

The Board Report

Monday, February 7, 2022



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

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 at the A. W. Beattie Career Center. The meeting was held in person and also audio/video recorded so that members of the community could view after the meeting concluded.

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

Dr. Jackie Removcik

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Dr. Marlynn Lux

Principal, Hampton Middle School

Mr. Eric Coffield

Manager of Technology Operations

Mr. Josh Kellogg

Network Administrator

February 7, 2022

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

(0:00)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting and announced that the Work Session's livestream was experiencing technical difficulties and that a recording of the meeting would be shared online. Dr. Loughead said the District would communicate information so community members could view the recording.

Voting Meeting

(1:00)

Mr. Wesley announced that the Board had one item to vote on before returning to the Work Session. Roll call was taken; all Board members were present, with Mr. Vasko and Mr. Stein participating remotely.

Mrs. Webb recommended and the Board unanimously approved the Hampton High School cheerleading field trip to the National Championship in Orlando, Florida from February 10-14, 2022, at no cost to the District.

After the Voting Meeting was adjourned, Mr. Wesley announced that there would be an opportunity for Public Comment at the end of the meeting.

Mrs. Webb introduced Hampton High School Student Council Treasurer Kai Herchenroether to provide a Student Council Representative Report, which included the following information:

- For the past month, Student Council has been planning Prom and Thon – two major events during the High School year. While the two events were modified last year, Student Council is planning to host both events at full capacity this year.
- Student Council is partnering with Pitt Dance Marathon to reach their goal of raising \$40,000 to benefit UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and support children with cancer.
- Thon is planned for March 25, 2022, while Prom is scheduled for May 6, 2022.

Educational Programs

(5:33)

Ms. Hamlin introduced one item to be considered for approval at the February 14th Voting Meeting:

- 2022-2023 Proposed Hampton Middle School Program of Studies

Dr. Removcik (Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) and Dr. Lux (Middle School Principal) presented an overview of the 2022-2023 proposed Middle School Program of Studies.

Dr. Removcik explained that the proposed HMS Program of Studies includes general language and course description changes, including updating the HS math course pathways chart as well as updating current language requiring Algebra I to be taken within the district. This aligns to the recent changes in the HHS Program of Studies. She introduced Dr. Lux to explain three rotational course description changes at HMS. Rotational courses enable middle school students to explore elective courses before entering high school. Proposed changes to the rotational course descriptions include the following:

1. **Family Consumer Science (6th grade)** – Dr. Lux explained that the course description was revised to include language about the interdisciplinary connections that this course provides as it connects sewing to basic circuitry through the incorporation of e-textiles into the curriculum. Students have been piloting e-textiles in the classrooms this year.
2. **Computer Applications III (8th grade)** – The course description has been updated to include language that students will have the opportunity to engage with problem-solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data. Additionally, Dr. Lux said HMS is looking into using the CS Discoveries curriculum from Code.org to provide students with several computational thinking opportunities before they enter high school.
3. **Career Awareness (8th grade)** – The objectives of this course include general career exploration, career education and training, career retention, and career advancement. However, proposed changes to this course include the addition of personal finance connections, with concepts such as income and net income, budgeting, and saving. Dr. Lux explained that at the end of the rotation, students would apply for a job, conduct a mock interview, and then receive their profession and annual income. Subsequently, HMS would host a job fair with industry experts from the Hampton community – including such experts as auto salesmen, childcare providers, real estate agents, etc, to help students further understand household budgeting.

Mr. Stein and Mr. Vasko expressed interest in attending the job fair for HMS students in the “Career Awareness” rotation. Dr. Loughead encouraged interested community members to reach out to Dr. Lux. Ms. Hamlin said she appreciates that a personal finance component is being incorporated into the HMS Program of Studies.

Additionally, Dr. Lux noted that she will reach out to the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) for a mini grant to springboard some of the work to plan a job fair for the “Career Awareness” rotation.

