

The Board Report

Monday, October 4, 2021



Disclaimer: The Board Report is a synopsis of the Hampton Township School Board meetings and is not intended as a replacement for any official Board minutes.

~ A Tradition of Excellence ~

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors

Bryant Wesley II, Esq.

Board President

Mrs. Jill Hamlin

Board Vice President

Ms. Denise Balason

Board Secretary/Facilities Chair

Mr. Matt Jarrell

Transportation Chair

Mrs. Joy Midgley

Personnel Chair

Mr. Robert Shages

Board Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair

Mr. Greg Stein*

Technology Chair

Mr. Larry Vasko

Finance Chair

Mrs. Trisha Webb

Student Affairs Chair

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Auditorium. The meeting was audio/video simulcast so that community members could watch remotely, and was also audio/video recorded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Rebecca Cunningham

Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jeff Kline

Director of Administrative Services

October 4, 2021

Work Session

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). The time within the video that each section begins is indicated below.

Call to Order

(2:41)

Mr. Wesley called the meeting to order and stated that there would first be two student award presentations, with an opportunity for Public Comment at the end of the Work Session.

Student Awards

(3:24)

Mrs. Webb first recognized Kiana Kazemi, a high school senior, who had her AP Research paper entitled, “Decision Making and Rationality: Adults and Teenagers in the Prisoner’s Dilemma,” published in the peer-reviewed academic journal *The Young Researcher*. Her paper was one of 17 papers chosen for publication in Volume 5 from over 200 submissions.

The following is an abstract of her paper: *Human decision-making is largely analyzed by the field of behavioral game theory; however, little research has been done to compare adults’ and teenagers’ decision-making in game theory scenarios. A comparison of the two age groups could help future researchers better understand changes in decision-making with age.*

Following this presentation, Mrs. Webb recognized the accomplishments of high school senior Lindsay Liebro. Mrs. Webb shared that Lindsay is a fantastic student, singer, and songwriter. Last October she was the winner of the WYEP Singer-songwriter competition, where she submitted her own written songs and competed against adults in the local music industry, and she was only 16. She won a monetary prize, a professionally produced track, and a consultation with a Pittsburgh recording studio, among other well-earned awards. Further, she writes all her own lyrics and music. Last April, she released a track, *Boardwalk*, which can be found on Youtube. She is also onstage at HHS as a cast member during the drama club fall play and spring musical. Last spring she had the lead role in our musical, *Pippin*. Finally, Lindsay recently released her newest song, “Wasted Potential,” which became an internet sensation with over 100k views when it was thought to be an unreleased song by Taylor Swift. Following this introduction, Lindsay performed two of her songs on stage.

Student Affairs

(19:20)

Mrs. Webb introduced one item this evening – a request to change the name of the High School Robotics Club to the High School Computer Science Club. As the Student Council Representatives

were not able to attend the meeting this evening, their report will be postponed until the November work session.

Facilities

(19:46)

Mr. Jason Day of PJ Dick provided an update on the Phase I portion of the Hampton High School renovation project.

His presentation included the following information:

- Construction is moving along as anticipated.
- Since last month, the general contractor mobilized and prepped the site with fencing and some tree removal.
- Work has begun on a new drive that will create a four-way intersection at Topnick Drive.
- The electrical contractor recently mobilized and will begin working second shift inside the building to prepare for the new data center.
- The mechanical and plumbing contractors are in the process of ordering materials.
- The roofing contractor will finish working above the classroom areas of the building this week before moving onto the auditorium and auxiliary gym next week. He said students and staff have been very cooperative during this portion of construction which has caused some noise and minor disruption.
- Work will continue into the winter months as weather permits.
- Phase I was originally scheduled to begin on July 1, with the roof replacement to be finished prior to the start of the school year. However, supply chain issues pushed back the starting date.
- More site development will continue in the front of the building throughout October, as two new drives will be installed. By early November, those drives will be utilized with work beginning on the current entrance off Topnick Drive.
- Significant changes will happen next month when the LGI is torn down, drives are installed, and foundations are laid for the new addition.

Mr. Day also showed photos of the construction process over the past month.

Educational Programs

(29:49)

There were no action items on the agenda this evening, but Dr. Loughead presented a brief update on the District's Covid mitigation strategies. In his overview, Dr. Loughead stated that all school districts are continuing to see positive cases and that the numbers are remaining at a high level. He shared that cases in the Eastern part of the state have started to decline, and we are hoping to see a similar trend in Western Pennsylvania. The Allegheny County Health Department continues to support Hampton in the careful contact tracing that we are doing each week. Also, Dr. Loughead stated that

the universal masking which is in place is continuing to reduce the number of students who have to quarantine. Dr. Loughead shared that over the recent two week span, we had 22 in school positive cases, but only 19 student quarantines. In the past, with non-universal masking, there would be hundreds of students who needed to quarantine. He praised the hard work of the faculty, nurses, and principals to carefully monitor all of these cases, so that we can continue the goal of in-person instruction without interruption.

