

January

Staffing cuts likely with FY14 budget

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Jan 11, 2013

Superintendent Michael Harvey updated the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee, at its meeting Thursday, Jan. 3, on the current status of the fiscal year 2014 budget, which currently includes cutting four full-time positions.

"We are proposing an operating budget at \$28,104,988," Harvey said. "That's a difference of \$780,000 below the FY13 number."

The most recent budget numbers showed a decrease from the preliminary budget Harvey presented in early December.

"When you actually go back to the Dec. 5 number, we were looking at a \$250,000 increase, so it's literally \$1 million down from a month ago," he said.

Harvey said further examination of the numbers has, so far, resulted in a budget over \$700,000 less than initially expected.

"We continued to scrub and look at other accounts and look at different line items to make sure we had the right numbers in the right places," he said of the work done since the first presentation. "We were able to net about \$720,000 decrease."

Harvey said special education had the most significant change with about a \$100,000 decrease.

"We made sure that the staff's salary's were charged to the appropriate accounts," he said.

Harvey explained that one of the things that was discovered was that some grants for special education staffing were not taken out of the general fund.

"There were grant-funded positions that we were getting the money from a federal grant or state grant and paying the salaries for out of that grant position, but we were actually accounting for it in our general fund salaries," he said. "A lot of grants are partial salaries, so the amount we're responsible for out of the general fund is what we need to budget for in the general fund. Grants would then pay the remaining balance on the salary."

Harvey also outlined funding sources for the upcoming fiscal year.

"We're sticking with a level projection right now, even though we did here some things about some changes to even this year's budget," he said. "When we actually looked at percentages that were put out by the state house and the governor ... it's about \$10,000 difference in revenue so we're still going to kind of go with level and see how these things are going to fill out as the year goes on."

Harvey said, by the end of the school year, the district will have a better idea of what to expect from the state as far as funding.

"Right now, it's crystal ball time," he said, adding that he has asked Rep. Brad Hill to come in to give the district his sense of where things are going as far as state revenue projections.

Another area of the budget that was the focus of discussion at the meeting was programming changes.

Harvey outlined various areas where reductions and eliminations would be made.

"We are looking at eliminating a 1.0 full-time equivalent in special education at the high school," he said. "And we'll be eliminating 3.0 FTEs of regular education teaching staff at the high school."

Harvey described the cuts in staffing as a starting point.

"This does become a balancing act of how do you manage your class sizes in a way that it doesn't impact the services that we're going to offer to students," he said. "There are some really small sections at the high school, less than 10. That, in this kind of environment, I don't know how we could sustain that."

When asked if he thought the cuts would affect the quality of education, Harvey said he didn't believe they would.

Harvey assured the committee that the school would not be deleting any courses; the changes would merely be minimizing the number of available sections.

"When you have multiple sections of a course and there are 17, 18, 19 students in one section of that course and 10 in another, you have to get better at building a schedule," he said.

The district is also planning to restructure the special education leadership between the middle school and the high school, which Harvey said

should capture about \$64,000 in savings.

Another idea being considered is the elimination of bus transportation services.

Harvey said the district is still waiting to hear back from Salter Transportation in regard to an estimate of what it would cost to farm out that service to them.

School Committee member Kym Donnellan said she had several concerns, not only as a committee member, but also as a community member and parent.

"I keep hearing reduction, reduction, reduction and I'm not looking to increase our budget and add and add and add, but, for instance, there are conversations we were going to be provided some information even just simply supplies," she said. "How are parents incurring the extra cost of supplies that the district is not spending?"

Donnellan also pointed out that the topic of scheduling was also supposed to be researched by the building principals, who would then report back to the committee.

"We still haven't heard from [John Hughes or John Driscoll] as to why we're cutting, why we're increasing," she said. "They've provided a very concrete budget, but it was a piece of paper that just kind of said what they did last year."

Selectmen support keeping dispatch

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Jan 17, 2013

The Hamilton Board of Selectmen, during a working session on Monday, Jan. 14, voted unanimously to support keeping dispatch in house in order to relieve any stress on dispatchers who are uncertain whether or not to look for work elsewhere.

"My recommendation would be to absorb the \$180,000 or whatever the difference is, and continue service in town," Town Manager Michael Lombardo said. "With the tax rate approaching \$18, that is a major concern, but, operationally, from a management perspective, and long-term, fiscally, I think time will demonstrate that our concerns are somewhat valid that to move to Middleton in this current environment may end up being a

long-term problem for us. My advocacy is for keeping it in house."

Lombardo, along with Police Chief Russell Stevens, Fire Chief Phil Stevens and dispatcher Anne Marie Cullen were able to tour the Essex County Regional Emergency Communications Center facility in Middleton recently.

"I wish we walked away with a much stronger feeling for the future," Lombardo said of a recent visit to the Middleton facility. "I will say, I was impressed with the facility. It's clearly state-of-the-art, the backup, everything is in place to deliver 911 dispatch service without really any issues ... We got a good tour of the facility, understanding better how they're planning to operate it, what equipment is in place and what their plans for the future are."

One of the things Lombardo noted was the change in staffing model.

"Initially, there was going to be a call-taker and a dispatcher and that was meant to expedite the process and be an enhanced service to jurisdictions," he said. "With the movement of taking over some of the cell 911 calls from Framingham, they no longer are going to do that."

Lombardo said, if Hamilton decided to go to Middleton, that change would mean a third jurisdiction would be added to the Hamilton and Wenham frequency.

"From a service perspective, I don't see enhancements," he said.

Though that set-up is likely a temporary solution, Lombardo said the question of who pays the capital remains.

"Operationally, I think, if we were to join, when you pick up and dial 911 in Hamilton, a dispatcher will receive the call, will take it and dispatch it, and our police and fire and ambulance services will roll as they do now," he said. "Will it work? Yes, I think a regional dispatch center will work, but I don't have really any deeper assurances in terms of the long-term cost structure and who's going to foot that bill."

Lombardo said he also has concerns if the town delays joining the dispatch center, current employees may not have positions at the new facility.

"I do worry about our employees and them walking into a job and/or losing good employees," he said, alluding to the possibility that there

could be layoffs at some point down the road if the town goes it alone. "My fear is that we would lose good employees because they're going to look for more stable environments."

Selectmen Chairman David Neill described the entire situation as an "unexpected wrinkle."

"We were looking into going to Middleton and seeing how that would work," he said. "Our preference would be not to do it, but to stay here."

Early on, Neill said it looked as though the town was going to be able to have other communities join the Hamilton dispatch center.

"We would be left alone without Wenham here, so we were looking to another community to join in and take Wenham's place with us to share the cost and take advantage of state money which is available for municipal joint programs like that," he said, explaining that both Manchester and Ipswich expressed interest in that possibility. "It appears now that they, at least at this time, neither one of them are. So, that leaves us in the quandary we are now in."

Cullen said she shared Lombardo's concerns over staffing.

