



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOVEMBER 8, 2022  
MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Board Members Present: Melissa Kaplan, Reuel Parks, David Asbery, Austin Cesare, Peter Downhour, Mariam Khan, Walter Morton IV (7:26 P.M. - 7:57 P.M.), and Gary Walsh

Board Members Absent: Kevin Shea

Student Representative: Mark Hu and Ishnan Khan

Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Erin Bailey, Linda Tran Morbidelli, and Susan Smey

#### SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent along with Bear Path School Principal, Erica Northrop, introduced the November Bear Path Hamden Heroes:

William Prokosch, Grade 6 student  
Betty Murray, Paraprofessional  
Peter Bonadies, BP Parent – Community Member

The Superintendent, along with West Woods School Principal, Dan Levy, introduced the November West Woods Hamden Heroes:

Evangeline Allgood, Grade 6 student  
Hilly Conway, WW Building Substitute  
Macie Diggs, School Governance Equity Council member

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022 Board of Education meeting.  
Kaplan  
Seconded by: Walsh  
In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Cesare, Khan, Morton, Walsh  
Abstain- Downhour

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Reu'el Parks reviewed the correspondence he received since the last meeting.

#### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following people spoke during public comments on agenda items:  
Tarek Kandakji, Benjamin Paquin and Brian Paquin

Walter Morton IV requested the Committee Reports be moved before Executive Session.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen – Committee Chair, Kevin Shea, wasn't present to report.  
Curriculum Committee – Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, reported there would be a meeting 11/9/2022.

Equity Committee – Committee Chair, Mariam Khan, reported on the activities of the committee.

Evaluation and Goals Committee – Committee Chair, Austin Cesare, stated there was nothing to report.

Finance Committee – Committee Chair, Gary Walsh reported on the activities of the committee.

Operations Committee – Committee Chair, Walter Morton IV, reported on the activities of the committee.

Personnel Committee – Committee Chair, Reuel Parks, reported on the activities of the committee.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair, David Asbery, reported on the activities of the committee.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Move to Executive Session at 7:57 P.M. to discuss attorney-client communication regarding modifications to the SRO agreement and to discuss attorney-client communication regarding the implementation of an agreement with Mutalink. In addition to the Board, the following people were asked to join the meeting: Superintendent, Gary Highsmith.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Morton IV

Unanimous

3. Move to return from Executive Session at 9:25 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Parks

Unanimous

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, removed pending action #12a.ii Approval of an agreement with Mutalink.

## ACTION ITEMS-PENDING ACTION

4. Move to approve the modifications to the SRO Agreement.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Parks

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Parks, Khan

Opposed: Walsh

Abstain: Asbery

## MOTION PASSES

## INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent updated the Board on HPS racial balancing plan, also known as the 3R plan. The Superintendent explained the process to develop the plan which the State Board of Education stated was needed as part of the plan. The State Board of Ed stated they would give Hamden six additional months to complete the plan

The Superintendent and the Board Chair talked about the history of the Middle School Project.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

5. Move to approve Consent Agenda
  - i. Approval of budget transfers (Finance, November 2022):
  - ii. Approval of the building use by the Academy of Dance to use the auditorium at Hamden Middle School for rehearsal on March 5, 2023 from 8:30am-2:00pm (Operations, November 2022)  
Parks  
Seconded by: Walsh  
Unanimous

## SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

The Superintendent reported that the transportation plan for next year needs to be transparent. The first working group with parents, administration, teachers, and the bus company took place. Goal is to have a recommendation to the Board by January or February.

The Superintendent reported on the IEC classrooms.

The Superintendent reported on his activities concerning marketing of Hamden Public Schools, including Gil on the Go at Hamden High School and in the community.

The Superintendent reported on his other meetings and activities.

## COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board members spoke this evening:  
Kaplan, Walsh, Parks, Downhour, Asbery and Khan

## ADJOURNMENT

6. Move to adjourn at 10:29 P.M.  
Kaplan  
Seconded by: Walsh  
Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Reu'el Parks, Board Secretary