Dr. Loughead also relayed that the Health Department stated that there is no magic number which would warrant a school closure, and reassured the Board that we are not expecting to go remote as long as we continue to contact trace appropriately, which we are very good at doing.

Board members asked about plans for recess, physical education and lunch as the weather gets colder and students may not be able to be outside. Dr. Loughead responded that the physical education teachers are already preparing the students to be ready for a lot of outdoor physical education with appropriate attire, and that teachers are continuing to take students outside as frequently as possible. Additionally, the administration is looking at alternative and additional spaces for the students to eat lunch. In response to Board member questions, Dr. Loughead stated that students who are quarantined are still able to access remote instruction as was in place last year.

Personnel

(34:17)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the October 11 meeting:

Resignations

- Mrs. Trista Interthal who is resigning after over two years with the District effective September 24, 2021. Mrs. Interthal was a Paraprofessional (Class I) at Central Elementary School.

Teachers

- Mrs. Colleen Frankel's request for a Professional Development Sabbatical for the second semester of the 2021-2022 School Year and the first semester of the 2022-2023 School Year, returning to the District at the beginning of the second semester of the 2022-2023 School Year. Mrs. Frankel is a Grade 4 Teacher at Central Elementary School.
- Mr. Jason Moore as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 6 English/Language Arts Teacher at Hampton Middle School effective September 17, 2021 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, prorated. Mr. Moore is a substitute for Mrs. Kelsey Kowalczyk.
- Ms. Alicia Murray as a Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Poff Elementary School effective October 11, 2021 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, prorated. Ms. Murray is a substitute for Ms. Jenna Mansfield's position.
- Mrs. Barb Landry as a mentor for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Paraprofessional/Paraeducator/Administrative Assistant

- Mrs. Diane Logan as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School effective September 20, 2021. Hourly rate is \$17.52 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.77 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Logan is replacing Mr. Steven Harris' position.

Custodial

- Mr. Tim Rieger as a Custodial Substitute for the District effective September 16, 2021. Hourly rate is \$12.00 for days 1-20 and \$12.50 per hour thereafter.
- Mr. Zachary Ridenour as a Custodial Substitute for the District effective September 21, 2021. Hourly rate is \$12.00 for days 1-20 and \$12.50 per hour thereafter.

Other

- Club Sponsors for the Elementary Schools, Middle School, and the High School for the 2021-2022 School Year.

HTSD 2021-2022 Elementary Club Sponsors:

| Elementary School | Activity Club | Sponsor |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Central Elementary | Growing Together Club | Heather Tammariello and Melissa Maley |
| Central Elementary | Kids Care Club | Heather Tammariello and Melissa Maley |
| Central Elementary | Greenhouse Garden Club | TBD |
| Poff Elementary | Poff Kids Care Club | Amy Rein and Marilyn Adams |
| Poff Elementary | Homework Club | Barb Landry |
| Wyland Elementary | Pawsitive Helping Hands | Amy Kinney |
| Wyland Elementary | Garden Club | Diane Snyder |
| Wyland Elementary | Growing Together Club | Wendi Hunter and Susan Rothmeyer |

| Position | Sponsor | 2nd Teacher Sponsor |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Chinese Club | Jun Angelini | |
| French Club | Karen Males-Benson | |
| German Club | Pauline Spring | |
| Latin Club | Inactive | |
| Spanish Club | Karen Males-Benson | |
| Helping Hands | Lori Palmer | |
| Gardening Club | Glenn Geary | |
| Keystone Club | Gwen Cohen | Melissa Survinski |
| Best Buddies | Elizabeth Morris | Cathy Close |
| Fitness Club | Mark Gartner/Megan Brower Hartley Kennedy | Liz Bright/Hartley Kennedy/Liz Maxa Jessica Barry / Liz Maxa |
| Newspaper Club | Dejana Raggi | |
| Book Club | Sheree Lucas | Elizabeth Morris |
| English Festival (Talbot Re | Gwen Cohen | Diane Fierle |
| Creative Writing | Elizabeth Morris | Mary Davis |
| Green Team (Recycling) | Pauline Spring | Sheree Lucas |
| Drama Club | Greg Shumaker | Melissa Survinski/ Lori Palmer |
| Stock Market | Gwen Cohen | Lisa Ferrero |
| Digital Games with Friend | Gwen Cohen | |
| Talbot Chamber Orchestra | Amy Stepson | |
| HMS Symphonic Band | Shannon Shaffer | Sean Desguin |
| HMS Jazz | Shannon Shaffer | Sean Desguin |
| Explorer Club | Michele Hurst | |
| HMS Colorguard | Christine Nowak | Shannon Shaffer |
| Battle of the Books | Valentine/Lucas/Cohen/Fierle | Kim Jewison |
| Cooking Club | Inactive | |
| Art Club | Lisa Woods | |
| 6th Grade Cross Country | Mary Davis | Jesse Beliz |
| Show Choir | Heather Heere | |
| Yearbook | David Hartman | |
| Student Council | Lori Palmer | |