"They have it set up for six dispatchers on duty, three for police, two for fire and one supervisor," she said. "I'm just not convinced that staffing is right for this number of communities. There are times that two of us are busy just with Hamilton and Wenham ... I would hate to see it be overwhelmed."

Chief Phil Stevens said his main concern was the fact that the state had control over the number of dispatchers that can be on duty at one time.

"I've seen regionalization work; if the setup is right, it could probably be a good system," he said. "But, I've seen times with weather-related incidents and different things where we've had three dispatchers just answering fire calls and we've had people in our station answering fire calls and, here, we're going to have two or six or seven communities."

Chief Russell Stevens said he had several concerns about the services that would be provided through the regional dispatch.

"I don't see how it's going to be better for our community," he said. "I have some concerns and right now, for example, we have one dispatcher

that's dispatching for Hamilton and Wenham and four cruisers."

If the community were to join regional dispatch, Stevens said there would be one dispatcher that's dispatching four cruisers, plus another community with a minimum of two more cruisers.

"Services are going to be cut down," he said. "You're not going to get better product than what you get now."

Hamilton opts to keep dispatch in-house

Salem News. Jan. 28, 2013, Jonathan Phelps

Selectmen have agreed to take on the additional costs of running the town's own dispatch center once Wenham moves to the regional dispatch center in Middleton.

Selectmen unanimously voted earlier this month to continue operating the town's center instead of becoming a member of the regional facility. The move is expected to cost the town an additional \$180,000, according to Town Manager Michael Lombardo.

After visiting the Middleton facility with police Chief Russell Stevens, dispatcher Anne Marie Cullen, fire Chief Philip Stevens and Lombardo recommended that the town keep its own dispatch.

"I think it is the right direction for the town," Lombardo said in an interview. "We have a state-of-the-art facility. All our technology is up-to-date, and we have well-trained staff."

Lombardo said he was impressed with the Middleton facility but expressed concerns over the long-term cost structure and the future impact for the town. For example, there are talks for upgrades to unify the systems within five years, but there is nothing in the contract about who will foot the bill, he said.

"There is nothing that safeguards (towns and cities) from future capital and infrastructure costs," Lombardo said.

He also expressed concerns in the staffing model, which originally called for a call-taker and dispatcher to be on duty. But this changed in part because the center will likely take on cellphone 911 calls that are now processed in Framingham, he said.

“The cost savings would be in the margins compared to the service we would receive,” Lombardo said.

Police Chief Russell Stevens told selectmen during the meeting that he is worried about staffing in having one dispatcher in Middleton covering three communities, instead of the current two. The town would also have to address walk-in traffic at the station in the absence of dispatchers.

He said staffing levels at the regional center are determined by the state and have been reduced because fewer communities signed up than initially expected.

When the \$10 million, 10,000-square-foot center opens, it will handle 911 police and fire calls for Amesbury, Beverly, Essex, Middleton, Topsfield and Wenham. After years of planning, the center broke ground in October. State 911 grants paid for its construction, technology and communications equipment.

Selectmen Chairman David Neill said he recommended bringing the issue to Town Meeting, but the board decided to vote during a work session in favor of keeping dispatch in town. Residents will be able to share their thoughts during budget discussions, he said.

“The people who work at the (dispatch center) need to know as soon as possible because their jobs are at risk,” Neill said. “It was the board’s opinion that we needed to send a strong message that from the way we see it now, it doesn’t make sense to go to Middleton.”

The town has reached out to Ipswich and Manchester about joining its dispatch, but neither has expressed interest, Neill said.

“We will continue to pursue other jurisdictions interested in joining our dispatch,” Lombardo said.

There are no current talks with other communities in the works, he said.

February

Tracy named high school principal

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Feb 12, 2013

Eric Tracy, the current principal at Wilmington High School, has accepted the principal position at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School.

“I believe Eric Tracy has the right combination of attributes necessary for leading HWRHS to new heights of excellence,” said Superintendent Michael Harvey in a statement issued Monday, Feb. 11.

Harvey expressed his gratitude to those who took the time to share their impressions and thoughts about the two principal finalists; that feedback ultimately led Harvey to his decision.

“From the feedback I gathered throughout the interview process from faculty, parents and students, it was clear Eric will bring to HWRHS a vision for developing the programs at the school necessary to prepare our students to be successful in the 21st Century,” Harvey said. “The feedback supplied by faculty, students, parents and members of the community was invaluable in helping me identify the best candidate to be our next high school principal.”

Having held the position of principal in Wilmington since 2004, Harvey said Tracy’s leadership experience would be an asset in the district.

“Through his eight years leading Wilmington High School, Eric has demonstrated that he has a firm command over curriculum and program development, is an expert in technology integration, and is a skilled communicator,” Harvey said. “On our site visit to Wilmington High School, the members of the visiting team and I were also impressed by the pride the faculty, parents and students described feeling for their school and the admiration they expressed for their principal.”

Beginning his career in education as a technology education and science teacher, Tracy has also worked as an assistant principal in the Peabody and Salem School Districts.

When he visited the district last month and was able to meet with parents and community members, Tracy said his goal would be to help the high school “become the model,” one that other schools would want to emulate.

Admitting that he enjoys being a school administrator, as well as part of a school community, Tracy said his very first impression of the high school was, “I love it.”

Tracy, who holds a Master’s degree in education administration from Cambridge College and a Bachelor’s of Science from Fitchburg State Col-

lege in industrial science and education, said he was also impressed with the intelligence of students in the district, as well as their aptitude to think outside the box.

During his visit, Tracy said he supports a hybrid classroom, combining traditional teaching techniques with technology to encourage interactive learning.

He also favors students learning foreign languages in order to better prepare them “for a global community” once they leave school.

Overall, Tracy said his administrative goals include giving students more opportunities to help with their future decisions, through increased electives and ways to discover and build on their interests.

When asked what his current school folks would say about him, Tracy said that he doesn’t stay in his office; he’s “a doer ... visible ... and accessible.”

Hamilton-Wenham High School gets a new principal

Salem News, Jonathan Phelps, Feb. 13, 2013

Eric Tracy is returning to the area to become principal of Hamilton-Wenham High School.

Tracy, a former assistant principal at Salem and Peabody high schools, has been principal at Wilmington High for the past nine years. He was chosen over Kristen Vogel, an assistant principal at Bedford High.

“It was not an easy decision,” Superintendent Michael Harvey said. “I think we had two very qualified finalists. I liked Eric’s experience. He has been the principal at Wilmington High for nine years, so he definitely knows what to expect going into the position.”

Harvey said Tracy will bring a vision to the school to prepare students to be successful in the 21st century. Harvey was also impressed with Tracy’s use of technology to improve curriculum and instruction.

“Through his eight years leading Wilmington High School, Eric has demonstrated that he has a firm command over curriculum and program development, is an expert in technology integration, and is a skilled communicator,” Harvey wrote in a letter to parents.

The two finalists were selected from 37 applicants, 10 of whom were interviewed by a screening committee. Tracy will begin July 1, and his salary is still being negotiated, Harvey said.

