

# The Board Report

*Monday, November 1, 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**

**Mr. Don Palmer, GRB**

**Solicitor**

**November 1, 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**

(5:48)

Ms. Hamlin opened the Work Session and announced that Public Comment would take place at the end of the meeting.

### **Student Affairs**

(6:10)

Mrs. Webb announced that Student Council Representative Isaac Thatcher was present to provide an update to the Board.

Isaac shared that the High School's fall athletic teams are having phenomenal seasons. The football team finished the regular season with an undefeated record for just the second time in school history. The boys and girls soccer teams, in addition to the girls volleyball team, have displayed incredible talent throughout the season — all qualifying for the WPIAL playoffs. Girls tennis and cross country also had successful seasons.

Dr. Loughead mentioned that the boys soccer team was competing against Franklin Regional that evening with an opportunity to advance to the WPIAL Championship game, and that Mr. Wesley was at the game to cheer on his son. He lauded the remarkable student presence at athletic events throughout the fall season in supporting their classmates.

Additionally, Isaac shared that he took part in the High School's block scheduling trial. He looks forward to the exciting possibilities associated with the scheduling changes. Isaac said that on Monday, his first and ninth period classes were extended, while his second and eighth period classes were removed. Those periods were swapped the following day, with second and eighth period being extended.

Dr. Loughead explained that Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina, High School Principal, is trialing different models of scheduling to obtain feedback from students, families, and faculty. The District is not currently contemplating an immediate scheduling change; rather, these trials will provide guidance for future recommendations to the Board.

Isaac also noted that students are excited for the High School's upcoming "Deck the Halls" project. Every year, each grade level at the High School is assigned a hallway to decorate for the holiday season. He said the project promotes holiday and school spirit, in addition to uniting the student body. Additionally, Isaac reported that construction for the High School renovation project has not been a

distraction to learning so far. Students are looking forward to the improvements involved with this project. Also, the Homecoming Dance was safe, successful, and enjoyable, thanks to the planning and preparation by the Student Council, the administration, and everyone else involved. He also reported that there are several new developments with High School clubs that have gained attention this year.

Lastly, Isaac said the current fundraiser for Mr. Howell's family is very important. He stated that Mr. Howell is the head custodian at Wyland Elementary. Isaac, who attended Wyland, said Mr. Howell is a phenomenal person who has been very influential in his life. He encourages everyone to help Mr. Howell and his family by donating to the fundraiser.

Dr. Loughhead complimented Isaac's poise and preparedness for tonight's presentation. He echoed Isaac's remarks about Mr. Howell in stating that Mr. Howell "has a special place in all of our hearts." Ms. Hamlin also complimented Isaac on his presentation and remarked that she is glad students have been able to enjoy so many events this school year.

## 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:

- The roofing contractor has completed Phase 1A and 1B of the roof replacement project, which included portions over the auditorium and auxiliary gym. Phase 1C has begun over the main gymnasium. That phase will conclude within the next 2-3 weeks depending upon the weather. After that, the contractor will decide whether to move into Phase 2A and 2B during the winter months based upon weather.
- The general contractor has continued site demolition, clearing and grubbing, and started excavation work on a new drive that will create a four-way intersection at Topnick Drive. Some paving would take place later this week and a stone access road would be installed to allow drop off/pick up in front of the school. Once that road is paved, the existing drive entrance to the school will be blocked off, and site work will begin in that portion of the project.
- The LGI has been torn down and work has begun on the new addition, including some foundation work in that area. The plan is to install slab-on-grade near the E and G hallways so they can be reopened for a secondary emergency egress. That area would then be fenced off so work on the addition can move forward.
- Once the drive entrance is finished, the general contractor will begin focusing more on the addition. The plumbing contractor will arrive on site in the next 2-3 weeks, while the electrical contractor has begun some second shift work, including site work for the fiberline relocation. Also, the mechanical contractor will begin some second shift work within the next month.

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

Board Members asked several questions, to which Mr. Day provided the following information:

- So far, all change orders associated with the project have been minor in nature.
- There have not been any major deviations from the original project plans.
- There have been some cost changes from the original budget that Mr. Day will bring to the Board's attention as they develop.

Dr. Loughead also addressed a Board Member's question about the LGI's removal. He said there are already two other spaces at the High School that can accommodate large group instruction. Dr. Imbarlina is working to utilize those spaces effectively during construction of the new addition. Additionally, teachers are utilizing outdoor spaces for instruction, and are moving around the building to support learning in creative ways.

Mr. Day noted that the High School staff has been fantastic in their understanding of the construction taking place on campus. He said the contractors have been limiting noise to before and after the school day.

## **Educational Programs**

(37:59)

There were no action items on the agenda this evening, but Dr. Loughead presented a brief update on the District's COVID-19 case figures and mitigation efforts. In his overview, Dr. Loughead said that the District's weekly cases have remained steady over the past few weeks. There were eight total cases (10/22 to 10/28) and seven the week prior. He stated that the District is not experiencing a major uptick or dropoff of cases, while there also has not been any large spread scenarios such as in other districts. With universal masking and social distancing, there has fortunately been a small number of quarantines as well. Sometimes there are no quarantines in the event of a positive case — with the exception of exposures on buses and in the cafeteria, where social distancing is more difficult to maintain. Dr. Loughead said the District wants students to interact with each other as much as they can in a safe manner. Further, he received an update from the Allegheny County Health Department during his weekly briefing and learned that student case numbers looked better in October than September, and this trend appears on track to continue.

Dr. Loughead answered a Board Member's question regarding quarantine numbers. He reported that the number of quarantines often doubles the total number of cases that week. For example, in a week with eight total cases, there were roughly 15-20 quarantines.