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Class of 2026 | Jay D'Ambrosio | Bill Paholich |
| Class of 2027 | Lori Palmer | Jamie Pillar |
| Class of 2026 | Mary Bukovac | Dave Sheets |
| Student Store | Amy Holtz | Will Stiglitz |
| This is the account for the Special Education Program- Espresso-O It is not a Club. | | |

**2021-2022 ACTIVITY CLUB SPONSORS
HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL**

| ASN # | ACTIVITY | TEACHER SPONSOR | STUDENT OFFICER |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7629 | H.S. Class of 2022 | Heather Dietz | |
| 7645 | H.S. Class of 2023 | Karen Taylor | |
| 7705 | H.S. Class of 2024 | Chris Anastas | |
| 7744 | H.S. Class of 2025 | Devon Byrne | |
| 8464 | H.S. After School Writers Club | Terry Hales | |
| 7429 | H.S. Armed Forces Club | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 7499 | H.S. Art Club | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 7712 | H.S. Best Buddies | Sarah Rassau/Claire Aloe | |
| 7219 | H.S. Chess Club (Games Club) | Kathy Dickensheets | |
| 7566 | H. S. Chinese Language/Culture Club | Jun Angelini | |
| 8385 | H.S. Drama Club | Daniel Franklin | |
| 7177 | H. S. English Festival | Hannah Dunlap | |
| 7181 | H. S. Environmental Science | Christine Ruffner | |
| 8485 | H.S. Film Club | Alison McBee | |
| 7596 | H. S. Fitness Club | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 8484 | H. S. Forensics Club | Alison McBee | |
| 8181 | H. S. French Club | Jessica Heranic | |
| 8403 | H. S. Future Business Leaders | Anthony Howard | |
| 7506 | H. S. Gay – Straight Alliance | Alison McBee | |
| 8370 | H. S. German Club | Karen Taylor | |
| 8167 | H. S. Hamptonian | Savina Cupps | |
| 7567 | H. S. History Club | Kevin Green | |
| 7568 | H. S. Home Town High-Q | Hannah Krasnow | |
| 7216 | H. S. Jazz Band (formerly Jam Band) | Chad Himmler | |
| 8377 | H. S. Keystone Club | Melissa Survinski | |
| 8369 | H. S. Latin Club | Scott Stickney | |
| 7196 | H. S. Lend our Hands | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 7757 | H.S. Multicultural Club** | Claire Aloe | |
| 8183 | H. S. National Honor Society | Terri Koprivnikar | |
| 7711 | H.S. Ping Pong Club | Janice Wolff | |
| 8400 | H. S. Political Science/Model UN | Alison McBee | |
| 8480 | H. S. Computer Science Club (formerly Robotics) | Joe Afflerbach | |
| 7218 | H. S. Rotary Interact Club | Janice Wolff | |
| | H. S. Showcase Club | Hannah Dunlap | |
| 8350 | H. S. Spanish Club | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 8168 | H. S. Student Council | Terri Koprivnikar, Lisa Graff | |
| 7505 | H. S. Student Science Research Club | Jamie Pugliese | |
| 7600 | H.S. Student Store | Lynn Camilli | |
| 8231 | H. S. Talbot Players | Daniel Franklin | |
| 7066 | H.S. TSA | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| 7746 | H.S. Unified Bocce Club | Addie Devlin | |
| 8481 | H. S. Video Club | <i>OPEN</i> | |
| | H.S. Women’s Empowerment Alliance Club | Kathy Dickensheets | |
| 7632 | H. S. Winter Color Guard | Christina Nowak | |
| 8170 | H. S. Yearbook | Devon Byrne | |

Supplementals

The following conditional appointments for 2021-2022, each at a rate of \$139 per point, with each such appointment being conditioned on the District making a subsequent determination that the supplementary position and work associated with such position is needed and approved and will continue during the coronavirus pandemic following future guidance from the Commonwealth. Each appointment shall be effective only where the position is approved and operational and where the work associated with such position is actually being performed. This conditional appointment does not obligate the District to approve some, all or any of the supplementary positions for 2021-2022 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2021-2022:

| NAME | POSITION | BUILDING | POINTS | RANGE | TOTAL STIPEND |
|---------------|--|----------|--------|-------|---------------|
| Sydney Funtal | Co-Bus Monitor (replacing Emily Milbert) | Central | 2.27 | 12 | \$316 |

Finance

(37:46)

There were no action items on the agenda this evening, but Mr. Kline presented the District's tax revenue update as of September 30, 2021.