Tracy will be the first permanent, full-time principal at the 691-student high school since 2009. John Hughes, a retired educator in Natick, has led the school for the past two years on an interim basis, since former Principal Matthew Fox left to become principal of Veterans Middle School in Marblehead. Fox served as principal at both the high school and middle school.

Harvey said Tracy is planning to develop a five-year vision for the school, which has had much turnover in staff the last few years.

"I think people are ready for the leadership and vision Eric is going to bring," he said.

At Wilmington High, Tracy doesn't use an office. Instead, he uses his laptop, tablet and cellphone at various locations around the school. Most of the documents he needs are electronic, he said.

"I like to roll up my sleeves and get involved so we can share in the success," Tracy said yesterday. "Not having an office keeps me in the middle of what happens in the classroom day-to-day."

This is a practice he will continue in Hamilton-Wenham.

"I think it is a great approach," Harvey said.

Tracy has been principal of Wilmington High since 2004. He began his career as a technology and science teacher in Salem, where he later served as assistant principal. He has also worked as an assistant principal in Peabody. He has a bachelor's degree in industrial science and education from Fitchburg State College and a master's in education administration from Cambridge College.

Harvey said he received positive feedback from members of the community who attended a meet-and-greet with Tracy. He was also impressed with a visit to Wilmington High during the interview process.

"The kids in Wilmington described (Tracy) as being everywhere all the time," Harvey said. "They told stories of how they would see him in one hall and then run into him in the next. They joked that he had secret passages in the school."

Harvey believes Tracy has the right attributes to lead the school to "new heights of excellence."

"I think our high school is a good school," he said. "But I was looking for a leader who is going to take us from very good to great."

Hamilton town manager gets deal, no pay raise

Salem News, Feb. 12, 2013, Jonathan Phelps

Town Manager Michael Lombardo and selectmen have reached a deal on a new contract in which the town's top official will continue his work without a pay raise.

Lombardo's annual salary will remain \$129,413, according to the contract.

Selectmen unanimously voted last night to approve the new three-year deal. Lombardo is subject to receive cost of living raises if approved by selectmen, according to selectmen Chairman David Neill.

Selectmen started negotiations last month after sending Lombardo a letter in November expressing interest in negotiating a new contract — a stipulation of his current contract.

Neill said there are no major changes to the contract. The negotiations were lively, good-spirited and fair, he said.

"It went very well," Neill said of the negotiation process. "We didn't always agree, we (selectmen) caucused a lot."

Both Neill and Lombardo said they were pleased with the results.

"I'm content where I am," Lombardo said. "I am very pleased with the contract and with working for the town."

He said he is looking forward to the next three years.

As part of the new agreement, Lombardo will receive \$3,700 for opting out of the town's health insurance policy. His previous contract did not allow him to take part in the town's opt-out program like other employees.

Neill noted that under the new contract Lombardo will undergo a review twice a year instead of annually. The reviews will take place in April and October.

The process will include written evaluation, discussions on performance and a summary of the evaluation, according to the contract.

During his annual performance review in September, Lombardo earned "a solid B" from selectmen.

Overall, he earned the highest marks for his work on closing the town landfill, maintaining the town's relationship with neighboring Wenham, managing town insurance policies and town property, serving as a liaison with residents and the media, and working on legal matters with the town's lawyer.

His lowest marks came in information technology management (a C-) and his work as personnel director and employee management (between a B- and a C).

Lombardo, who previously worked as the city manager in Iowa City, succeeded former Hamilton Town Administrator Candace Wheeler. Wheeler had worked for the town for more than 30 years and chose not to apply for the newly created position of town manager; she left in the summer of 2010.

March

Hamilton-Wenham Mothers Club 100 Year Anniversary Event/ Teddy Bear Picnic Mar. 28, 2013

This is a completely free, family friendly event featuring the children's band, 'Ben Rudnick & Friends'. Come help us celebrate 100 years of the Hamilton-Wenham Mother's Club.

Children are encouraged to bring their favorite teddy bear or stuffed animal. Food will be available for purchase from great local vendors and snacks and juice will be provided for the kids -face painting and fun gifts are also included

April

Recipient of Boston Post Cane honored



Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Apr 5, 2013

The oldest woman in Hamilton at the age of 96, Edna Barney, a former librarian at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School, was celebrated on Monday, March 25, at the Hamilton Council on Aging for being the recipient of Boston Post Cane.

Many friends and family, along with town and state officials turned out to share the day with Barney.

Rep. Brad Hill, D-Ipswich, was on hand for the ceremony to present Barney with a citation for everything she has done for the citizens of Hamilton.

"The House of Representatives offers its sincere congratulations to Edna Barney in recognition of being the recipient of the Boston Post Cane," he read. "The entire membership extends its very best wishes and expresses the hope for future good fortune and continued success in all endeavors."

Hill noted that every week, even at 96, Barney still goes down and helps the citizens of Hamilton by being a member of the Historical Committee.

Barney was delighted to see so many friendly faces turn out to help her celebrate the special occasion.

"It's so wonderful to see," she said. "Some of you I haven't seen in years. And if I don't remember your name or your face, please forgive me ... I'm so thankful to see so many of you."

Barney pointed out that she used to see many people who had gathered to share the day with her in the library.

Hill joked that Barney had to put up with a lot of rambunctious kids in her day.

"That was the best part of being the librarian down there was putting up with you," she said.

Selectmen Chairman David Neill also extended his congratulations to Barney on behalf of the Board.

"I just want to thank Edna for, what shall I say, for being here and being one of us for the longest time of any of us here," he said. "On behalf of the Board of Selectmen ... I want to thank you and I want to congratulate you."

Council on Aging director Mary Beth Lawton said the cane, which was presented to Barney earlier this year, will be on display at the COA building in Hamilton.

"Back in the 1900s, the Boston Post sent out ebony canes tipped in gold to 500 cities and towns in New England," she said, explaining that they were eventually presented to the oldest male resident of each of those towns.

The custom expanded to recognize the oldest women in 1930.

Over the years, Lawton said many of the canes, including the one given to the oldest Hamilton residents, had been lost and the tradition has dropped off in many states in the region.

"Massachusetts has kept the tradition alive," she said, adding that the canes given out in the community are reproductions of the originals.

New Selectmen, School Committee members elected

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Apr 11, 2013

Three contested races in the communities of Hamilton and Wenham were decided Thursday, April 11, during Annual Town Elections.

Wenham Selectmen Chairman Molly Martins was defeated by challenger Jack Wilhelm by 311 votes. In Hamilton, incumbent Marc Johnson, with 515 votes, and newcomer Scott Maddern, with 568 votes, defeated William Dery and Jacob (Jack) Hauck for two seats on the Board of Selectmen.

Hauck finished with 237 votes, while Dery had 195 ballots cast in his favor.

Of the four candidates vying for three seats on the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee, Deb Evans, with 1,335 votes, Melissa Even Moore, with 1,110 votes, and Jeanise

Bertrand, with 742 votes, were elected; meanwhile, former School Committee member Richard Boroff received 705 votes.