Facilities

(19:37)

Mr. Jason Day of PJ Dick provided an update on the Hampton High School renovation project, which included the following information:

- In January, the general contractor continued the stormwater management and underground detention system in the front lawn of HHS. That portion has been completed and backfilled, and the storm system is now connected to it. Also, the general contractor continued with masonry on the addition in preparation for the arrival of structural steel this week (Feb. 7-11).

- The electrical contractor continued interior building infrastructure work, with cable tray and feeder conduits to the new addition and data center.
- The plumbing contractor completed the storm system and sanitary sewer underground work within the new addition footprint. They also completed sprinkler modification and rain conductor piping work in the new data center.
- The mechanical contractor was not onsite in January but will begin work once the structural steel arrives at the site.
- The roofing contractor was not able to work in January due to snow on the high school roof.
- The next major step will be the arrival of structural steel and the completion of stormwater management in the rear of the building.
- In answer to Mr. Shages' questions, Mr. Day provided the following information:
- Mr. Day will present a summary schedule at next month's Board meeting.
- The HHS renovation project is on track from a scheduling perspective, with the addition being completed by December 2022.
- To accelerate the schedule, PJ Dick started work on infrastructure for the pole building near the baseball field.

Mr. Day and Mr. Kline noted that there will be change orders from RA Glancy and Merit Electric for the Board to consider at the Voting Meeting next week.

Facilities

(35:37)

Mr. Kline reported that Mr. Chip McCarthy (Piper Sandler) and Ms. Lisa Chiesa (Clark Hill PLC) were attending the meeting remotely to discuss options for the second bond issue for Phase I of the Hampton High School renovation project.

The District is contemplating borrowing to complete the funding needed for their capital projects while considering Bank Qualified (BQ) interest rates versus Non Bank Qualified (NBQ) interest rates. Mr. Kline said the BQ bond issues historically have better rates. The District's two options for a bond issue include:

1. Bank Qualified -- Borrowing approximately \$10 million in proceeds in the spring of 2022 and \$2,720,000 in proceeds in early 2023 to generate a total project fund deposit of \$12.5 million needed for completion of Phase II.
2. Non Bank Qualified -- Borrowing approximately \$12.5 million all at once in the spring of 2022 to take advantage of the current low interest rates to complete Phase II funding with no limits other than the District's borrowing capacity/debt limit.

Mr. McCarthy explained that BQ rates normally have shown advantages, but with interest rates currently on the rise, the comparison between BQ and NBQ rates is very similar. The \$10 million BQ bond issuance would produce an annual budgetary increase of about \$288,000, and the additional annual debt service on the \$2.6 million would generate an additional \$81,000, approximately. Meanwhile, the NBQ bond issuance would produce roughly \$363,000 in annual debt service with the current rates.

The annual difference between the BQ and NBQ bond issuance is very minimal on an aggregate basis, with the NBQ roughly \$6,000 less than the BQ annually. The BQ bond issuance would be callable in five years, and the NBQ bond issuance would be callable in 10 years. Mr. McCarthy said because of the refundings completed in 2021, a large portion of the District's outstanding debt is either non-callable or has a 10-year call option, so the additional flexibility provided by a 5-year call for BQ versus a 10-year call for NBQ may be beneficial.

Ms. Chiesa said a resolution allowing the District to make the decision regarding BQ and NBQ as the bonds are priced on the sale date can be drafted, which will provide the District flexibility should interest rates change.

Additionally, Mr. Kline provided a local tax revenue update as of January 31, 2022. He reported that the District now has a relevant comparison on its real estate tax collections due to last year's extension. He shared that the District's collections are trending slightly better than the budget:

- Earned income tax collections are up 8.06%.
- Real estate transfer tax collections are up 23.31%.
- Both Delinquent real estate taxes +49% and delinquent earned income +136% taxes are up significantly.

