

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
4591 SCHOOL DRIVE
ALLISON PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 15101
AUGUST 31, 2020 MINUTES

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors held a Virtual Meeting on Monday, August 31, 2020. The Virtual Meeting was conducted to honor the social distancing requirements along with the mandated restrictions and closures in place concerning COVID-19.

Meeting

Attendance: Ms. Denise Balason, Mrs. Jill Hamlin, Mr. Matt Jarrell, Mrs. Joy Midgley, Mr. Robert Shages, Mr. Greg Stein, Mr. Larry Vasko, Mrs. Trisha Webb, Mr. Bryant Wesley, Dr. Michael Loughead and Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, Mr. Don Palmer along with a few Hampton Township residents.

Attendance

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bryant Wesley served as Chairperson of the meeting. Dr. Rebecca Cunningham served as Recording Secretary.

Mr. Wesley opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Ms. Diana Sutterlin, Hampton resident addressed the Board in regard to the Hampton Dolphins. Ms. Sutterlin stated that the Dolphins are a community group, as such per current restrictions, they are not permitted to practice in the school facilities. She stated the Dolphins are the equivalent of an "inside group." She thanked the Board for allowing the High School team to practice on September 14th but asked that the Middle School team be allowed to practice as well.

Bids for Electricity
Commodity

Mr. Stein addressed Ms. Sutterlin giving her and the Dolphins his support.

Mr. Wesley thanked Ms. Sutterlin for her comments. He stated his children participated in the summer program at the community pool, which was facilitated by the Dolphins. He stated the program was very well organized and safety conscious. He stated the program was a successful event. He congratulated the Dolphins on their execution of the program at the community pool. He stated administration would consider any safety plans she would like to share in order to review the issue.

Dr. Loughead stated Administration would need to see the plans to make any decisions moving forward, given the current restrictions.

The following information was presented and/or action taken on items submitted by Mrs. Webb of the Student Affairs Committee.

Student Affairs

Dr. Loughead and Dr. Imbarlina provided an overview to the Athletic Health and Safety Plan.

Athletic Health and
Safety Plan
Presentation

Dr. Loughead stated that the Health and Safety Plan voted on for the summer months has expired. He noted that PIAA has since decided that sports will continue this fall. This new plan will cover all sports and athletics through the 2020-2021 school year. Dr.

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Loughead outlined the updates from the summer plan such as face coverings now being mandated. He noted the PPE requirements and screening methods will remain in place but as teams now move forward to competition stages – the plan will focus on proper procedures should a positive case be reported. Dr. Loughead stated that spectators will not be permitted at any WPIAL or PIAA sporting events as mandated by Governor Wolf. Dr. Loughead noted that a cap on attendance for games has also been implemented.

Dr. Imbarlina, Hampton High School Building Principal stated that alongside student athletes the Band has done a remarkable job of practicing this summer in order to be prepared for their role at the athletic events. Dr. Imbarlina stated Allegheny County has a cap of 250 people at an outdoor event, which would include various athletic events. As such Mr. Cardone, A.D. and Mr. Himmler, Band Director have met to discuss what this will mean moving forward. Mr. Himmler is discussing with his students the options the Band will have such as a smaller Pep Band. She noted Cheerleaders will be allowed at home games. Dr. Imbarlina stated the High School is looking for guidance on the upcoming Volleyball games as the attendance cap is at 100 people. All attendance caps include time keepers, referees, trainers, coaches, administrators, etc.

Mr. Wesley inquired about attendance at away games, and about PIAA's stance on the Governor's order for spectators.

Dr. Imbarlina responded to Mr. Wesley that all districts have decided schools will participate only at their home games, and additional groups would not travel. Therefore, Band and Cheerleaders are permitted at home games but would not travel. Dr. Imbarlina stated as part of PIAA, we are asking the governor to reconsider the order to allow at least one parent to attend athletic events. She noted this would not only be for moral support of the athletes, but for injury or emergency purposes as well. She noted that as part of PIAA, we are going to do our part by complying with the orders until the order is changed or lifted.

Dr. Loughead thanked Dr. Imbarlina and Mr. Cardone for their work on the Athletic Health and Safety Plan. He reiterated that these guidelines are all important for the safety of the athletes. He noted the District is investigating the ability to livestream athletic events for families, but there are limitations, logistics and costs associated with this.

Ms. Balason inquired about Cross County and Tennis and if spectators would be permitted at these events.

Cross Country and
Tennis - Spectators

Dr. Imbarlina stated these are both PIAA sports, therefore no spectators would be permitted to attend these events. She noted if spectators arrive, they will be asked to leave. If spectators refuse to leave, the school is responsible for shutting down the game. Dr. Imbarlina stated it is important to allow these student athletes the opportunity to play the games they practice for. She stated that she hopes spectators will be respectful of this until further direction comes from the Governor's office.

Mr. Wesley stated he has faith in the Hampton families to follow the Governor's order. He stated that he hopes Mr. Cardone and his office communicate with traveling schools

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reiterating the no spectator order. Mr. Wesley stated he would hate for a game to be shut down or canceled should family of a visiting team arrive and refuse to leave. Mr. Wesley stated as a father of student athletes, it is hard to hear that he cannot be present at a game to watch his child. Mr. Wesley stated this news is disheartening, but an order is an order, and it is important to follow the rules.

Upon motion by Mrs. Webb, seconded by Mr. Stein and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Board approved the 2020-2021 Athletic Health and Safety Plan.

2020-2021 Health and Safety Plan

Mr. Wesley opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Mr. Pacienza, complimented the commentary provided this evening on the Athletic Health and Safety Plan. He noted that his children have played sports all summer such as baseball and soccer. He stated this was done safely and parents respected the guidelines. He believes the one-parent rule could easily work within the District as there are several fields for various play. He was happy to hear sports were occurring. Mr. Pacienza inquired about the curriculum of Hampton Online Academy and if he could push his students do complete course work at high levels.

Compliment on Athletic Plan;
Question on HOA Curriculum

Dr. Loughead addressed Mr. Pacienza stating many parents asked if the pacing was appropriate challenge level for their students. He stated he trusts the teacher to review the content of the units and provide some differentiated instruction to make the pacing appropriate to each child.

Mr. Wesley stated he agreed with Mr. Pacienza on his comments about the sports programs this summer. Mr. Wesley stated that the District Solicitor was on the line to verify the order from the Governor's office.

Mr. Palmer stated that the CDC, Department of Health, and Department of Education have all formally stated that spectators are not permitted at sporting events. Mr. Palmer stated the District will need to adhere to the order.

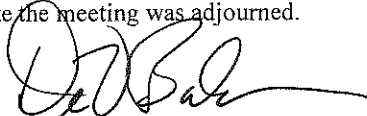
Ms. Jill Troup inquired about the ability for spectators at club sports.

Club Sports – Spectators

Dr. Loughead stated the club sports follow the same guidelines as WPIAL and PIAA sports. They follow the same standards in terms of participation, grade point averages, and behavior and conduct. Dr. Loughead stated the recommendation should carry to all sports throughout the District.

Upon motion by Mr. Vasko, seconded by Mr. Stein and carried unanimously by voice vote the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment



Denise Balason, Secretary