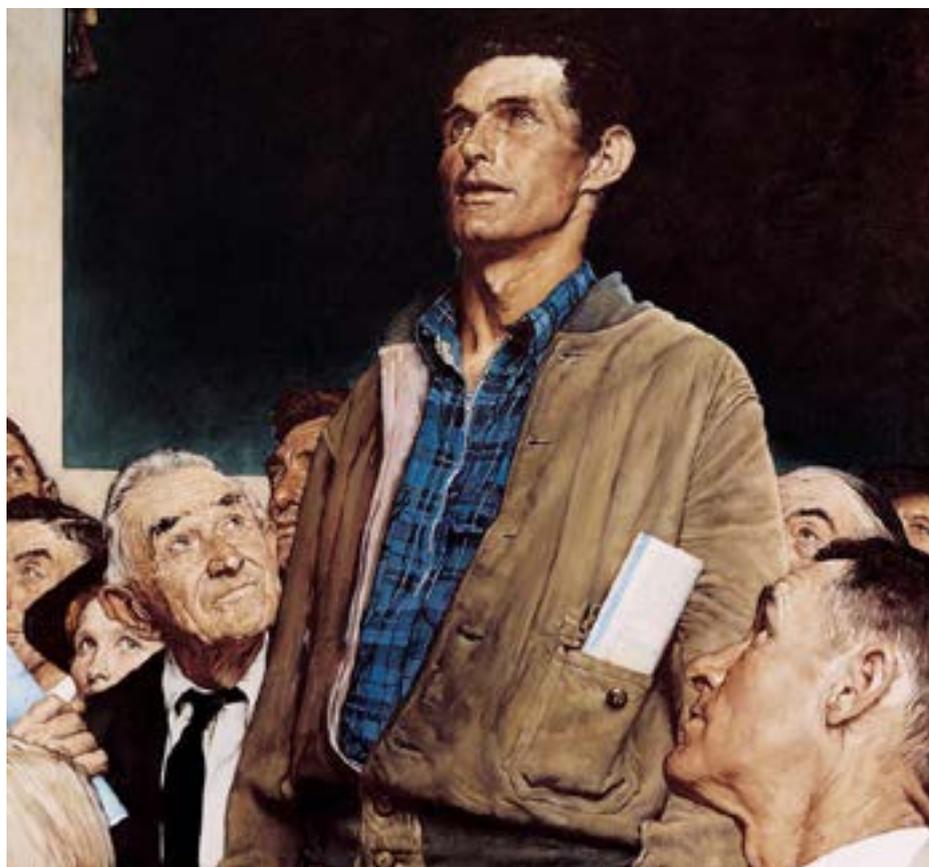


SPOTLIGHT

7th Edition
April 2017



School Budget, Buker Playground on tap at Town Meetings

The towns of Hamilton and Wenham will each hold their Annual Town Meetings on **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. Voters will be asked to approve the HWRSD Fiscal Year '18 budget, among other warrant items that are of interest to school families.

Hamilton Town Meeting is Sat. April 1, at **9 a.m.** at **Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School auditorium**.

Wenham Town Meeting is Sat. April 1 at **1 p.m.** in the **Perkins Auditorium at the Bessie Buker Elementary School**.

Please plan to attend your town meeting and approve the HWRSD FY18 budget, the work of many months and many committees.

The FY18 HWRSD budget is a level-services budget, which means it continues current programs, services and staffing and does not introduce any new services or

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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 Metternick
VICE-CHAIR - Michelle Bailey
SECRETARY - Josh Liebow
ASST SECRETARY - Gene Lee
MEMBER - David Polito
MEMBER - Jeanise Bertrand
MEMBER - Deborah Evans

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

WRITER - Michelle Bailey
WRITER - Deborah Evans
CONTRIBUTING
WRITER - Tracy Mayor
WRITER/LAYOUT - David Polito

programs. The proposed budget, which includes the reduction of 4.0 FTE teaching positions at the high school, represents an increase to the total assessment to the towns of 1.3%.

Also of interest to school families on the Town Meeting warrant in both towns:

- A request to use CPC funds for the playground at Buker elementary school
- A citizen's petition in both Hamilton and Wenham directing the towns to study the feasibility of using land on Longmeadow Way, adjacent to the High School/Middle School campus, for joint schools or joint recreational use. The school committee was asked at its Feb. 13 meeting to support such a study and voted unanimously in favor of the proposal.

Candidates Forum

The League of Women Voters of Hamilton Wenham hosted a Candidate's Forum on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at the Buker Elementary School. Voters wanting to learn more about the candidates are encouraged to watch the forum on cable access channel HWCam, Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 36.

Town Elections

School Committee Elections will be held in conjunction with the elections in the Towns of Hamilton and Wenham on **April 6, 2017** from **7a.m. to 8 p.m.**

- **Hamilton Polling Location** - Recreation Center located at the rear of the Hamilton-Wenham Library at 14 Union Street in South Hamilton.
- **Wenham Polling Location** - Wenham Town Hall at 138 Main Street in Wenham.

