

The Board Report

Monday, November 6, 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

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 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. Jackie Removcik | Assistant to the Superintendent |
| Dr. Ed McKaveney | Director of Technology |
| Mr. Josh Kellogg | Assistant Director of Technology |
| Mr. John Walsh | Director of Facilities |
| Ms. Tammi Kinzel | Manager of Accounting |

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

November 6, 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 & Student Awards

(2:48)

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the Work Session. Mr. Jarrell presented the Student Awards. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jarrell congratulated senior Justine Sullivan for earning a perfect score on her AP Research Exam in May 2023. Justine was one of only 357 students in the world to earn every possible point on the exam. Her research included a 4,000-5,000 word paper and a 15-20 minute presentation entitled, "Election Theory: Alternative Voting Methods in the Pennsylvania 2022 Senate Election."

The Board also congratulated Ziqian Peng, Zachary Sutterlin, and Darren Wang who were named Semifinalists in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Additionally, the Board recognized Andrew Kaehly, Brandon Pascucci, Reed Perry, and Justine Sullivan who were named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Student Council Representatives Report

Ellie Myros and Arya Vyas presented highlights from the HHS Student Council. Ellie said that the student body has been recently busy with academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Arya noted that the Student Council had been planning a Color Run 5K to support the KDKA Turkey Fund. Despite various efforts to promote the race, registrations were low. (Update: The Color Run 5K has been canceled, and registrations are being returned.)

The Student Council recently set up a dunk tank for students to enjoy. The event was a success, and the Student Council is hoping to continue providing fun activities to increase student participation and enthusiasm. Ellie and Arya discussed the annual Talbot Thon fundraiser. This year's theme is "Survivor." A date has not been finalized. With events such as the 3-on-3 basketball and cornhole tournaments, they hope to raise a significant amount of money to support the UPMC Children's Hospital Foundation.

Ellie and Arya also discussed plans to introduce a student store in the former Busy Bean area near the auxiliary gym that would sell Hampton merchandise. However, they are currently focusing their attention on raising money for the KDKA Turkey Fund and planning events.

Student Affairs

(10:10)

Mr. Jarrell presented the following action items that will be considered for Board approval at the November 13th Voting Meeting:

- Hampton Middle School Ski Club

Dr. Cunningham said this club would be open to students in Grades 7 or 8 who wished to participate in skiing. Board members asked if there was any duplicity of programming with the Township, and Dr. Cunningham said she would check with the Township this week and report back to the Board.

Facilities

(12:14)

Mrs. Balason presented the following action items that will be considered for Board approval at the November 13th Voting Meeting:

- Merit Electric Group Change Order for the High School Renovation Project totaling \$2,535 for the labor and material needed to add power to the new cafe roll-up door and to install control wiring to a keyed control switch.
- RA Glancy Change Order for the High School Renovation Project totaling \$7,370 for the work to install a retro-fit motor with two access panels to the cafe roll-up door.

Mr. Walsh said that these two change orders relate to the Busy Bean in the new addition of the high school. The issue stems from the current doors opening from the inside, requiring individuals to climb over the counter to open the doors. To address this safety concern, a motorized opener will be installed on one of the doors to allow easier access. The architect will pay 45% of the total cost to install the door. Mr. Walsh said the District is essentially paying for the parts, while the architect is covering everything else.

Dr. Loughead asked Mr. Walsh to provide an update on the small fire incident that occurred in a classroom at Hampton High School on Friday, November 3rd. Dr. Loughead thanked Mr. Walsh and his team, along with the first responders and HTSD administration for their response to the emergency early Friday morning.

Mr. Walsh said the fire was caused by a faulty power cord that melted onto a cardboard box containing styrofoam. The fire initiated the sprinkler system and smoke filled the area. To remove the smoke, all doors were opened and fans were set up prior to the first responders leaving. Since that time, the restoration company has been cleaning up the damaged classrooms and removing ceiling tiles. Mr. Walsh said the classrooms should be completely available for use by Monday, November 13th.

In response to Mrs. Hamlin's question, Mr. Walsh said the sprinklers only went off in one classroom. However, three classrooms are connected, requiring a thorough cleaning, removal of tiles, and painting of the room where the fire occurred. Mr. Vasko suggested the idea to unplug power strips at night. Mr. Walsh said that would be possible, but he noted that the building contains a number of power strips. Administration plans to visually inspect all power strips and eliminate any of the models that caused the fire. Efforts to prevent such incidents in the future were also discussed.

Mrs. Hamlin also complimented the facilities team for their efforts in ensuring that facilities looked beautiful for the Hampton Heroes ceremony held earlier that day.

Educational Programs

(20:48)

There were no action items this evening.

Finance

(20:55)

Mr. Vasko presented the following action items that will be considered for Board approval at the November 13th Voting Meeting:

- Budget transfer totaling \$1,299.00 for the following:
 - Cheerleader General Supplies \$953.00
 - Golf General Supplies \$226.00
 - Cross Country General Supplies \$120.00
- Authorize the Eric Ryan Corporation to secure bids for the District's electricity commodity for a period of 12 months beginning December 2023 and authorize Dr. Loughead and Mr. Kline to lock-in the bid at a rate not to exceed \$0.082/kWh. At the rate of \$0.082 there will be an annual savings of \$45,000 from the current contract.

Mr. Vasko noted that the District authorized the securing of bids for the District's electrical commodity last year.

- Agreement for Educational Staffing between Hampton Township School District and Kelly Services, Inc. for the staffing of day-to-day substitute paraeducators, effective November 13, 2023, pending final approval from the District Solicitor's office.

