

The Board Report

Monday, March 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 in the Hampton Middle School Auditorium. 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. Ed McKaveney

Director of Technology

Mr. Josh Kellogg

Manager of Network and Cybersecurity

*** attended remotely*

March 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

(6:23)

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting and announced that there would be a presentation from Odyssey of the Mind.

Odyssey of the Mind Presentation

Dr. Cunningham welcomed and introduced the HTSD Odyssey of the Mind program, currently in its ninth year at Hampton. Odyssey of the Mind is a team-based, creative problem solving activity that is centered around STEAM topics, relying on teamwork and ingenuity. The organization, which is an affiliated organization at Hampton, is run by parent volunteers.

Mrs. Colleen Turcsanyi, President and Coach of Odyssey of the Mind, presented a video about Odyssey of the Mind, recognizing the success of teams from last year and this year. Many students and their parents involved in Odyssey of the Mind attended the meeting.

The video explained that Odyssey of the Mind began in Hampton during the 2013-2014 school year. Since then, over 50 teams from Hampton have participated from all three elementary schools and Hampton Middle School. Teams of up to seven students work together to solve two types of problems using their creativity and ingenuity: "Spontaneous Problems" and "Long-Term Problems." Teams pick from one of six predetermined problems: vehicle, technical, classics, structure, performance, or primary. Six HTSD teams competed in the Western Pennsylvania Regional Tournament on March 5, with two teams advancing to the state finals.

The Board heard from several students who shared their positive team-building experiences with Odyssey of the Mind, in addition to observing some of the projects that students displayed at the meeting. Dr. Loughead said the amount of success that Odyssey of the Mind has seen over the years is a tribute to both the students and parents involved in the program. He stated that the program benefits not only the students, but the community and schools as it promotes the sharing of ideas and collaboration. Mr. Wesley and Mrs. Hamlin echoed Dr. Loughead's remarks, noting that Odyssey of the Mind is a wonderful program.

Student Affairs

(27:38)

There were no action items on the agenda for March 14, 2022.

Mrs. Webb introduced Student Council Representatives Alex Broderick and Paul Oliveira to provide a report to the Board. Alex thanked the Board for approving a revised Health and Safety Plan that paved the way for optional masking. He said students are enjoying seeing everyone's smiling faces. He also noted that a full-scale Talbot Thon is planned for March 25, with a goal of raising \$40,000 for Children's Hospital.

Paul agreed with Alex's remarks on the optional masking policy about being able to see faces he had not seen for a while. He also commented on the HHS construction project, noting that a lot of work has been completed in a short period of time. He said it is nice to see the steel framework of the addition raising up — which will be utilized by future generations of students. He also highlighted the successes of Hampton's athletics during the winter season, including the boys' swim team's back-to-back WPIAL title achievement.

Ms. Hamlin asked the students for additional details regarding the Thon schedule. The student representatives replied that there will be a 3v3 basketball tournament on March 11. On the day of Talbot Thon, there will be food trucks on site during a "community hour," with a time to be determined.

Educational Programs

(32:04)

There were no action items on the agenda.

Facilities

(32:12)

Mr. Jason Day of PJ Dick discussed two items on the March 14 agenda and provided an update on the Hampton High School renovation project, which included the following information:

- A big milestone for the project was structural steel arriving on site for the addition which is currently under construction. The general contractor has also done a tremendous amount of sitework in the rear of the high school.
- The roofing contractor has re-mobilized and has begun re-roofing.
- The electrical contractor continues to work inside the building on infrastructure.

Mr. Day also displayed photos of the stormwater management and underground detention work that the general contractor has been completing. He described the stormwater management systems as "pretty impressive." Work has also progressed on the maintenance building near the baseball field, as the foundation was poured for slab on grade. The roofing contractor is working above the auditorium and auxiliary gym, getting as much in place prior to summer as possible.

In response to Board members' questions, the following answers were provided:

- Dr. Loughead said HTSD is working with the Township on parking for baseball games. The area on the District's side of Topnick Drive will be under construction through the summer, making it inaccessible for parking. He said there will be parking on Hampton's side until mid-June after graduation until August 19. When construction is finished, there will be more and improved

parking in the front of the building. The goal is to have paving complete in August.