In other, non-contested Hamilton races, incumbent Bruce Ramsey was re-elected moderator, Gelean Campbell was elected to the Board of Assessors, Frederick Mitchell and Brian Stein were re-elected to serve five-year terms on the Planning Board, Joseph Orlando, Jr. was elected to serve a three-year expired term on the Planning Board and Madelyn Liberti was re-elected as a Hamilton-Wenham Library Trustee.

Voters in Hamilton also approved the Proposition 2-1/2 debt exclusion override regarding the Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School, with 453 in favor and 285 opposed.

Overall, in Hamilton, 856 of the 5,833 registered voters headed to the polls, a turnout of 14.7 percent.

In non-contested Wenham races, incumbent Paul Weaver was re-elected moderator, Richard Caves was elected to a three-year term on the Cemetery Commission and Michelle Bailey was elected to an unexpired Cemetery Commission term.

Trudy Reid was re-elected town clerk, Ernest Ashley was elected to the water commission, Doris Gallant was elected to the Hamilton-Wenham Library Board of Trustees, Win Mulry was elected tree warden, Andrew Ting was elected to the Board of Health and Tom Tanous was re-elected as town assessor.

The Wenham Housing Authority vacancy was decided by write-in vote, with Don Luxton receiving 48 votes and being named the winner.

Voters in Wenham also approved the Proposition 2-1/2 debt exclusion override, 450 to 337.

Of the 2,869 registered voters in Wenham, 859 cast their ballots in Thursday's election, a turnout of 30 percent.

May

June

Hamilton-Wenham graduates urged to push beyond limits Salem News, Jun 3, 2013, Julie Manganis

There were many cheers and rounds of applause during yesterday's Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School graduation, but the big laughs came at the end, when class president Arthur Hayden marched to the front of his class, bearing a blue bumper sticker.

It was from Nick's Famous Roast Beef, which, though in neighboring Beverly, is widely known as "Generals territory," Hayden explained. Customers have long taken photos with the sticker in all sorts of places.

"Like a Nick's bumper sticker, the class of 2013 will travel far and wide," Hayden predicted to his fellow graduates and their families, who packed the Gordon College chapel.

It was the theme of the day, the contrast between the familiar faces and hangouts of high school and the future, a future in which students were urged to challenge themselves.

"The next time you are faced with the option to stay within your limits, push against them instead," urged class valedictorian Margaret Lidrbauch.

"You are capable of more than you know," said Lidrbauch.

The principal, John Hughes, offered similar advice.

"Most people resist change," said Hughes. "I urge you to embrace it."

Hughes went on to describe how the class of 2013 has already helped change the community for the better, such as the Thanksgiving food drive and "seniors helping seniors" events. "Please continue to strive for that greater good," Hughes implored. "Seize that opportunity."

Taylor MacDonald, the salutatorian, spoke about the role parents played, from help with elementary school math worksheets and dioramas to term papers and learner's permits. Then, she described the help students have given their folks.

"We got our parents into the 21st century," MacDonald quipped. To a point. "Mom, it's called tweeting. It's not twittering."

Teacher and alumnus Christopher Shailor recalled his own high school days in the 1970s, when families took

maybe a dozen photos and then had to wait days for the film to be processed at the Fotomat.

Today's parents, himself included, snap hundreds of digital photos. But he cautioned the students and their parents, "I wonder if we're starting to miss too much of life because we're watching it through a camera."

The close-knit class of 166 students formed tight bonds, said several students.

Frank McCarthy, whose family moved to Hamilton just so he could attend high school there, said he'll miss his classmates most of all.

"I'll miss every single person in this class," said Margaret "Maggie" Abbott. "We have a bond no one else has."

HAMILTON-WENHAM REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Number of graduates: 166

Graduates receiving high honors: 9

Graduation program cover art:

Chloe Leigh

Where students will spend the night: All-night graduation party

Milestone: Two veteran educators, instructional technology specialist Judith Naylor and history teacher Kevin O'Reilly, were recognized as they prepare to retire after 42 and 35 years respectively.

Class of 2013 urged to accept change

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Jun 04, 2013

Friends and relatives sat elbow to elbow in the pews in the hot, balmy chapel at Gordon College as 163 members of the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School's Class of 2013 received their diplomas on Sunday, June 2.

Assistant principal Bryan Mene-goni welcomed those in attendance, many of whom were using their programs to fan themselves for the better part of the ceremony, before introducing faculty speaker Chris Shailor, who serves as the drama teacher at the Regional.

Shailor, whose youngest daughter was seated among the graduates, said he had many fond memories during his time at the Regional, from which he had graduated 35 years ago.

Many of his memories had been caught on film – a concept Shailor was

sure to explain to the technologically-advanced seniors seated on the stage.

"We did this and we do this because we want to stop time, capture it in some way," he said of constantly snapping photos. "But, I wonder if we're starting to miss too much of life because we're watching it through a camera."

Shailor explained that the most lasting of memories are in the mind and the heart, not in a digital image, but pointed out that he would be devastated if he did not have some of the pictures of his family he cherishes.

"Pictures can be a key that unlocks the richness of our memories," he said. "But, we must remember they are only symbolic of what we truly cherish – the moments we're attempting to capture."

Unfortunately, the many memories Shailor had with these students were not captured, but he insisted they would never fade from his mind.

"This class, if nothing else, is vivid," he said.

Salutatorian Taylor MacDonald then addressed her fellow classmates, but not before explaining the irony of speaking after Shailor.

"I just love following the public speaking teacher," she said with a chuckle.

MacDonald thanked the parents in attendance for everything they have done, from paying for 2,150 days of school lunches and signing numerous last-minute permission slips to attending recitals and sporting events, rain or shine, over the years.

"Somehow, you have managed to get all of us to this day," she said. "Needless to say, you have been through a lot with us."

Of course, each one of the students was responsible for helping their parents, as well.

"Somehow, we have managed to get them into the 21st Century in an age with all this technology," MacDonald said.

Whether it be fixing computers and manipulating iTunes and Spotify or trying to enlighten them about Facebook, MacDonald explained to parents just how important their kids are, technologically speaking.

"Mom, it is still tweeting, it is not twittering," she said. "An iPhone, an iPad and an iPod may seem the same, but we have helped them understand

how they are different. Our parents may have raised us, but we have brought them along to the 21st Century along with us."

Valedictorian Meg Lidrbauch based her speech on the new National Geographic series, 'Brain Games,' using it to explain the 'illusion of knowledge.'

"The illusion of knowledge stems from knowing relatively nothing about the world around us," she said. "Our brains would rather pretend to know something then to admit they don't in order to maintain the illusion that they know all about the world ... According to the show, one way of masking what we don't know is by appearing confident, even though, more often than not, we appear less intelligent."

Lidrbauch likened the situation to that of a cartoon character running off a cliff and continuing to run on air until he realizes he's no longer touching the ground and falls to the earth below.

