

# The Board Report

*Monday, March 14, 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**

<b>Bryant Wesley II, Esq.</b>	<b>Board President</b>
<b>Mrs. Jill Hamlin</b>	<b>Board Vice President</b>
<b>Ms. Denise Balason</b>	<b>Board Secretary/Facilities Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Matt Jarrell</b>	<b>Transportation Chair</b>
<b>Mrs. Joy Midgley</b>	<b>Personnel Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Robert Shages</b>	<b>Treasurer/Policy &amp; Legislative Affairs Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Greg Stein</b>	<b>Technology Chair</b>
<b>Mr. Larry Vasko</b>	<b>Finance Chair</b>
<b>Mrs. Trisha Webb</b>	<b>Student Affairs Chair</b>

*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**

<b>Dr. Michael Loughead</b>	<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>
<b>Dr. Rebecca Cunningham</b>	<b>Assistant Superintendent of Schools</b>
<b>Mr. Jeff Kline**</b>	<b>Director of Administrative Services</b>
<b>Dr. Ed McKaveney</b>	<b>Director of Technology</b>
<b>Mr. Josh Kellogg</b>	<b>Manager of Network and Cybersecurity</b>
<b>Mr. Don Palmer, GRB</b>	<b>Solicitor</b>

*\* absent*

*\*\* attended remotely*

**March 14, 2022**

## **Voting Meeting**

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**

(2:58)

Mr. Wesley called the Voting Meeting to order. Roll call was taken; all Board members were present. Mr. Wesley announced that Student Awards would take place at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Student Awards**

(3:44)

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Webb congratulated Kai Suyama and Andrew Kaehly on winning the Upper Division (grades 8-12) of the 28th Annual Shakespeare Monologue & Scene Contest at Pittsburgh Public Theater for their performance from *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. More than 400 area students from over 60 schools competed in the preliminary rounds, and the Showcase of Finalists was held live at the O'Reilly Theater on Monday, February 28, after which the judges named Kai (Launce) and Andrew (Speed) winners following their brilliant performance. Kai and Andrew performed their scene on stage for the Board during the meeting.

The Board also recognized and congratulated eight HHS students who won Scholastic Art & Writing awards in the Pittsburgh region by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers:

- Anna Cutuli (Honorable Mention for her “Thylacine” Digital Art)
- Camryn Ferderbar (Honorable Mention for her “After Party” Drawing & Illustration)
- Madison Hurst (Honorable Mention for her “Dancing Through the 20’s” Mixed Media)
- Fannie Ketler (Honorable Mentions for her “Memento” and “Lucille” Painting, Silver Key for her “Skull Mosaic” Ceramics & Glass)
- Sierra Linke-Kohan (Honorable Mention for her “Tyler” Drawing & Illustration)
- Ben Mikus (Silver Key winner for his “Vino Splash” artwork Drawing & Illustration)
- Paula Ott (Honorable Mentions for her “Resting Calf” and “Ice Water” Drawing & Illustration, and Honorable Mention for her “Wind Gallops” Painting)
- Katie Pham (Gold Key winner for her watercolor “Hong Kong Streets”)

Additionally, the Board congratulated Aja Lynn, a junior at HHS, for competing in the Poetry Out Loud regional competition — a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry. Aja had performed three poems virtually for the judges.

Mr. Wesley thanked Kai and Andrew for their wonderful performance. Also, Dr. Loughead said the artwork from the Scholastic Art & Writing awards is currently on display at Seneca Valley High School, with plans to feature the artwork during Hues & Harmony at Hampton in May.

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting to public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

The Board approved the minutes from the February 7, 14, and 28, 2022, Board Meetings.

## **Treasurer's Report**

(18:00)

The following items were unanimously approved by the Board:

- February 2022 General Fund 10 disbursement totaling \$3,794,189.46.
- February 2022 High School Construction Fund 35 Disbursements totaling \$612,259.26.
- February 2022 Capital Fund 39 disbursements totaling \$129,050.12.
- February 2022 Cafeteria Fund 50 disbursements totaling \$19,401.71.
- January 2021 Treasurer's Report.
- January 2021 Student Activities Fund Report.

## **President's Report**

(19:34)

Mr. Wesley announced that the Board had held one executive session since the last meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

## **Superintendent's Report**

(19:52)

Dr. Loughead provided a brief update on the District's academics, athletics, and the arts.

Dr. Loughead recognized Dr. Jackie Removcik, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, on being a recipient of the Tri-State School Study Council's Jean E. Winsand Emerging Woman Leader in Education award. He said Dr. Removcik is one of the dedicated and highly-qualified educational leaders who has made Hampton a standard bearer for high quality education in the region for many years. The Jean E. Winsand Emerging Woman Leader in Education Award honors a woman who is at an early stage on the path of her leadership career. The award is intended to recognize a woman who has made a significant impact and positive difference through her leadership activities and initiatives. Dr. Removcik will accept her award on April 7. Dr. Loughead said this recognition is a testament to her work and effort in the District.

Regarding the arts, Dr. Loughead alluded to the many students recognized this evening on their achievements in the arts.

Dr. Loughead also recognized the Hampton boys swimming team for winning its second consecutive WPIAL title, breaking multiple records in the process. He congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams on making the playoffs and recognized the wrestling team on improving this season.

Also, Mr. Wesley echoed congratulations for Dr. Removcik, whom he said is instrumental in helping to run the District.

## Facilities

(22:45)

Ms. Balason recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- 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. Wesley mentioned that the total of the Vrabel Plumbing change order is a deduction (savings). He also noted that these change orders were discussed during the March 7 meeting with the project's construction manager and architect.