- Mr. Day said so far, everything is on schedule for completion under current plans. The contractors are working to get ahead on some of the phasing to avoid any summer crunch times.

Mr. Day also commented on the following change orders that will be considered for Board approval on March 14:

- R.A. Glancy Change Order #3 for the High School Renovation Project in the total amount of \$26,144 for the labor, equipment and materials for the following:
 - R.A. Glancy – Unforeseen Condition – Add – for the work to rebuild the roof parapets on the existing academic wings. Value = \$22,463. Mr. Day said this issue was discovered when metal paneling was removed on the existing building, which revealed that the existing framing does not match the original drawings.
 - R.A. Glancy – Owner Generated – Add – to change the interior wood doors to a maple finish veneer in lieu of the specified finish per the recommendation of the architect. Value = \$3,681
- Vrabel Plumbing Change Order #001 for the High School Renovation Project in the total amount of (\$8,499) for the labor, equipment and materials for the following:
 - Vrabel Plumbing - Credit – Deduct – to delete plumbing scope of work in the deleted bathroom E236D. Deduct Value = (\$1,233)
 - Vrabel Plumbing - Credit – Deduct – to delete the sewage system ejector pump and to add additional underground sewage system piping. Deduct Value = (\$10,105)
 - Vrabel Plumbing - Unforeseen Condition – Add – to complete the added work to modify and re-pipe the existing area above ceiling high sprinklers in the auditorium catwalk space over the new Data Center Roof. Value = \$3,218
 - Vrabel Plumbing - Unforeseen Condition – Add – on time and material to replace existing clogged vertical rain conductor piping in the existing brick column on column line Q-3 at the direction of the Owner and in conjunction with project RFI #047. Value = \$1,459

Mr. Day answered a Board Member's question stating that when a contractor finds an issue in the project that requires a change order, both PJ Dick and Draw Collective verify the issue and then collectively determine the associated costs. Additionally, he said that PJ Dick, Draw Collective, and the contractors have been working well together.

Finance

(46:48)

Mr. Vasko presented the following four items to be considered for Board approval at the March 14 meeting:

1. Budget transfer totalling \$4,300 for the HMS General Funds.
2. District estimated appeals for 2022 real estate tax assessments based on property transactions in 2021 where the difference between the adjusted purchase price and the 2022 assessment reflects

a lost revenue to the District in the amount of \$1,000 or more at the 2020-2021 millage rate of 19.71 mills.

- 2021 – 211 of 369 will meet the criteria
- 2020 – 104 of 285 met the criteria
- 2019 – 93 of 323 met the criteria
- 2018 – 92 of 295 met the criteria
- 2017 – 71 of 291 met the criteria
- 2016 – 71 of 332 met the criteria

3. Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services 2022-2023 budget, with HTSD's estimated share of \$48,591.
4. Proposal for GASB 75 Valuation Services with The Pennsylvania Trust and Conrad Siegel for the years ending June 30, 2023 and 2024 per their proposal in the projected amount of \$4,800.

For action item #2, Mr. Vasko raised a question that the \$1,000 figure has not been indexed for inflation in a number of years. Mr. Kline noted that there is a discount factor used in property transactions that replicates the sales price in 2013, although it is not keeping up with the level of home inflation in Hampton Township. Mr. Vasko also pointed out that the increases in millage rate also cause more transactions to be appealed annually. Mr. Kline agreed that this is a valid concern.

Additionally, Mr. Kline provided a local tax revenue update as of February 28, 2022. He reported that the District's real estate tax collections are trending ahead of the budgeted amount. Earned income tax collections are up 4.73 percent, while real estate transfer tax collections are up nearly 16 percent. Delinquent collections are not going to hit the budget estimates, but they are trending better than 2021.

Personnel

(59:38)

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

Resignations

- Mrs. Kimberly Jewison-Steinberger who is resigning after 11 years with the District effective February 24, 2022. Mrs. Jewison-Steinberger was a Grade 6 Reading Teacher at Hampton Middle School.
- Mrs. Tara Harvan effective February 24, 2022. Mrs. Harvan had been hired as a Special Education Teacher at Hampton High School.
- Mrs. Donna Halter who is retiring after 31 years with the District effective April 6, 2022. Mrs. Halter is a 12-Month Head Custodian at Hampton Middle School.)
- Accept the resignation of Mrs. Pamela Nehnevajsa who is retiring after 21 years with the District effective July 5, 2022. Mrs. Nehnevajsa is the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Teachers

- Mr. David Hartman’s request for a Professional Development Sabbatical for the 2022-2023 School Year, returning to the District at the beginning of the 2023-2024 School Year. Mr. Hartman is a Grade 7 English Teacher at Hampton Middle School.

Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant

- Correction to the probationary period for Ms. Marla Kohan, who moved from a Paraprofessional (Class I) at Wyland Elementary School to a Paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary School effective February 1, 2022. The probationary period had been recorded as a 60-day probationary period and corrected to a 30-day probationary period.
- Approve Mrs. Jina Coleman as the Administrative Assistant to the Special Education/Transition Coordinator (Class VII) effective February 23, 2022. Hourly rate is \$21.63 per hour for the 30-day probationary period and \$21.88 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Coleman is replacing a vacant 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
Heather Dietz	Class Co-Sponsor for 12 th Grade	HS	8	12/16	\$1,112
Hannah Dunlap	Class Co-Sponsor for 12 th Grade	HS	6	12/16	\$834
Jon McAwley	JV Assistant Softball Coach	HS	28	24/32	\$3,892
Kate Mahoney	MS Assistant Softball Coach	MS	18	16/20	\$2,502
Heather Dietz	Track Head Coach	HS	53	41/53	\$7,367
Kim Masarik	Track Coach Assistant “B” (replacing Heather Dietz)	HS	29	21/29	\$4,031
Sam Flowers	Middle School Track Coach Assistant “D”	MS	19	15/19	\$2,641

Technology

(1:03:05)

There were no action items on the agenda, however, Dr. Loughead led a discussion of the student device acquisition timeline. He brought to the Board’s attention the concept of moving forward with the acquisition of student devices prior to the District’s budget approval in June. This practice was employed several years ago. Last year, the District ordered devices in June but met supply chain issues and did not receive them until October/November, causing issues for students, teachers, and

the Technology Department. The District is seeking to purchase 660 student devices for 2022-2023. Dr. Loughead said HTSD met with HP representatives this week who forecast more supply chain issues ahead of next school year.

Dr. Loughead further explained that no costs are incurred to the District until the devices are delivered. Mr. Stein asked how placing a purchase order prior to June would affect this year's budget. Dr. Loughead said if HTSD waits to order the devices until June, HTSD will be behind other school districts who are ordering more devices. He advocates that the District order devices ahead of time so the Technology Department can have devices set up and distributed to students prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Mr. Kline explained that the District is financing the purchase of these devices over a three year period, beginning in 2021. That means it will not impact the District's budget by placing the purchase order prior to June since the payment is scheduled to be made on a fixed date.

Dr. Loughead said if there is Board consensus, an action item may be added to the March 14 agenda to consider the approval of purchasing student devices.

After this discussion, Dr. Cunningham announced that HTSD is pleased to be a part of Remake Learning Days 2022. HTSD invites the community to join the District for an innovative learning spaces tour and discussion on May 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tour will provide guests with an up-close look at the development and creative design of two unique learning spaces at Hampton. The tour will begin at Central Elementary for an inside look into the design of the Outdoor Learning Lab and Sensory Garden. Guests will proceed to HMS for a hands-on exploration of the new Learning Pavilion and Wellness Studio.

Dr. Cunningham said HTSD looks forward to showcasing and celebrating good things at Hampton during Remake Learning Days. She also thanked Dr. Kern, Dr. Lux and Dr. Silbaugh and their teams in advance for their work in developing these learning spaces.

Dr. Loughead noted that Remake Learning has spread across the country and internationally, and that it is an exciting opportunity for HTSD.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(1:14:10)

Mr. Shages presented the following action item to be considered for approval at the March 14 Voting Meeting:

- Second Reading of Policy #146: Student Services.

Transportation

(1:05:57)

There were no action items on the agenda.

Public Comment

(1:15:18)

Mr. Wesley announced that audience members may address the Board at this time.

1:15:18

A community member who is a local architect said he appreciated the presentation on the High School renovation project. He thought it was very professional. He also noted that it is fantastic that the Board asked questions about the change orders and that PJ Dick and Draw Collective verified the contractor's change order request before it was presented to the Board.

Adjournment

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