"Our brains do a similar thing," she noted. "We run along on an illusion that we understand the world until our supposed knowledge is put to the test and we figuratively - and sometimes literally - fall."

Acknowledging the growth she and her classmates have experienced over the years, Lidrbauch asked each of her classmates to reminisce about an accomplishment for which they are proud.

"Think of that one accomplishment; I have a feeling you went beyond your perceived limits to achieve it," she said. "The next time you are faced with the opportunity to stay safely within your limits, push against them instead, believing in the possibility of great success. Choose not to limit yourself."

Lidrbauch also recalled Project Adventure and the fact that she and her classmates are all free from the regret of having turned down the opportunity to do something they never would have thought themselves capable of doing.

"We refused to limit ourselves, she said with pride. "As we continue to expand our limits, let's be confident in our abilities, but not so confident that we prevent growth."

Lidrbauch explained that the next years of life will be ones characterized by experimentation and exploration.

"Find your focus," she encouraged. "But don't let your focus limit you."

During his presentation of the Class of 2013, interim principal John Hughes offered up some advice.

"Unfortunately, most people resist change," he said. "I urge you to embrace it."

And embrace it they have, especially in the form of technology.

"When you were in first grade Wikipedia went online and the iPod appeared ... In seventh grade, the iPhone appeared," he said. "You certainly know how that has shaped your world in a short period of time."

Superintendent Michael Harvey, before awarding diplomas urged the seniors to expand their horizons and take chances on things that may seem scary.

"Step outside of your comfort zone, you'll be glad you did," he said, explaining all the things he has done and accomplished by taking risks and stepping outside of his own comfort zone.

Harvey told the graduating class to look out into the audience and find their loved ones among the crowd.

"Now I want you to repeat after me, 'Thank you,'" he said, to which the students gladly obliged. "You need to remember the people who helped you to get where you are today and make sure you take the opportunity to tell them how much you appreciate them."

Harvey also recognized two outstanding teachers, Kevin O'Reilly and Judy Naylor, both of whom are retiring after 35 and 42 years as educators, respectively.

Once all of the diplomas had been awarded, class president Arthur Hayden and the other class officers recognized their advisor, Kristen Losee.

"I can honestly say the Class of 2013 would not function without her," he said. "She does a seemingly insurmountable amount of work with the school, so it's amazing that she has time for us at all."

Hayden then issued his farewell address.

"I refuse to end the festivities with 'We did it,'" he said, before carrying out his last task as class president.

Holding up a Nick's Famous Roast Beef bumper sticker as his classmates cheered and laughed, Hayden made his way to the center of the stage,

where he knelt so the moment could be captured for posterity.

"Nick's is a very popular spot for Hamilton-Wenham students," he said. "And even though it's a town over, those Beverly High School kids know that it's Generals territory."

Hayden went on to explain that, over the years, hundreds of satisfied customers had taken the bumper stickers to far away places, where they had pictures taken with them, which were then sent back to Nick's to be displayed inside the restaurant.

"Now, the Class of 2013 will soon be amongst the scores of people adorning those walls," he said. "This point in time will be enshrined in the great house that Nick built."

Before leading the class in turning their tassels, Hayden expressed his gratitude to each of them for all the memories they have shared throughout their journey together.

"Like a Nick's bumper sticker, the Class of 2013 will travel far and wide," he said. But, I dream that along at least one distant day, that I will meet each one of you again. I thank you from the bottom of

Pirie property purchase voted down *Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Jun 11, 2013*

Residents of Hamilton voted down the town's proposal to purchase the 86-acre Pirie property at Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 11.

In all, 869 voters cast ballots, a turnout of 15 percent; the official tally was 391 in favor and 478 opposed to the purchase. A two-thirds vote was required for the motion to pass.

Registered voters showed up in droves at Winthrop Elementary School to let their voices be heard.

With the cafeteria filled to the brim with concerned citizens and even more seated in the overflow area in the gym, the meeting got underway shortly after 7:30 p.m.

Moderator Bruce Ramsey began the meeting by allowing each side to make final presentations.

Finance and Advisory Committee chairman John McWain gave a brief perspective on what the financial future for the town will look like.

"As we all know, it sort of centers on the tax rate," he said. "The tax rate for the current year is \$17.17. We forecast that, next year, that will go up

to \$17.75; that's an increase of about \$.60, which means that the mean house value of \$400,000 will see an increase of about \$240."

McWain explained that the only ways to lower the tax rate would be to increase revenues or cut spending.

"When it comes to cutting spending, again, we have two choices," he said. "We can either make our town services more efficient or we can cut town services."

McWain added that the schools are in a similar situation where they can either cut programming or offer services more efficiently in order to remain under budget.

Selectman Scott Maddern walked voters through the town's proposal to purchase the property in order to fulfill some housing goals.

Maddern explained that, with the professional staff employed by the town, it would be very feasible to manage a project like concept the Selectmen have developed.

Instead of making a formal presentation in opposition, Jack Lawrence of Rock Maple made a motion to postpone the matter indefinitely; due to the time constraints of the land purchase agreement, Ramsey refused to accept the motion.

"It's moderator's rules," Ramsey said, denying the motion and encouraging Lawrence to continue with whatever presentation he had prepared.

Bill Dery of Chebacco Road made a presentation that outlined several specifics including the project's possible impact on student population.

He said the 50-unit concept the town has come up with will likely generate 50 to 60 students, adding that 12 percent of incoming students are special education, with 1 percent being severe special education.

Hamilton's Michael Carter-Williams drafted by Philadelphia 76ers

Christopher Hurley, Jun 27, 2013

Michael Carter-Williams is heading to Philadelphia, and will be bringing one of his best friends with him.

The Hamilton native and Syracuse sophomore was selected by the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round, 11th overall in the 2013 NBA Draft. The 6-foot-6, 185-pound point guard was among the top prospects taken in the

annual lottery, which was held Thursday, June 27 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, NY.

"I'm just real, real happy," said Carter-Williams, 21. "It couldn't have gone any better. I'm just so blessed and thankful. My family and friends are happy also. It's just a dream come true, really."

Prior to making the selection, the Sixers traded its All-Star point guard, Jrue Holiday for fellow Bay State hoop star Nerlens Noel, giving Carter-Williams a golden opportunity to jump into the starting line-up right away.

"I haven't thought too deeply about it," he said. "I'm just happy right now, but I realize it. I have a lot of confidence in myself and Philadelphia has a lot of confidence in me. I'm going to go there and play my best. I'm just going to go out there and perform every night like I can."

Carter-Williams will definitely have a friend in Philadelphia in Noel. The 6-foot-11 Everett native was originally drafted by the New Orleans Pelicans with the sixth overall pick, before getting traded to the 76ers moments later.

The pair previously tore up on the courts of New England, playing on the same AAU team in high school.

"I'm really excited," said Carter-Williams, on the prospect in the two teaming up again "It's like a dream come true. We always talked about how we were both going to make it to the NBA. For us to end up on the same team is a blessing."

