

The Board Report

Monday, October 9, 2023



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

Mrs. Jill Hamlin	Board President
Mr. Matt Jarrell	Board Vice President/Student Affairs Chair
Ms. Denise Balason	Board Secretary/Facilities 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	Educational Programs Chair
Mr. Bryant Wesley II, Esq.	Transportation Chair

This Hampton Township School Board Meeting was held in the Hampton Middle School Library. The meeting was held in person and audio/video recorded so that community members could view it after the meeting concluded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham	Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Josh Kellogg	Assistant Director of Technology
Ms. Tammi Kinzel	Manager of Accounting

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

October 9, 2023 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 (1:32)

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, and all Board members were present.

Dr. Loughead welcomed two Hampton High School students, Josué Clark-Espinosa and Chi Lloyd-Grinage, to share their experiences from the Eradicate Hate Global Summit that they recently attended with a group of HHS students at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. This summit was formed as a response to the largest anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history at the Tree of Life Synagogue. To engage young adults in the meaningful work of eradicating hate, a student summit was created as well. HHS students joined peers from 13 other regional schools at the summit, and Dr. Loughead said he is thrilled that Hampton was able to participate. Claire Aloe, HHS Social Studies Teacher, also attended the summit and was present at the Board meeting.

Dr. Loughead said he believes that now is a crucial time to reflect on the opportunity to convene with students from the region to engage in meaningful conversations about eradicating hate.

Chi said that they attended the summit on September 28 and began by watching the documentary, "Repairing the World: Stories from the Tree of Life." Students at the summit then discussed ways to address issues in their schools in order to better the communities. They stressed the need for teachers to become more aware of the issues students face to foster a better and more inclusive school community. The students also called for increased attention to handling discrimination based on aspects such as race or ethnicity.

Ms. Aloe noted that the main idea of the documentary involves loving and caring for your neighbor and a focus on what we have in common.

Josué and Chi presented ideas to foster inclusivity at Hampton that they brainstormed at the summit. One idea calls for bringing students together to showcase their differences relating to their culture or hobbies. They also discussed the possibility of working with neighboring schools such as Shaler Area or Fox Chapel Area to bring ideas and solutions to the problems they are facing. Additionally, they proposed working on more community engagement and elementary outreach to make Hampton a more welcoming place for all. The students were granted \$1,000 to develop and implement their ideas. They will reconvene with the Eradicate Hate team in January to continue their work.

Dr. Loughead commended both students for raising excellent points. He mentioned plans to reconvene the Talbots Together Guiding Coalition this fall, with hopes of bringing more voices together through a student-led effort. Dr. Loughead thanked the students for participating in the summit, acknowledging the challenges but highlighting the importance of carrying out their ideas. He also mentioned the interest of schools such as Shaler Area and Fox Chapel Area in working together on eradicating hate.

Mr. Vasko noted that funding for the work could be requested through the Rotary or Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE).

Public Comment

(14:51)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment.

15:00

A community member shared that her daughter was the first student with Down's Syndrome to attend HTSD in 1990. She acknowledged the efforts made by Hampton to implement inclusive practices but noted that it can be challenging. She expressed pride in the students who shared their ideas for promoting inclusion at Hampton, emphasizing the importance of creating an environment where students feel comfortable asking for help and support. She highlighted the importance of initiating the work to eradicate hate in the community first.

17:09

A community member expressed how wonderful it is that these students had an opportunity to address the Board, demonstrating the District's commitment to this topic. She expressed the hope for accountability and measurement of the results of their work. She also noted the challenges of being a new high school student and suggested more efforts at the elementary level to include these topics.

19:50

A community member attended the Board meeting to voice support for the two student speakers. She emphasized the need to incorporate their ideas into the schools and community, adding hope for the Board's support of these students and teachers.

Treasurer's Report

(20:52)

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

- Minutes from the September 11, 2023 Board of School Directors Voting Meeting.
- September 2023 General Fund 10 Disbursements and Transfers totaling \$24,443,209.17.
- September 2023 High School Construction Fund 35 Disbursements totaling \$11,333.61
- September 2023 Capital Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$178,713.16.
- September 2023 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$91,550.67.
- August 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- August 2023 Student Activities Fund Report.

President's Report

(23:07)

Mrs. Hamlin announced that the Board has held two Executive Sessions to discuss legal and personnel matters since the last meeting.

Superintendent's Report

(23:30)

Dr. Loughead highlighted the tremendous community support present at the HAEE 5K Race held on Saturday, October 7. He acknowledged Dr. Cunningham's work in partnering with HAEE leadership

to plan a great event. He noted that there were more participants this year than in previous years. This year was the 31st annual race, and Dr. Loughead said the race's long-term success has been a tribute to the Hampton school community's support over the years. He noted that proceeds from the race directly benefit students and teachers through innovative grants and funding. Additionally, he thanked the Board for their attendance and participation at the race.