The ballot will include the election of two school committee members for **3-year** terms. Kerry Gertz and Gene Lee, both of Hamilton, are candidates in this uncontested race.

Additionally, the ballot includes the election of two members for a **1-year** term. Three candidates are vying in this contested race: Incumbent Stacey Metternick, Joshua Liebow, and Robert Weiner.

Trust Fund for Retiree Benefits

The proposed FY18 budget for Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District includes an anticipated \$40,000 contribution to an OPEB Trust Fund. OPEB stands for other post-employment benefits but generally refers to retiree healthcare benefits. Employees earn these benefits while they are employed by the School District, but they do not receive them until they retire.

Currently, the School District, like many school

districts and towns in Massachusetts, covers these costs as part of the annual budget. As a result, the School District's liability for future OPEB grows each year.

Recent changes by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board require the School District to calculate and accrue the liability for these future expenses. The new requirements are bringing more attention to the growing cost of these retiree benefits.

The two towns have asked the School Committee to consider taking steps to reduce the future liability through a trust fund. This year the School Committee has voted to set aside monies to begin building a trust fund to help cover the cost of current employees benefits when they retire. Working together, the Committee has taken the first step by asking for an appropriation to establish an OPEB Trust Fund.

Thank you to our school supporters!

The School Committee has gratefully accept several donations from the community.

- The Hockey Boosters contributed \$4,000 to help offset the cost of user fees for students participating in the hockey program this year.
- The Hamilton-Wenham Cultural Council provide \$746 of support to the production of the fall musical at the High School.
- The Friends of Winthrop offset the cost of a 5th grade field trip to the North Shore Music Theatre.
- Also, a thank you to the Friends of Winthrop for the makeover of the teacher's lunchroom at the school. Members of the Friends donated their time and \$1,200 of furnishings and supplies.

The support of our community enhances the experience of our students and staff.

School Committee Calendar of Meetings for 2016-2017

Below is a general outline of topics to be discussed by the School Committee. This list is tentative and subject to change as new matters of business develop during the school year that need to be present

All official School Committee agendas must legally be posted 48 hours before meeting time. To find out exactly what's on the agenda for a given meeting, log on to the District Website any time after that point, navigate to the School District's Calendar [page](#), and click the appropriate date and meeting to download that agenda.

October 6, 2016:

Presentation of Superintendent's Goals for 2016-2017
* Presentation of SEPAC Goals for 2016-2017 * Select delegate and alternate for MASC conference * Review of 2017-2018 Academic Calendar * Policy review.

October 20, 2016:

Student government presentation * Presentation from Powers and Sullivan on FY2016 audit * YTD financial report
* Vote on MASC resolutions * Subcommittee reports

November 3, 2016:

SC budget goals discussion * Public hearing regarding school choice * Oct. 1 enrollment report

November TBD, 2016:

Joint meeting with Hamilton and Wenham Finance Committees

November 17, 2016:

District assessment results presentation * Subcommittee reports * SC vote on school choice for FY2018 * Vote on academic calendar for 2017-2018

December 1, 2016:

Policy review

December 15, 2016:

Presentation of Superintendent's recommended FY18 budget * FY18 budget review * Adopt tentative FY18 budget * Warrant for SC elections * Committee reports

January 5, 2017:

FY18 budget review * Policy review

January 19, 2017:

FY18 budget public hearing * FY18 budget review * Committee reports

January TBD, 2017:

Joint meeting with Hamilton and Wenham Finance Committees

February 2, 2017:

Student government presentation * Policy review * FY18 budget review * Adopt FY18 budget

February 16, 2017:

Report on District, SC and Superintendent goal progress for 2016-2017 * Midyear Financial Progress report

March 2, 2017:

Policy review * Midyear update from Student Services

March 16, 2017:

Committee reports * Update from Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

April 1, 2017:

Annual town meetings

April 6, 2017:

Annual town elections

April 6, 2017:

Student government presentation * Policy review *

April 27, 2017:

SC reorganization and election of officers following towns election of April 6 * Review of SC subcommittees

May 4, 2017:

* Vote to set last day of school

May 18, 2017:

Develop School Committee Goals for 2017-2018

June 8, 2017:

Recognition of retirees * Develop SC goals for 2017 – 2018 * Policy review

June 15, 2017:

Committee reports * SEPAC annual report * End-of-year financial forecast * Report on District, SC and Superintendent goal progress for 2016 – 2017

Please know that not all items on a School Committee meeting agenda are open for public comment. To share your views or ask a question about a given agenda item, please be prepared to address the committee during the Citizen's Comments portion of every meeting, which occurs exactly 10 minutes after the meeting is called to order.

For any other questions about meeting topics, please email the School Committee Communications Work Group at SC_COMMUNICATIONS@HWSCHOOLS.NET.