



**Special Town Meeting  
June 9, 2025  
6:30 pm  
Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School**

At the close of registration on June 9, 2025 there were 5824 registered voters. There were 1643 voters present.

Precinct 1 - 881  
Precinct 2 – 762

William Bowler, Town Moderator, stated that the Warrant for this Annual Town Meeting had been properly posted, a quorum was present and Town Meeting was now open.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following officials were sitting at the front of Town Meeting: Tom McEnaney (KP Law, Town Counsel), Carin Kale (Town Clerk), Joe Domelowicz (Town Manager), Wendy Markiewicz (Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director), Bill Olson (Select Board, Chair), Bill Wilson (Select Board), Rosemary Kennedy (Select Board), Tom Myers (Select Board), Benjamin Galuza (Select Board), John McGrath (FinCom Chair), Alex Rindels (FinCom), Chris Woolston (FinCom), John Pruellage (FinCom), and Harry Philip (FinCom).

Mr. Bowler spoke about Town Meeting procedures: To bring an agenda item before the meeting, he would recognize a member of the sponsoring board, committee, or individual so they could make a motion. If the motion was seconded, he would recognize the proponent to speak. When done, he would open discussion. He asked that voters wishing to speak be standing at the microphone and when recognized, state their name and street address. He said the rules are those used at every Town Meeting. Voters will have three minutes to make comments or ask questions about the motion. If a voter continues to speak once the time has elapsed, to maintain a fair and

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efficient meeting requires that he moves on to the next speaker. Comments and questions must be within the 'the four corners of the motion.' Mr. Bowler reminded voters that they are in a legislative session for the Town of Hamilton and that while spirited debate is welcome, being cordial and respectful is a priority for the efficiency of the Meeting. Every person who rises to debate a motion has an equal right to be heard. As such he asked people refrain from making remarks of a personal nature about any Town or School official or any person who is in favor of or against the motion and just comment on the merits of the motion. To ensure that the Meeting is run efficiently, comments or questions must be directed to the Moderator rather than any individual or Town official. He asked that there be no applause, cheering, booing, or any other conduct that would disrupt or delay the Meeting. All motions to amend must be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing and Town Counsel is available to provide some assistance. No more than one amendment may be pending at the same time. A vote is first taken on the amendment and then on the main motion.

Mr. Bowler spoke about the voting procedures: Votes will be counted using the electronic voting clickers. In the unlikely event that there is trouble with the technology, votes will be counted by raising paper voter cards. He will decide visually whether there is the necessary majority or two-thirds vote. If in doubt, or seven voters question the vote immediately after the outcome is declared, he will have the vote counted by tellers. Joe Domelowicz demonstrated the use of the voting clickers.

### **ARTICLE 2025/6-1 HWRSD Consolidated Elementary School Project.**

To see if the Town will approve the \$142,266,034 borrowing authorized by the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District, for the purpose of paying costs for designing, constructing, and equipping a new Cutler Elementary School at 237 Asbury Street, Hamilton, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the "Project"), which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended at the direction of the Hamilton-Wenham School Building Committee. The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any Project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District and its member municipalities. Any grant that the District may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) fifty-one point twenty-eight percent (51.28%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

The Select Board (3-1) recommends favorable action. The Finance and Advisory Committee (3-1) recommends favorable action. The HWRSD Committee voted (5-1) to authorize the borrowing for this project.

Town Moderator noted that a 2/3 vote was required to approve the article and recognized Bill Wilson.

Motion of Bill Wilson: "I move that the Town approve Article 1 as printed in the Warrant."  
Seconded.

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Town Moderator recognized John McGrath.

John McGrath made a presentation that featured a chart of the history of investments in the schools since WWII. No debt incurring investments had been made into the schools since 1999. Mr. McGrath believed it to be time to once again incur debt to make an investment in the schools. The financials of the current proposals were displayed. Mr. McGrath noted that the cost would be double per student for renovations of the Cutler School. According to Mr. McGrath, each year the State funds were deferred, would cost the taxpayers more money.

Town Moderator recognized Superintendent Eric Tracy.

Superintendent Tracy noted that the Schools explored 14 options before determining that the one consolidated project would be the most economical to achieve the required space.

Town Moderator recognized Bill Olson.

Bill Olson encouraged voters to vote yes.

Jeff Austin, (50 Sharon Road) spoke against the proposal as it only affected two of the schools, failed consideration of other plans, district enrollment had declined, and reconfiguration of space had not been considered.

Ed McCarthy (60 Cunningham Drive) spoke against the proposal due to traffic, costs, and effects on seniors.

Beth Herr (270 Asbury St.) spoke against the proposal due to cost and the integrity of the vote.

Scott Maddern (12 Old Cart Road) spoke in favor of the project.

Jared Hughes (118 Railroad Ave.) asked to call the question. Seconded. Town Moderator noted that the question required a 2/3rds vote to end debate.

Electronic Vote: 1558 in favor; 92 opposed. A 2/3 majority was declared. Motion carries.

Electronic Vote on the main motion: 961 in favor; 703 opposed. A 2/3 majority was not established. Motion fails.

#### **ARTICLE 2025/6-2 Extension of Lease Cutler School**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to extend a lease with the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District for the Cutler Elementary School, located at 237 Asbury Street, Hamilton, MA, and identified on Assessor's Map 47, Lot 150, for an additional term of 50 years on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and further, to authorize the Select Board to execute any and all documents to carry out the purposes of this article, or take any action thereon or relative thereto.

The Select Board (3-0-1) recommends favorable action. The Finance and Advisory Committee (4-0) recommends favorable action

Town Moderator recognized Ben Galuza.

Motion of Ben Galuza: "I move that the Town approve Article 2 as printed in the Warrant." Seconded.

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Town Moderator recognized Dana Allara (70 Echo Cove Rd).

Dana Allara (School Committee) requested that the lease be approved regardless of the previous vote.

Jeff Austin (50 Sharon Road) said the if the previous vote was a no vote, the lease would be a no vote.

Ed McCarthy (60 Cunningham Drive) recalled the previous Town Meeting, in which residents voted no. Mr. McCarthy said the 50-year lease was for the consolidation vote.

Eric Tracy noted the lease question was connected to the consolidation project.

Beth Herr (270 Asbury St.) asked to call the question.

Bill Olson noted that no one was in line to debate the question.

Rachel Lee attempted discussion but was told to hold.

The motion to call the vote was Seconded.

Town Moderator said the question required a 2/3 vote to end discussion.

Electronic Vote: 1012 in favor; 115 opposed. A 2/3 majority was declared. Motion carries.

Electronic Vote on the main motion: 589 in favor; 501 opposed. Majority in favor. Motion carries.

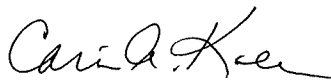
#### ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator said: "I will now accept a Motion to dissolve." So Moved. Seconded.

Voice Vote: Unanimous in favor. Motion carries.

This Annual Town Meeting is now dissolved at 8:57 pm on June 9, 2025.

A True Copy Attest:



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Carin A. Kale, CMMC  
Town Clerk