Student Affairs

(26:13)

Mr. Jarrell recommended, and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- Hampton High School FBLA Field Trip to Chicago, IL, April 17, 2024 to April 21, 2024, at no cost to the District.
- Hampton High School Baseball Spring Training Trip to Myrtle Beach, SC, March 25, 2024 to March 30, 2024, at no cost to the District.
- Middle School Dance Club.
- The affiliated organization, Hampton Township Odyssey of the Mind, was recognized as a Civic and Service Association.
- Middle School Club name change, from "Digital Games with Friends" to "Digital Design."

Facilities

(28:05)

Ms. Balason recommended and the Board unanimously approved the Pennsylvania Roofing Systems, Inc. change order for the Hampton Middle School asphalt shingle roof replacement project for the deduction amount of \$18,397.36 for materials cost savings related to requiring less plywood replacement for roof decking.

Educational Programs

(28:58)

Mrs. Webb recommended, and the Board unanimously approved the Hampton Township School District Comprehensive Plan. Mrs. Webb noted that the Board discussed the Comprehensive Plan in September.

Finance

(29:30)

There were no action items this evening.

Personnel

(29:36)

Mrs. Midgley recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following personnel action items:

Resignation

- Ms. Elizabeth Vining effective September 19, 2023. [Ms. Vining was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.]

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Dawn Grindland as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School effective September 26, 2023. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Ms. Grindland is replacing Ms. Elizabeth Vining.

Custodial/Maintenance

- Change in status for Mr. Patrick Myers moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School to a 12 month/8 hour Night Lead custodian at Hampton High School, effective September 18, 2023. Hourly rate is \$25.26. Mr. Myers is replacing Mr. Zachary Ridenour. Change in status for Mr. Brezart (Ben) Ushtelenca moving from a 10 month/6 hour custodian to a 10 month/5 hour custodian at Hampton High School, effective September 18, 2023. There is no change in hourly rate. Mr. Ushtelenca is replacing Ms. Laurie Rodgers.
- Mr. Noah Stankay as a day-to-day custodial substitute effective September 20, 2023. Hourly rate is \$14.00 per hour for the first 20 days and \$14.50 per hour thereafter.

Other

- Club Sponsors for the Elementary Schools, the Middle School, and the High School for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Mr. Vasko asked about the status of some clubs listed without a sponsor. Dr. Cunningham said they are actively seeking sponsors for those clubs, adding that it is possible to look outside the school to the community for a candidate. However, Dr. Loughead noted that they almost always find someone within the schools to fill those spots.

Addendum

- Ms. Alexandra Juya as a School Psychologist Intern from Indiana University of Pennsylvania for the 2023-2024 school year, with a stipend not to exceed \$20,000, effective the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. This is an annual position.

Dr. Loughead noted that Ms. Juya will work with Dr. Thornton and Dr. Jones, and that this position is similar to ones the District has had in the past. Ms. Juya will be working with students who have learning or behavioral difficulties who may need an evaluation. He also noted that the new therapist through UPMC Western Psychiatric is now working 40 hours per week within HTSD.

- Resignation of Ms. Rebecca Duch effective October 13, 2023. Ms. Duch is a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.
- Ms. Jennifer McIntyre as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School, effective October 12, 2023. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Ms. McIntyre is replacing Ms. Duch.
- Change in status for Ms. Laurie Rodgers moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton High School to a 10 month/6 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School, effective October 16, 2023. There is no change in hourly rate. Ms. Rodgers is replacing Ms. Mary Jamison.

Technology

(37:51)

There were no action items this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(37:57)

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

- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #216.1: Supplemental Discipline Records.
- First Reading of Policy #830: Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification.
- First Reading of Policy #830.1: Data Governance - Storage/Security.

Transportation

(39:57)

There were no action items this evening. However, Dr. Loughead provided an update on the Shady Side Academy busing issue. Last week, Mr. Kline discussed adding shuttle stops for Shady Side students. The District was able to add stops at Central and Poff Elementary, which will hopefully add more accessibility for those families. The District's goal is to fully restore the transportation service for these families, and they are currently working with the transportation vendor to achieve this goal.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report

(40:57)

Mr. Stein reported that the A.W. Beattie held an Open House earlier that evening. He said most students who attended the Open House were exploring multiple programs. Several alumni attended and were encouraging students to participate. Mr. Vasko added that at the last A.W. Beattie meeting, they hired architects to conduct a feasibility study for a possible expansion of the school. He noted that enrollment is now over 1,000 students, and there is no room to add new programming.

HAEE Report

(42:22)

Mrs. Hamlin emphasized how thankful the Board and District are to have an organization like HAEE. She noted the heavy workload of serving on the HAEE Board, but they are also able to see the students and teachers benefit.

Public Comment & Adjournment

(43:08)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to a second public comment, but there were none at this time. Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting. The Board held a brief executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.