## **Personnel**

(41:49)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the November 8 Voting Meeting:

### **Resignations**

- Mrs. Becky Wright who is resigning effective November 5, 2021. Mrs. Wright is a Paraeducator

(Class III) at Hampton High School.

- Mrs. Ellen Bollinger who is resigning after over 6 years with the District effective November 5, 2021. Mrs. Bollinger is a Paraprofessional (Class II) at Hampton High School.

**Teachers**

- The following as Guest Substitutes for the Hampton Township School District, effective October 27, 2021. Salary is \$100 per day for day 1-30 and then \$120 per day thereafter. These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.

Michael Barton	Ken Guity
Danielle Cieply	Michelle Kline
Jennifer Colwell	Christine Larson
Jill Fanuele	Nicole Mishko
Sara Farrokhzad	Jennifer Retsch
Noelle Fleischman	

- Miss Casey Edwards as a Building Substitute at Hampton High School effective November 5, 2021. Salary is \$22,000, pro-rated. This is an annual position.

**Other**

- Ms. Laura Arledge as an additional Club Sponsor for the Poff Kids Care Club for the 2021-2022 School Year.

**Paraprofessional/Paraeducator/Administrative Assistant**

- Ms. Angela Sciallo as a Paraprofessional (Class I) at Central Elementary School effective October 25, 2021. Hourly rate is \$16.10 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$16.35 per hour thereafter. Ms. Sciallo is replacing Ms. Trista Interthal’s position.

**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
Kim Masarik	Assistant Coach Winter Track & Field	HHS	20	18/20	\$2,780

## **Addendum**

- Ms. Jina Coleman as a Long-Term Substitute Administrative Assistant to the Special Education/ Transition Coordinator (Class VII) effective November 5, 2021. Salary is \$21.63 per-hour for the 60 day probationary period and \$21.88 per hour thereafter. Ms. Coleman is a substitute for Mrs. Darlene Howell.

Ms. Hamlin thanked Dr. Cunningham for getting the Guest Substitute Program off the ground at Hampton. Dr. Cunningham expressed that the District is very proud of its guest substitute teachers who have done a tremendous amount of work in their training. Dr. Cunningham encourages community members to apply to be a guest substitute teacher when the training program takes place again in January.

## **Finance**

(45:06)

Mr. Vasko presented the 2022-2023 Joint Purchasing Agreement and Resolution with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, which will be considered for Board approval at the November 8 meeting. Mr. Vasko explained that this item is an annual motion that is typically approved. Mr. Kline reported that the District is not obligated to use any of these services. Currently, the District uses the AIU agreement to purchase natural gas and diesel fuel for its contracted buses.

Mr. Kline also provided the District's local tax revenue update as of October 31, 2021. Year-to-date collections of real estate taxes continue to be higher than 2020 due to the two-month extension on collection during the pandemic. The District is up 2.2% on earned income taxes compared to last year. Additionally, real estate transfer tax collection continues to exceed budget which is positive news for the District. Delinquent real estate and delinquent earned income taxes are both up from last year, after falling short in 2020. Mr. Kline said these items typically fluctuate.

## **Technology**

(48:22)

There were no action items this evening.

## **Policy/Legislative Affairs**

(48:36)

Mr. Shages presented three policies to be considered for a first reading at next week's Voting Meeting. He presented the first readings of Policy #103: Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students, and Policy #104: Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Staff. He explained that these replacement policies follow new federal regulations that have been made in the past six years since they were last updated. Dr. Cunningham, the District's Title IX Coordinator, stated that these policies follow the PSBA template which was issued to all districts from the state. Following a board member's question, Dr. Loughhead mentioned that these policies will be later updated in the handbooks including the coaches' handbook on the website.

Mr. Shages also presented the first reading of Policy #124: Alternative Delivery Methods for Instruction. Dr. Cunningham explained that this policy would replace the current summer school policy which outlines how students can obtain remedial or enrichment credits only through summer school. The purpose of the new replacement policy is to be broader in scope to allow students to obtain credits towards high school graduation through approved alternative delivery methods for instruction, including summer school courses, correspondence courses, distance learning, Internet, dual enrollment, alternative education and other forms of alternative course work in accordance with adopted policy. Dr. Cunningham stated that additional details regarding types of credits which could be accepted would be outlined in the upcoming High School Program of Studies.

## **Transportation**

(52:28)

There were no action items this evening.

## **Public Comment**

### **Community Member**

(52:54)

A Community Member thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak during meetings for the past four months. During that time, he said he learned that the District has many excellent students, teachers, and parents. He also listed several issues that he has with certain things that the Board has been in support of — chief among them being the strides that the District has taken in recent years regarding diversity and inclusion initiatives. He said that the District's diversity and inclusion initiatives, not masking alone, are what some parents are really concerned about.

### **Community Member**

(58:57)

A Community Member thanked the Board and District for doing an amazing job. She noted that a teacher from another school district explained to her how difficult it is to teach in an environment where there is a lot of conflict and parental issues regarding school board issues. Further, she stated that Hampton is fortunate to have a school board that makes decisions that are in the best interest of all students.

### **Community Member**

(1:00:06)

A Community Member asked about the District's plans to eventually transition away from the mitigation strategies laid out in the current Health and Safety Plan.

Dr. Loughead explained that the District continues to follow guidance from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, which includes a universal masking mandate. The District



will also monitor Allegheny County's level of community spread of COVID-19. There is currently no benchmark that would trigger a transition away from the current Health and Safety Plan.

The Community Member also expressed concern over the possibility of vaccine mandates in both students and staff. Lastly, he said that it is great to see the community come together to help Mr. Howell and his family.

## **Adjournment**

(1:04:25)

The meeting was adjourned and the Board entered a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.