Personnel

(59:38)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the February 14th Voting Meeting:

Resignations

- Ms. Suzanne Streiff who is retiring after 19 years with the District effective February 25, 2022. Ms. Streiff is a Paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary School.
- Ms. Casey Edwards who is resigning from the District effective January 28, 2022. Ms. Edwards is a Building Substitute Teacher at Hampton High School.
- Ms. Abigail Wentling who is resigning from the District effective February 11, 2022. Ms. Wentling is a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.

Teachers

- Mrs. Erika Yigdall as a Long-Term Substitute Health & Physical Education Teacher at Hampton High School effective January 28, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, pro-rated. Mrs. Yigdall is a substitute for Ms. Emily Onik.
- Ms. Tara Harvan as a TPE Special Education Teacher at Hampton High School effective February 21, 2022. Salary is Bachelor's Step 3, \$62,547, pro-rated. Ms. Harvan is replacing Ms. Sarah Rassau.
- The following as teacher mentors for the 2021-2022 School Year:
 - Derek Brinkley
 - Amy Faith

Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant

- Ms. Marla Kohan, moving from a Paraprofessional (Class I) at Wyland Elementary School to a Paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary School effective February 1, 2022. Salary is (Year 1) \$18.68 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.93 per hour thereafter. Ms. Kohan is replacing Mrs. Renee Longo.
- Ms. Linh Nguyen to continue as a Long-Term Substitute Class I Paraprofessional at Central Elementary School for the second semester of the 2021-2022 School Year. Hourly rate remains \$16.35 per hour. This position is to accommodate additional lunchroom supervision needs.
- Ms. Kimberly Meyer as a Paraprofessional (Class II) at the High School effective February 1, 2022. Salary is \$16.10 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$16.35 per hour thereafter. Ms. Meyer is replacing Mr. Russell Baranowski.

Other

- Mrs. Tara Gongaware-Busch as a Long-Term Substitute Health Office Nurse in the District effective February 4, 2022, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Hourly rate is \$22.45 per hour.

Custodial

- Mr. Jonathan Trout, moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School to a 12 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School effective January 17, 2022. There is no change in the hourly rate. Mr. Trout is replacing Mrs. Patricia Garrow.
- Ms. Jessica Boehm, moving from a 10 month/5 hour custodian at Hampton High School to a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School effective February 1, 2022. There is no change in the hourly rate. Ms. Boehm is replacing Mr. Trout's 10 month position.

Supplementals

The Administration recommends approval of 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
Kellen Wheeler	Head Baseball Coach	HHS	47	35/47	\$6,533
Steve Swierczynski	Assistant Baseball Coach	HHS	38	30/38	\$5,282
Mike Susi	JV Baseball Coach	HHS	38	30/38	\$5,282
Corey Casper	JV Baseball Assistant Coach	HHS	30	24/32	\$4,170
Gary Wilson	MS Baseball Coach	MS	32	24/32	\$4,448
Bruce Steckel	Volunteer Baseball Coach				
Ben Vay	Volunteer Baseball Coach				
John Benca	Volunteer Baseball Coach				
Sam Evans	Boys' Lacrosse Assistant Coach	HS	20	16/20	\$2,780
Justin Mayfield	Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach				
Chris DeMichiei	Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach				
Connor Flynn	Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach				
Kelsey Viets	Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach	HS	31	23/31	\$4,309
Christine McGrath	Girls' Lacrosse Assistant Coach	HS	20	16/20	\$2,780
Nate Meade	Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach				
Breanne Vodde	Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach				
Connor Hagins	Volunteer Girls' Lacrosse Coach				
Ron Fedell	Girls' Softball Head Coach	HS	47	35/47	\$6,533
Lynn Zdinak	Girls' Softball Assistant Coach	HS	38	30/38	\$5,282
Scott Breen	Girls' Softball JV Coach	HS	38	30/38	\$5,282
Elizabeth Bright	Girls' Softball MS Coach	MS	24	20/28	\$3,336
Nick Panza	Track 1 st Assistant Coach	HS	37	29/37	\$5,143
Joe Cangilla	Track – Assistant "A" Coach	HS	29	21/29	\$4,031
Heather Dietz	Track – Assistant "B" Coach	HS	29	21/29	\$4,031
Kim Masarik	Track – Assistant "C" Coach	HS	22	18/22	\$3,058
Mary Bukovac	Track – MS Head Coach	MS	34	26/34	\$4,726
Greg Shumaker	Track – MS Assistant "A" Coach	MS	19	15/19	\$2,641
Mary Davis	Track – MS Assistant "B" Coach	MS	19	15/19	\$2,641
Jesse Belitz	Track – MS Assistant "C" Coach	MS	19	15/19	\$2,641
*Steve Sciuillo	Football Head Coach	HS	70	58/70	