Noel was touted by many to be the top pick heading into the draft.

"I was surprised he went sixth, but its how things end up," Carter-Williams said. "It was meant to be. I'm sure he has a chip on his shoulder now, and who knows. Maybe that's what he needs for him to be great in the NBA. Maybe this pushes him to work harder. That's what should to it for him."

Carter-Williams and Noel are both proud to represent the Bay State basketball landscape.

"It means a lot," Carter-Williams said. "We're big leaders and idols for the kids in Boston, and a lot of people look up to us and follow us. So it means a lot. For us to play on the same team is great. I'm sure we're going to have a lot support and a lot of love. We just appreciate it."

Carter-Williams attended Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School as a freshman. The 5-foot-9 point guard led the Generals and conference in scoring with 20 points per game.

He transferred to St. Andrews School in Barrington, Rhode Island during his final three years of high school. He averaged 25.4 points per game over his three years there. He committed to Syracuse following his sophomore season in high school.

Although he flew under the radar during his freshman year at Syracuse, Carter-Williams made a sizable splash with the Orange during an incredible Final Four run at the NCAA Tournament last March.

The NCAA Tournament East Region MVP scored a career high 24 points, along with five rebounds against Indiana, while potting 12 points, eight boards, six assists and five steals against Marquette, during the March Madness Tournament.

Carter-Williams was born to play basketball. His father Earl Williams played at Cambridge Rindge and Latin, his stepfather Zach Zegarowski played at Salem High and UMass-Lowell. His mom, Mandy Carter-Zegarowski also enjoyed a distinguished basketball career. She is currently the girls head basketball coach at Ipswich High.

All three were in attendance, along with 60 friends and family members watching in the stands, not to mention a strong contingent watching from their hometown of Hamilton

"We watched the NBA Draft all the time, but I never envisioned him being here," said Mandy, moments before the draft. "He talked like every other kid about playing in the NBA, but we never thought we'd be sitting here in the Green Room."

So who was more nervous, mother or son?

"I don't know," said Mandy. "I think [Michael's a] little more nervous, but it's probably me. I think we both know that the big picture is that he's going to play in the NBA. It's a pretty suspenseful time, but it's pretty exciting for everybody. He's about to start a new career playing basketball."

Downtown study to commence in Hamilton

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Jun 28, 2013

Town Planner Kristine Cheetham spoke to the Hamilton Board of Selectmen during its meeting on Monday, June 25, regarding a planning project that includes housing and economic development in the downtown.

"I'd like to take that momentum and move forward with it," she said, referring to the interest the town generated with its recent Special Town Meeting regarding the Pirie property. "A lot of people also expressed that they were interested in seeing housing, economic development, maybe density, but they prefer to start with the downtown."

Cheetham explained that the town has acquired a grant of \$25,000 from the state through the North Shore Strategic Planning Project, which identified areas regionally for open space preservation, as well as housing, economic development and transportation.

"They consider the North Shore, Beverly, Salem, all the way up to Newburyport, Cape Ann," she said. "Out of that, three communities, this summer, are receiving a grant; Danvers is, Beverly and Hamilton. And each one is undertaking a very finite study."

Cheetham said Hamilton is looking at the downtown, in particular zoning recommendations for zoning relief.

"We are hoping to, collectively, come up with a vision for the downtown and also to identify infrastructure needs," she said. "For 35 years, you've been talking about wastewater treatment and how it inhibits growth for your downtown and you've also been debating what level of investment in housing and economic development is needed to support a wastewater treatment system. And it's kind of time to wrestle with that, develop a plan so that you can then begin to implement it."

Cheetham said she's looking at a very short timeframe.

"This grant is up and running," she said. "We're gonna be starting some focus group discussions this summer. We hope to have a meeting this September with the greater public with

some visualizations of what a built-up downtown might look like."

Cheetham explained that she hopes to have recommendations and the study wrapped up by December.

"It's a short timeframe grant, but it will result in what we would call a downtown plan," she said. "From there, we can move forward."

The Hamilton Development Corporation is serving as the working group for the project.

Additionally, Cheetham said there will be participation from Wenham in this study.

"We have the town planner, a member of the planning board and, possibly, one other member," she said of the Wenham participants. "You share your downtown with Wenham. The people from both communities unite there and they have some critical pieces land that are going to be key to the future if you have any growth there ... An inclusive process might bring you the results you're looking for."

Cheetham said the Selectmen need to give their support to the plan in order for it to move forward and implement recommendations.

"We are meeting with the Hamilton-Wenham Merchants group in July at one of their meetings," she said.

The downtown abutters will also be contacted regarding the study.

"It's very hard to talk about rezoning someone's land without inviting them," she said. "They are very key stakeholders."

Cheetham said the number one thing that generates economic development in any town is housing.

"When you put people in the downtown, they tend to live in smaller housing units so they frequent the services and they demand more services in that town in that village area," she said. "It brings the livelihood back to the downtown area because people are living there and it spurs additional economic development."

Cheetham said the state is seeing that the two go hand-in-hand, which is why they are financing projects in communities and supporting infrastructure investment.

"The fact that you have a train station is also an added bonus to long-term investment in your community from the state," she said.

Cheetham said, at the public meeting in September, consultants will give a "visualizing density" presentation.

"It's difficult in many communities like this to imagine that your downtown could look different," she said. "What they will do is show you your downtown as it is and they will pick a few areas and they will show you what a little bit of height will do. If you're limited in area, you can always go up."

Cheetham explained that the consultants will also show how any added height can blend in with the character and architecture of the town so that it's palatable for the community.

In other news:

The Selectmen held a Special Town Meeting debriefing to discuss the strategies used at the most recent meeting and how those strategies could be improved.

Bill Dery brought up the possibility of adding light industrial zoning at Chebacco Woods, explaining that tax relief could not be realized through housing.

"There is sufficient room there for us to put several soccer fields in; we already own it," he said. "There's sufficient room there for some commercial zones and there's a tremendous amount of room to keep and maintain the present trails that go through this so that we would not be throwing one out for the other."

Dery also suggested disbanding the Patton Committee and task Lombardo with implementing his original plan that included 12 houses.

"I believe that, if they put the 12 senior units in, it would get about 50 percent of your original goal, which was admirable," he told the board.

July

August

Get ready to play

Lucy R. Sprague Frederiksen, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Aug 21, 2013

The Patton Park playground is almost done. Anyone who has been keeping an eye on the area should notice things changing on a daily basis, as last-minute touches happen. Fences are going up and turf is going down.

To celebrate the new, updated look of the playground, organizers of the

project are hosting a grand opening on Thursday, Aug. 29, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friends and residents are invited to bring a picnic and enjoy the festivities, including ribbon cutting and a few words of thanks and appreciation for the community support for the project over the last three years.

Friends of Patton Park committee co-chairmen Emily Sumner, Holly Regan, Bill Boardman and Jen Daniels are all incredibly excited to be coming to the end of the project.