Mr. Vasko said this agreement would hopefully save the District money on the staffing of day-to-day substitute paraeducators since PSERS is not involved. Dr. Cunningham said the District is very excited about this agreement as Kelly Services is a renowned expert in the area. She noted that several local school districts are working with Kelly Services for the staffing of substitute paraeducators.

Mr. Vasko also presented the Local Tax Revenue Update as of October 31, 2023:

- Tax revenue is up 4.44% from the 2022-23 year. The millage rate increased by 4.1%.
- The District has collected 84.99% of its budgeted total for the 2023-24 school year, compared to 85.00% last year at this time.

Mr. Vasko noted that real estate transfer taxes have slowed down and that there have not been any interim real estate taxes collected this year.

Personnel

(25:47)

Mrs. Midgley presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the November 13th Voting Meeting:

Resignation

- Mrs. Nancy Schindler, who is retiring after eight years with the District, effective December 8, 2023. Mrs. Schindler is the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent.
- Mrs. Brigette Gibbons, who is resigning after eight years of service, effective October 27, 2023. Mrs. Gibbons was the Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director.
- Ms. Kaitlyn Downie effective October 9, 2023. Ms. Downie was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.
- Ms. Jennifer McIntyre effective October 26, 2023. Ms. McIntyre was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.

- Mrs. Makenzie Dietz, who is resigning after six years with the District, effective November 3, 2023. Mrs. Dietz was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton Middle School.
- Ms. Mary Jamison, who is retiring from the District after 13 years, effective October 16, 2023. Ms. Jamison was a custodian at Hampton Middle School.

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Lisa Somerhalder as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School effective October 30, 2023. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Ms. Somerhalder is replacing Ms. Jennifer McIntyre.
- Yolanda Schwab as a Substitute Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant listed below, effective October 30, 2023. Salary is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.

Supplemental Contracts

- The Administration recommends approval of the following conditional appointments for 2023-2024, each at a rate of \$149 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. 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 2023-2024 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed in the document below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2023-2024.

| Name | Position | School | Points | Stipend |
|-----------------|---|--------|--------|---------|
| Joseph Lafko | Boys' Basketball Head Coach | HHS | 63 | \$9,387 |
| Joe Cangilla | Boys' Basketball Assistant JV Coach | HHS | 41 | \$6,109 |
| Scott Breen | Boys' Basketball Freshman Coach | HHS | 34 | \$5,066 |
| Chris Anastas | Boys' Basketball Freshman Assistant Coach | HHS | 27 | \$4,023 |
| Scott Andrews | Boys' Basketball 7th Grade Coach | HMS | 31 | \$4,619 |
| Todd Wirtz | Boys' Basketball 8th Grade Coach | HMS | 34 | \$5,066 |
| Tony Howard | Girls' Basketball Head Coach | HHS | 63 | \$9,387 |
| Neil Martin | Girls' Basketball Assistant JV Coach | HHS | 41 | \$6,109 |
| Mary Bukovac | Girls' Basketball 8th Grade Coach | HMS | 34 | \$5,066 |
| Megan Kallock | Girls' Basketball 7th Grade Coach | HMS | 31 | \$4,619 |
| Nicole Bova | Gymnastics Head Coach | HHS | 24 | \$3,576 |
| Kate Hedderman | Girls' Softball Head Coach | HHS | 40 | \$5,960 |
| Morgan Zwegardt | Swimming Head Coach | HHS | 49 | \$7,301 |
| Jasper Jurman | Swimming Assistant Coach | HHS | 36 | \$5,364 |
| Heather Dietz | Winter Track Head Coach | HHS | 28 | \$4,172 |
| Kim Masarik | Winter Track Assistant Coach | HHS | 20 | \$2,980 |
| Nick Endres | Wrestling Head Coach | HHS | 57 | \$8,493 |
| Chris Hart | Wrestling Assistant Coach | HHS | 38 | \$5,662 |
| James Bower | Wrestling MS Head Coach | HMS | 36 | \$5,364 |
| Craig Rawlings | Wrestling MS Assistant Coach | HMS | 34 | \$5,066 |

Dr. Loughead noted that the Girls Softball Head Coach was included on this list since the District wanted to secure that hire for the spring season. He said the administration is excited about Kate Hedderman joining the District's coaching staff.

Club Sponsors

- Christine Larson as the Unified Bocce Club Sponsor for the High School for the 2023-24 school year.

Technology

(28:28)

There were no action items this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(28:36)

Mr. Shages presented the following items to be considered for Board approval at the November 13th meeting:

- Second Reading of Policy #830: Security of Computerized Personal Information/Breach Notification.
- Second Reading of Policy #830.1: Data Governance - Storage/Security.

Mr. Vasko inquired about the District's policy to handle situations relating to bullying or harassment via artificial intelligence (AI). Dr. Loughead said the District has policies that cover this form of bullying or harassment. Further, he emphasized the importance of embracing the potential of AI in academics and noted that the high school team is already working on navigating the complexities of integrating AI into education. Mr. Shages highlighted a positive perspective from the AIU, focusing on effective uses of AI in education, such as curriculum development and problem-solving. Dr. Loughead mentioned that Dr. Removcik has been engaging with high school staff on this topic, encouraging teachers to explore AI-generated lesson plans.

Transportation

(33:16)

There were no action items this evening.

Public Comment

(33:24)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were none at this time. However, she took this time to thank Mr. Walsh, HTSD administration, and the Elementary Schools for hosting a wonderful Hampton Heroes ceremony. She thanked everyone involved for honoring veterans in such a beautiful way.

Adjournment

(35:29)

Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting, and the Board held a brief Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters.