

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
4591 SCHOOL DRIVE
ALLISON PARK, PENNSYLVANIA 15101
FEBRUARY 28, 2022 MINUTES

The Hampton Township Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 28, 2022, in the Hampton Middle School Auditorium, 4589 School Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101. The Meeting was also livestreamed online.

Meeting

Attendance: Ms. Denise Balason, Mrs. Jill Hamlin, Mr. Matt Jarrell, Ms. Joy Midgley, Mr. Greg Stein, Mr. Larry Vasko, Mrs. Trisha Webb, Mr. Bryant Wesley, Dr. Michael Loughead and Dr. Rebecca Cunningham, and Mr. Donald Palmer.

Attendance

Mr. Robert Shages participated via teleconference.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wesley, President of the Board, served as Chairperson of the meeting. Mrs. Michelle Ambrose served as Recording Secretary.

There was no public comment

Public Comment

The following information was presented and/or action taken on items submitted by Mrs. Hamlin of the Educational Programs Committee.

Educational Programs

Mrs. Hamlin opened the floor to Dr. Loughead to provide a presentation regarding the recommended updates to the HTSD Health and Safety Plan based on the recent changes to the CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

Health & Safety Plan Update - Presentation

Dr. Loughead stated that this evening he will review an executive summary for the proposed changes to the District's Health and Safety Plan. He noted that at the February 14, 2022 Voting Meeting he had alluded to the possibility of needing to update the Health & Safety Plan as the Omicron numbers were rapidly falling across the country and within the county. Dr. Loughead reviewed the following recommended changes:

- The District will move from Universal Masking to Optional Masking in all settings, including transportation, activities, and athletic events beginning on March 1, 2022
- Parents are asked to continue to contact the school nurse or complete District electronic forms if a student is positive for Covid-19
- Students and staff returning to school or work after testing positive for Covid-19 can return after 5 days and mask on days 6-10 per the CDC's shortened isolation protocol. If masking is not preferred, a 10-day isolation is required.
- The District will no longer conduct contact tracing under the option masking protocol. Parents may voluntarily quarantine students based on close contact outside of school.
- If a student is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, they may be asked to wear a mask in the nurse's office and may be sent home due to symptoms.
- Zoom access to classroom instruction will be available to only those students who are isolating at home due to a positive Covid-19 test.
- The District will revisit the Health & Safety Plan should the CDC County Transmission Level reach high for two consecutive weeks.

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Mr. Wesley opened the floor for public comment.

Public Comment

Mr. Jeremiah Lambo, District parent addressed the Board. Mr. Lambo thanked the Board and stated this was a positive step. Mr. Lambo noted that these mitigation changes are a result of the CDC "arbitrarily" changing the Covid-19 mitigation guidelines. He stated however, that with the optional masking guideline it reverts that decision to the parents to make a choice for their own children, which is how he believes the guideline should have always been.

Gratitude for
Optional Masking

Ms. Jill Harrington, District parent addressed the Board. Ms. Harrington stated she was thrilled with the steps this evening to allow for the unmasking of children. Ms. Harrington apologized to the Board, stating that she and others who have voiced opposing arguments over the last several months may have come across as they were "attacking the Board" or "were not appreciative of the work the Board does." She stated that is not how she wanted to come across. She stated that she and her husband are volunteers in the community. Mrs. Harrington stated that she understands the fulltime and unpaid responsibility each of the Board Members have in this position. She thanked the Board for the work they do for the District. Ms. Harrington noted, however, that it is her constitutional right to join with other parents to voice their concerns, and stand up for the rights of their children if they do not agree with the decisions being made. She ended by stating with time she hopes the community will heal and come back together.

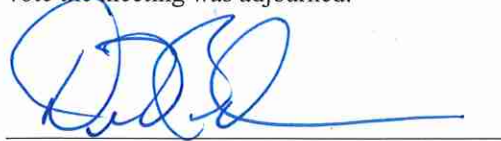
Gratitude for
Optional Masking

Upon motion by Mrs. Hamlin, seconded by Mr. Stein and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Board approved the updated HTSD School Health and Safety Plan effective March 1, 2022.

Updated Health &
Safety Plan

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

Adjournment



Denise Balason, Secretary