



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Board Members Present: Melissa Kaplan, Reuel Parks, David Asbery, Crystal Dailey, Peter Downhour, Mariam Khan (virtual-left at 10:20 PM), Walter Morton IV(virtual-left at 9:45 PM), Kevin Shea and Gary Walsh

Student Representative: Mark Hu

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

MINUTES

1. Move to accept the minutes of July 11, 2022 Board of Education.

Parks

Seconded by: Asbery

Amend minutes to Item 4, Peter Downhour was in favor of the motion.

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh.

MOTION PASSES

CORRESPONDENCE

Reu'el Parks stated there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following person spoke during Public Comments on Agenda Items: Isabel Cabrera

CORRESPONDENCE

He corrected his statement to acknowledge 3 emails received since the last meeting from Andrea Gloria, Valen Diaz and Carla Stover.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mark Hu reported about the beginning of the school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Move to Executive session, at 7:13 PM to review terms of Superintendent's contract extension and salary increases for non-union employees. Besides the Board, the Superintendent was asked to join the session.

Parks

Seconded by: Kaplan

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh.

MOTION PASSES

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Return to Public Session at 8:50 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen – Committee Chair, Kevin Shea, stated there was nothing to report.

Curriculum Committee – There was no report

Equity Committee – Committee Chair, Mariam Khan, stated the first meeting of the year will be October 4, 2023.

Finance Committee – Committee Chair, Walter Morton IV, stated no meeting was held.

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

Personnel Committee – Committee Chair, Reuel Parks, stated no meeting was held.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated no meeting was held.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent and the Board discussed Bylaw 9221.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ITEMS

3. Move to approve salary increases for non-union employees
Kaplan
Seconded by: Parks
In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh.

MOTION PASSES

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan removed 10.a.ii. Approval of terms of Superintendent's contract extension

4. Move to approval of use of the Hamden High School parking lot by Eli's Garden of Healing (a non-profit in memory of a HHS student) in conjunction with the Hamden Police Department for their Husky Ticket Project meet-up on September 30th.
Parks
Seconded by: Walsh
In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh.

MOTION PASSES

5. Move to approve of building use by the Whitneyville Civic Association to use the boardroom at 60 Putnam Ave. on September 28th for a special presentation and November 16th and January 18th from 7-9pm for regular community meetings.
Downhour
Seconded by: Parks
In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh
Abstain: Downhour

MOTION PASSES

CONSENT AGENDA

Peter Downhour requested the following motions be pulled from the Consent Agenda:

10.b.i. Approval to repeal Policy #4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

10.b.ix. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4111.1/4211.1, Affirmative Action, and replace with a Plan for Increasing Educator Diversity to be developed by the administration, in accordance with applicable law. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

10.b.xvi. Approval to repeal Board Policy 5141.7, Student Sports-Concussions, and replace it with the model policy, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

10.b.xvii. Approval to adopt the model policy, Code of Ethics. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

10.b.xxi. Approval to adopt the model policy, Hiring of Certified Staff, as customized to allow the Superintendent to appoint all staff below the level of Superintendent. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

6. Move Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Morton IV.

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh.

MOTION PASSES

ii. Approval to repeal Policy #4118.231 Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

iii. Approval to repeal Policy #4118.24 Staff/Student Non-Fraternization (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

iv. Approval to repeal Policy #4118.4/4218.4 Electronic Monitoring (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

v. Approval to repeal Policy #4118.6/4218.6 Cellular Telephone/District Issued Communication Devices (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

vi. Approval to repeal Policy #4137 Soliciting and Selling (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

vii. Approval to repeal Policy #4138/4238 Non-School Employment (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

viii. Approval to repeal Policy #4222 Teacher Aides/Paraprofessionals (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023)

x. Approval to repeal the Board Policy 4112.51, Security Check: Fingerprinting, and replace it with the model policy, Employment, and Student Teacher Checks, including the optional provision regarding out-of-state registry checks. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xi. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Non-Discrimination, and replace it with the model policy, Non-Discrimination. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xii. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4118.232/4218.232, Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, and replace it with the model policy, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug-Free Workplace. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xiii. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4216, Hiring Clerical, Custodial, and Maintenance, and replace it with the model policy, Hiring of Non-Certified Staff. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xiv. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4152.6/4252.6, Personal Leaves, and replace it with the model policy, Family and Medical Leave, with the optional language designated by the administration. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xv. Approval to repeal Board Policy 5141.231/4118.234, Psychotropic Drug Use, and replace it with the model policy, Prohibition of Psychotropic Drugs. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xviii. Approval to adopt the model policy, Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xix. Approval to adopt the model policy, Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xx. Approval to adopt the model policy, Section 504/ADA (Personnel). (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xxii. Approval to develop a Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title I) to present to the Board. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

xxiii. Approval of a 5-year capital plan for Chromebooks for students subsidized by \$250,000 of Wintergreen sale funds.

xxiv. Approval of the HHS discard request

xxv. Approval of the building use by Hamden Fire Department to use the auditorium at Hamden Middle School for training first Tuesday of the month from 6-6:30pm October, November and December 2023

7. Move to Table Approval to repeal Policy #4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection (Second Read, Policy Committee, June 2023) and to approve repeal Board Policy 4111.1/4211.1, Affirmative Action, and replace with a Plan for Increasing Educator Diversity to be developed by the administration, in accordance with applicable law. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023).

Kaplan

Seconded by: Parks

Point of Order requested by Morton IV. concerning the definition of tabling and item.

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh

MOTION PASSES

8. Move to approve to repeal Board Policy 5141.7, Student Sports-Concussions, and replace it with the model policy, Concussion Training for Athletic Coaches. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

Kaplan

Seconded by: Walsh

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh

MOTION PASSES

9. Move to send back to Policy Committee with the directive to look at the Language in the model policy, Code of Ethics. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023),

Kaplan

Seconded by: Walsh

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Morton IV., Shea and Walsh

MOTION PASSES

10. Move to send back to Policy Committee the Approval to adopt the model policy, Hiring of Certified Staff, as customized to allow the Superintendent to appoint all staff below the level of Superintendent. (First Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)

Kaplan

Seconded by: Walsh

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Shea and Walsh

Abstain: Khan

MOTION PASSES

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent spoke about the transportation issues .

The Superintendent stated a grant for HVAC at HHS is being applied for.

The Superintendent spoke about Whitson's Food Service.

The Superintendent spoke about creating a plan for Racial Balancing within the schools.

The Superintendent thanked Assistant Superintendent Erin Bailey, Assistant Superintendent Linda Tran and CFO Tom Ariola for all the work they put in.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board members spoke tonight: Kaplan, Asbery, Downhour and Walsh.

ADJOURNMENT

11. Move to Adjourn at 10:26 PM

Dailey

Seconded by: Walsh

Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Reu'el Parks, Board Secretary