Since there was a two-month extension on real estate tax collection in 2020, Mr. Kline said the District has collected more this year since the deadline was in August. Earned income taxes are down slightly, but Mr. Kline said it is too early to be concerned about. Additionally, Mr. Kline said the real estate transfer taxes, which exceeded budget last year and are on track to exceed budget again this year. A third of those taxes collected when there is a property transaction goes each to the county, school district, and municipality. The increase is a result of higher sales volume and higher prices, Mr. Kline explained. Finally, he said that the District's delinquent real estate and delinquent earned income taxes are doing well.

Mr. Kline also provided an update on the 2022-2023 Act 1 Adjusted Index & History. The District is anticipating the base index to be 3.4%, and it is very likely that Hampton's adjusted index will be the same.

Last, Mr. Kline shared key dates in the 2022-2023 Budget Calendar. On January 10, 2022, the budget planning document will be presented and reviewed with the Board. On April 25, 2022, the second preliminary budget will be reviewed at a special budget meeting. The proposed final budget will be considered for Board approval on May 9, 2022, and the final budget will be considered at the June 13, 2022, voting meeting.

Mr. Wesley thanked Mr. Vasko and Mr. Kline for putting the budget information together.

Technology

(43:35)

There were no action items this evening.

Policy/Legislative Affairs

(43:52)

Mr. Shages presented the second reading of Policy #236.1: Threat Assessments and asked for comments. Finding none, Mr. Shages encouraged the Board to send any other comments to Dr. Cunningham this week, and also indicated to the Board that the policy would be presented for final adoption at the upcoming Voting meeting on Monday.

Transportation

(44:26)

There were no action items this evening.

Questions or Comments

Mr. Wesley inquired about the parking situation for High School students during the renovation project. Dr. Loughead said there have been no issues with littering and that students have been respectful. With a later start time, High School students have more daylight as they are arriving at school, which Dr. Loughead said will be advantageous during the colder weather. Mr. Wesley thanked Officer Carl Good and the Hampton Police Department for their help with directing traffic. Additionally, a Board Member raised concern about lack of outdoor lighting at the High School at nighttime. Dr. Loughead said the District will inspect the lighting at the High School to enhance safety.

Public Comment

(47:30)

A Community Member thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and brought up three of the District's recent bond issues. He said he understands taking advantage of low interest rates, but he asked why the District has not switched underwriters in many years. Additionally, he asked when was the last time the District did a request for proposal for a bond issuer, and if that occurs each time a bond is issued.

Mr. Kline shared that while the District has not switched underwriters during his tenure at Hampton, the District has received other proposals in that time period. Around 2008-2009, the District hired a financial advisory group which informed the District that its current underwriter was performing well for the District and its taxpayers.

The Community Member also stated that Hampton appears to pay higher bond issuance fees than other area school districts. Mr. Kline responded by stating that issuance fees also go to other

professional services such as a bond counsel and solicitor. He speculated that other districts may use their operating fund budget to subsidize those issuances.

In response to another question, Mr. Vasko noted that each bond has a bond indenture which lays out when each bond would be callable. These bonds can be refinanced at any time, he explained, but money would have to go into an escrow account, and the District cannot earn more money than it is paying on the new bonds in an escrow account.

Mr. Wesley said the Board discussed this at length during several board meetings. He said that particular issuance was a swaption, which contains a penalty to call it early, but with the lower interest rates, the savings would total more than \$2 million. Further, Mr. Vasko emphasized that these bonds that were recently issued come with extremely low interest rates.

Mr. Kline added that the reason certain payments increase years ahead is because another bond has been paid off or has a lower payment that year. The District tries to keep a very level debt service schedule.

Lastly, the Community Member suggested that the Board seek proposals from other underwriters before the next bond issuance as an opportunity to save on issuance fees. Mr. Vasko asserted that the District has spoken to other underwriters, including PNC Bank, but Piper Sandler has offered the best overall price and service.

Adjournment

(1:00:08)

Mr. Wesley thanked everyone for attending the meeting or tuning in virtually. He said the Board would enter a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.