*This position is for the 2022-2023 School Year and the total stipend will be at the new rate in accordance with the new CBA (currently \$139 per point.)

Technology

(1:03:05)

There was no report this evening.

Policy

(1:03:16)

Mr. Shages presented the following action items to be considered for approval at the February 14th Voting Meeting:

- First Reading of Policy #146: Student Services
- Second Reading of Policy #920: Use of District Name, Color, Insignia or Logos

Dr. Cunningham thanked the community for the thoughtful comments regarding Policy #920. She reported that based on the feedback, the policy has been revised to expand the District's definition of logos. The policy was also updated to emphasize the importance of logos to the District to ensure that such use supports and/or is consistent with the goals and objectives of Hampton Township School District. Also, the revised policy includes more precise information about how to obtain permission to use the District's logo. Dr. Cunningham said once the policy has been approved, the District will place the permission forms on the website for easy access.

Transportation

(1:05:57)

There was no report this evening; however, Dr. Loughead reported that the District has used its two built-in "snow days" and will be utilizing Flexible Instruction Days for the rest of the school year in order to maintain the school calendar. Also, Dr. Loughead said Flexible Instruction Days in the future will be as synchronous as possible.

Public Comment

(1:07:51)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting to the Public Comment portion.

1:08:10

A community member said social distancing, school closures, and daily mask uses has had a negative effect on children's lives. She noted that the pandemic has increased mental health issues among children. Also, she worries that the pandemic will cause a lasting collective trauma for children as they enter adulthood. The community member submitted a document and stated it was a notice of intention to submit a claim against bonds.

1:11:08

A third-grade student at Wyland Elementary said wearing a mask for eight hours sometimes makes her head and stomach hurt. She asked for students to not be required to wear masks.

1:11:40

An HMS student commented on how she feels that a student's mental health is not being considered regarding mask-wearing. She also said she experiences anxiety from not being able to see facial expressions.

1:13:55

A community member commented on the District's efforts to have mask mandates, vaccination clinics, and contact tracing in schools. She suggested that case counts may have been inflated after winter break due to false positive results. Also, she expressed concern about her child who is under the age of 18 and was able to get a vaccination at a local pharmacy without the parents' consent. The community member submitted a document and stated it was a notice of intention to submit a claim against bonds.

1:20:32

A community member suggested having a two-week trial period to go mask optional. She asked the Board to consult with local school districts that have also gone mask optional about their case counts. Lastly, she called to question the safety of the vaccine. The community member submitted a document and stated it was a notice of intention to submit a claim against bonds.

1:23:55

A community member thanked the Board for the opportunity for public comment. He stated that children have an extremely low risk of dying from Covid-19. He said that half of the schools in the United States currently have mask mandates. He claimed that studies have shown that there is not a significant difference in case counts between masked-required and mask-optional schools. He also suggested several negative effects of mask wearing on children, adding that there has not been a long-term study about the effects of mask wearing on children. Last, he described a local school district's plan to transition from mask-required to mask-optional.

Adjournment

Mr. Wesley announced that the meeting was adjourned, and the Board entered an executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.