## Finance

(24:17)

Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board approved the following items:

- Budget transfer totalling \$4,300 for the HMS General Funds.

- District initiated 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
    - This motion passed 8-1, with Mr. Vasko opposing. He said he favors raising the \$1,000 threshold due to the mileage rate increase over the years.
- Allegheny Intermediate Unit Program of Services 2022-2023 budget, with HTSD’s estimated share of \$48,591.
- 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.

The Board entered a lengthy discussion on a bond issuance related to financing Phase I of the Hampton High School renovation project. Mr. Kline shared that the District’s credit rating remains “AA-.” However, the District’s bond rating company revised its outlook to “negative” from “stable.” He stated that the revised outlook is due to the reduction in the District’s committed and unassigned general fund balance.

In February, the Board approved a resolution to authorize the incurring of nonelectoral debt. In the resolution it stated that the highest level of debt service would not exceed \$400,000 in the annual budget. The resolution gave the Board the option to select either a Bank Qualified (BQ) issue of roughly \$10 million or Non Bank Qualified (NBQ) issue of roughly \$12.5 million. However, Mr. Kline said that interest rates have risen so dramatically in the past few weeks that the District could not currently select the NBQ option because it would exceed the debt service parameters.

Mr. Vasko noted that the BQ issuance is callable after five years, while the NBQ option is callable after 10 years.

Mr. Vasko recommended the Board either pursue the issuance immediately and hope the rates do not increase; wait a few weeks and see if the market settles before triggering; or call a special meeting to pass a resolution to increase the debt service parameters for a potential NBQ issuance. Additionally, Mr. Wesley noted that the renovations were planned to be in stages that are self-contained to allow for a pause if necessary.

Several Board members agreed that the BQ issuance is preferred because of its smaller budget impact and flexibility. The District’s investment banking firm, Piper Sandler, will update the Board twice weekly on interest rate changes. A committee of Mr. Vasko, Mr. Kline, Mr. Wesley, and Dr. Loughead will make the decision on triggering the bond issuance once it goes to market.

## Personnel

(30:23)

Mrs. Midgley recommended and the Board approved the following items:

### 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.)
- 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.

Several Board members recognized and thanked Mrs. Nehnevajsa with regard to her retirement, noting that she will be greatly missed. Dr. Loughead said it has been a pleasure working with Mrs. Nehnevajsa over the years, noting her professional and irreplaceable knowledge of the District.

### 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.

Answering Mr. Vasko's question, Dr. Loughead said Board approval of sabbaticals is required in accordance with school code.

### 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 <sup>th</sup> Grade	HS	8	12/16	\$1,112
Hannah Dunlap	Class Co-Sponsor for 12 <sup>th</sup> 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
Steve Sciallo	Track Coach Assistant "D"	HS	20	16/20	\$2,780
Matt Combi	Track Coach Assistant "E"	HS	20	16/20	\$2,780
Paul Schwartz	Volunteer Boys' Lacrosse Coach	HS			

## Addendum

- Mrs. Lauren Casselberry as a Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Hampton High School from March 10, 2022 through the remainder of the 2021-2022 School Year. Salary is \$33,500, prorated. Mrs. Casselberry is a substitute for Mrs. Sarah Rassau's position.
- Elizabeth Barnes as a teacher mentor for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- Mr. Zach Ridenour as a 10 month/40 hour per week District-wide Custodial Substitute effective March 22, 2022. Hourly rate is \$13.00 per hour. This is an annual position and Mr. Ridenour is replacing Mr. Jerrod Cumberland.
- Mrs. Christine Larson as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School effective March 23, 2022. Salary is \$17.52 per hour for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.77 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Larson is replacing Ms. Abigail Wentling.

## Technology

(1:06:33)

Mr. Stein recommended, due to production timelines, and the Board approved the leasing of the 2022-2023 HP student devices prior to the adoption of the 2022-2023 budget.

## Policy/Legislative Affairs

(1:07:12)

Mr. Shages recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #146: Student Services.

Mr. Shages announced that the Allegheny County Legislative Forum on Education is on March 31 at 7 p.m., featuring the legislators who cover the 42 districts in the AIU.



## **A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report**

(1:09:37)

Mr. Vasko reported that A.W. Beattie's Sports Medicine program recently obtained an articulation agreement with Duquesne University for students to receive college credits. Additionally, Mr. Kline said Beattie's budget will come up in April for approval. HTSD's cost is going up this year due to its increase in students attending the career center.

## **HAAE Report**

(42:54)

Mrs. Midgley reported that HAAE elected two new Board members during its February 17 meeting. They will have recruiting tables set up at all three elementary schools for their open houses. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m. in the HMS library.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. Wesley opened the meeting to Public Comment and asked that everyone keep their comments to 3-5 minutes.

1:12:47

A community member commented on the High School renovation project, stating that construction costs are at an all-time high. He said if there is a recession in the next two years, it would be a great time to take out a loan as those construction costs would plummet. He also recommended selecting the BQ option. Additionally, he commented on the District's diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.

1:17:40

A community member with three children in the District asked if the High School renovation project was an expansion or an upgrade, as he noted that the District's enrollment has been declining. Dr. Loughead said the current phase includes infrastructure improvements that were long overdue. Dr. Loughead said the project is to improve the building to accommodate programs currently at the High School. Mr. Wesley also noted that this project has taken eight years of planning, and the Board has held public meetings with its architects for the past three years. The community member also recommended locking in the rates on the bond issuance as soon as possible before they increase any higher.

## **Adjournment**

(1:03:47)

The meeting was adjourned, and Mr. Wesley announced that the Board would enter a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.