The playground has taken three years, from the first organization of community volunteers, presentations to town officials and raising \$265,000 plus numerous in-kind donations to this summer, the actual installation.

The new playground has something for every age including American Disability Act accessible play areas appropriate to children of all ages, pathways, benches, picnic tables with umbrellas, landscaping and fun.

"We hope that this playground creates a destination in Hamilton," Daniels said. "A place for families and also to bring visitors to the towns who will use all the businesses."

Founding members of the Friends of Patton Park made a moving presentation at the May 2012 Hamilton Annual Town Meeting about the need for new equipment, with photos of the old and broken apparatuses.

According to communications from the organizers and early presentations about the former playground, "the existing structures include broken and unsafe elements such as ground material that is not safe and does not meet government codes."

Last year, committee member Bill Boardman specifically commented on the swing set in this regard, saying that some children's groups using the playground wouldn't let the children use the swings because of the danger. Clearly, the need was there.

A short tour of the site revealed a patriotic theme, in vibrant red, white and blue – also reflected in the committee's donation rankings and to coordinate with Patton's tank, already in place.

The toddler area has a small ship climbing structure and a sand-play area, which Sumner said will include donated sand toys.

Artificial turf was installed this past weekend, as was an area fence for safety.

The toddler play area takes advantage of the existing trees and their shade, while equipment for older children extends out into the sunnier areas.

Older children have a larger ship climbing structure with slides and adjacent rope climbing dome.

Both areas are dotted with single-player ride-on components.

Nearer the pond, a rank of frames for swings stands ready for the final installation.

The toddler area has benches included in the component partitioning and the outer area has benches on both sides.

Concrete pathways weave between the areas and a terraced circle holds the commemorative bricks, one of the fundraising efforts.

Despite the presence of the necessary plastic safety fences and dirt areas still awaiting landscaping, the entire place already looks colorful and inviting.

The final landscaping will be completed this fall, a better season for planting trees and shrubs.

Installation of the final play components - swings and a zip line - will happen right before the Aug. 29 opening.

Daniels explained that all of the playground components comply with legal regulations for safety; for example, depth of mulch underneath and installation of components.

Currently, not all the structures are completely installed, so folks should wait until after the grand opening before sampling the play areas.

Daniels emphasized the strength of the community support from all areas of the two towns, making this project a great example of public-private collaboration.

Hamilton town officials supported the project, with an allocation from the Hamilton Meals Tax and Community Preservation Act funds; the Hamilton-Wenham Mothers' Club, the Hamilton-Wenham Recreation Department, Hamilton-Wenham Rotary and residents and other local businesses all supported the project in many ways.

For example, the Mothers' Club sponsored the Fast Chicks 5K Road

Race and directed the proceeds to playground improvement.

A quick check of the commemorative bricks reveals one from Cherry Farm Creamery, a local favorite ice cream vendor.

"Everyone got behind this," Daniels said.

The project organizers are volunteers, all with young families who will be among the guests at the opening enjoying the new facility.

The group's website contains a list of many of the project's sponsors, and the Friends of Patton Park Facebook page contains details of the upcoming event.

Meanwhile, keep your eyes on the new playground and come to the grand opening on Aug. 29.

September

Hamilton Town Hall upgrades imminent

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Sep 1, 2013

The Hamilton Board of Selectmen, at its meeting Monday, Aug. 26, discussed town hall improvements, including its possible expansion, among other myriad house cleaning items.

"I think, ultimately, what we're going to have to do here in this building is to expand this building," Selectman David Neill said.

Neill explained that Town Manager Michael Lombardo is scheduled to meet with Tom Catalano, chairman of the Historic District Commission and Bill

Gisness of the Hamilton Development Corporation in regard to the issue.

Neill said, at some point in the near future, the Town Hall will need to be upgraded to be handicapped accessible upstairs so it meets all the proper codes.

"That will involve adding onto the building in some way," he said. "The only logical place to add on is out back. Well, that's our only parking, for the most part, behind the building."

However, if some kind of arrangement is made with the Department of Public Works and Wenham, whether it's a regionalization or some other option that would result in sharing a common yard, Neill said that would potentially free up space behind the building and allow for expansion.

Not wanting to put the cart before the horse, Neill said several steps will need to be considered before making any drastic changes to the current facility.

"First, we need to identify what Town Hall improvements need to be done," he said. "I'm not just, 'fix the things that are broken.' We need to look into the future to see what we need for office space, for space for our office building, which this is, and our main meeting space."

Neill said he will remain in talks with Lombardo about the possibility of the expansion.

Lombardo explained that a study conducted by Boston Architectural College a couple years ago produced a couple options.

"I think we all agreed at the time that they did a very good job, a very thorough job, but there were some missing pieces or there were areas where, operationally, we would want to go back and revisit proximity of certain departments and the like," he said. "There was a fair amount of interest at the time but, I want to say, maybe two budgets ago or sometime in the last year and a half, the board at that time had said, you know, we've got a lot of other priorities and funding issues, that this was something that we could look at in the future."

Patton Park playground

Lucy R. Sprague Frederiksen, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Sep 6, 2013

The hard work of many community members and the Friends of Patton Park has finally come to fruition. After much waiting and anticipation, Patton Park playground officially opened on Thursday, Aug. 29, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, during which words of thanks were spoken for all the help and support that went into making the whole endeavor possible. Afterwards, families were invited to stay, have a picnic and enjoy the new equipment. Colorful and inviting, it promises to be a main attraction for the town of Hamilton for many years to come.

New Patton Park playground opens

Salem News, Aug. 28, 2013, Jonathan Phelps

The new playground at Patton Park is open, and it's a big hit with the kids.

Yesterday afternoon, dozens of kids were seen running around, swinging and climbing at the park as their parents looked on.

The Friends of Patton Park raised more than \$240,000 to buy and install the new equipment. Besides the standalone playground, there is also a zip line, swing sets and a dome swing.

It features two play areas, one for toddlers and another for children up to 12 years old. All play equipment is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The old playground had broken swings and an unsafe slide and did not have equipment large enough for elementary school-aged kids.

"It is a major improvement," said Cara Fauci of Ipswich, who was there with her two children, ages 2 and 5. "We used to come to the old one and anxiously waited all summer for it to open. Every time we drove by, the kids would ask if it was open."

The Friends of Patton Park will host a grand opening celebration for the playground tomorrow from 5 to 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring a picnic meal or can buy pizza from Daniella's Pizza for \$1 a slice. There will be music and an ice cream truck.

Bill Boardman, co-chairman of the friends group, said he was at the park yesterday with kids.

"It is encouraging to see so much activity at Patton Park, and the feedback we've been getting has been overwhelmingly positive," he said.

The group had hopes that the playground would be a destination for people in surrounding communities. A group member recently talked to someone from Danvers who was going to eat dinner at the Black Cow restaurant after spending time at the park.

"That is exactly the impact on local businesses we were hoping for," he said.

Matteo Dimartino of Ipswich was at the park yesterday with his four kids. He said there is something for all his kids, who range in age from 9 months to 8 years.

"They did a great job. The kids love it," he said. "It keeps them very active, which is great. They get kind of bored with the simple structures. They never seem to tire here."

October

Moore resigns from School Committee

Jennie Oemig, Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle, Oct 06, 2013

Melissa Even Moore, who was elected to serve a three-year term on the Hamilton-Wenham Regional School Committee last spring, submitted her resignation Monday.

"It is with deep regret that I have submitted my resignation as a member of the Hamilton Wenham Regional District School Committee as we are moving out of the district," Moore wrote in her resignation letter.

Moore thanked the community for its support and encouragement.

"It has truly been an honor to have been elected and to have served you," she wrote. "Having grown up in Hamilton, I already knew what a special place this is to call home. Having been a part of the community as an adult, with a family and as an elected official has solidified that knowledge."

Moore stated that her family has been trying to find a new home in Hamilton and Wenham for some time, but were unsuccessful.

"We have decided to spend the winter in Rockport and hope to return to Hamilton or Wenham in the spring," she wrote. "It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve on this distinguished Committee. I am disappointed that I will not be able to continue the excellent work that the Committee has undertaken."

Moore's resignation opens up a seat on the committee, which the School Committee and Wenham Board of Selectmen will be in charge of filling.

November

December

STATISTICS

Population:

District 1 –	2,786
District 2 –	2,709
District 3 –	2,789
Total –	8,284

School population (start 2013/14)

Kindergarten	
Grade 1 -	
Grade 2 -	
Grade 3	
Grade 4	
Grade 5	
Grade 6	
Grade 7	
Grade 8	
Grade 9	
Grade 10	
Grade 11	
Grade 12	
Total	
Choice students	
Gordon-Conwell students	
Teacher students	

School teachers/aides (start 2013/14)

	Teachers	Aides
Kindergarten		
Grade 1 -		
Grade 2 -		
Grade 3		
Grade 4		
Grade 5		
Grade 6		
Grade 7		
Grade 8		
Grade 9		
Grade 10		
Grade 11		
Grade 12		
Total		

House sales

Jan	
Feb	
Mar	
Apr	3
May	14
Jun	11
Jul	10
Aug	6
Sep	2
Oct	2
Nov	
Dec	
Total	48

Budget for FYE 2014

Revenue, 1,000	
Free cash to rate	443.0
Free cash to articles	193.6
Release abatement res.	26.3
Local receipts	703.0
Motor vehicle excise	913.0
Meals tax	65
State local aid	563.3
State reimbursements	141.0
Cemetery	12
Water enterprise	250
911 & elder affairs grants	39.8
Total revenue	3,350
Town Expenses	
General government	1,615.8
Protection	2,182.8
Dept public works	1,003.0
Health & human serv	702.1
Joint programs	975.1
Unclassified	2,376.9
Warrant articles	219.9
Total expenses	9,075.5
Net town expenses	5,725.7
School Expenses	
HWRSD spending	29,071.6
HWRSD revenue	5,207.3
HWRSD net	23,864.4
Hamilton assessment	15,986.6
N. Shore Voc School	89.1
Total school expense	16,075.6
Total town expenses	21,803.3
Levy limit exclusions	
Joint library	145.2
Water plant	220.5
Public safety bldg	476.3
HWRSD MS/HS	476.3
N Shore Voc School debt	8.7
Adjustments	-110.2
Total levy limit exclu.	1,216.6
Available tax levy	
Real estate prior yr limit	22,888.1
2.5% increase	572.2
New growth	100.0
Levy limit	23,560.1
Actual tax levy	21,801.3
Available levy	1,759.0
Real estate tax	
Tax levy	23,018.0
Property evaluations	1,291,952
Tax rate/\$1,000	17.82
Tax 393,000 property	7.0
Town reserves	
Jun 30, 2013	473,971
Allocation free cash	474
Reduce tax rate	443
Reserves (5%) Free cash	1,117.7
Reserves (5%) Capital	250
Truck & Howard St. Cul-vert	112

Hamilton Dev Corp (Meals Tax)	82
Total	2,004.7

Departments

Assessors	8
Board of Health	8
Building Dept.	3
Cemetery Dept.	2
Conservation Commission	9
Council on Aging	1
Public Works Dept.	3
Emergency Commun. Ctr.	5
Finance Dept.	2
Fire Dept.	??12
H-W Public Library	9
H-W Regional School District	??
Human Resources	1
Parking Clerk	1
Planning Brd.	8
Police Dept.	13
Recreation Dept.	1
Town Clerk	2
Town Manager	2
Treasurer/Tax Collector	3
Veterans	1
Water Dept.	2
Weights & Measures	1

Committees/Boards Members*

Agriculture Commission	1
Brd. of Assessors	7
Brd. Of Health	9
Brd. Of Selectmen	5
Budget Process Committee	16
Capital Mgt. Advisory Comm.	11
Chebacco Woods Mgt. Comm.	0
Community Preserv. Comm.	10
Finance & Advisory Comm.	5
Ham. Affordable Housing Trust	6
Hamilton Development Corp.	6
Hamilton Foundation	6
H-W Cable TV	4
H-W Cultural Council	7
H-W Green	0
H-W Library Trustees	0
H-W Recreation Brd.	3
H-W School Comm.	
Historic District Commission	6
Historical Society	7
Housing Authority	6
Housing Partnership Comm.	6
Parking Clerk	1
Pilot Committee	0
Planning Brd.	8
Zoning Brd of Appeals	6*

* Hamilton residents

2013 Election

Selectmen (2)	
<i>Scott F. Maddern</i>	568
<i>Marc I. Johnson</i>	515
Jacob E. Hauck	237
William R. Dery	195
Blank	195
Moderator	
<i>Bruce C. Ramsey</i>	660
Blank	191
Brd of Assessors	
<i>Gelean M. Campbell</i>	649
Blank	207
Planning Brd., 3 yrs	
<i>Frederick G. Mitchell</i>	567
<i>Brian D. Stein</i>	559
Blanks	582
Planning Board, 1 yr.	
<i>Joseph M. Orlando, Jr.</i>	562
Blank	294
H-W Library Trustee	
<i>Madelyn C. Liberti</i>	657
Blank	197
H-W Regional School Comm. (3)	
<i>Deborah H. Evans</i>	670
<i>Melissa Even Moore</i>	599
<i>Jeanise A. Bertrand</i>	399
Richard L. Boroff	348
Blank	550
Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion	
Yes	453
No	285
Blank	118
Voters	
Precinct 1	316
Precinct 2	293
Precinct 3	247
Total	856
Registered	5,833

Demographics (2000 census)

Households	2,668
Children under 18, %	66.6
Married couples, %	71.1
Female householder, %	7.3
Housing units	2,825
Families	2,142
Under 18 yrs, %	27.4
18-24, %	5.9
25-44, %	33.3
45-64, %	23.0
65 and over, %	10.4
Median income/household	72,000
Median income family	79,886
Below poverty line, family	5.3