



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
OCTOBER 10, 2023
MEETING MINUTES

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

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Reu'el Parks, David Asbery, Crystal Dailey, Peter Downhour, Mariam Khan (7:06 P.M.) , Kevin Shea and Gary Walsh.

Student Representative: Mark Hu

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Special Board of Education meeting with the following the amendment to Melissa Kaplan, Reuel Parks and David Asbery were all against #10.
Kaplan
Seconded by: Parks
In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Walsh
Abstain: Khan and Shea

MOTION PASSES

CORRESPONDENCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no Public Comment tonight.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mark Hu reported on a few items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Curriculum Committee – Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, reported on the activities of the committee.

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

Finance Committee – Committee Member, Peter Downhour, reported on the activities of the committee

Goals and Evaluation Committee – Committee Chair, Crystal Dailey, stated there will be a meeting this Thursday, October 12, 2023.

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

Personnel Committee – Committee Chair, Reuel Parks, stated there was nothing to report.

Policy Committee – Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was nothing to report.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, stated that the discussion of attorney-client privileged communication regarding legal advice pertaining to board policies related to filling board vacancies, hiring of certified staff and increasing educator diversity plan needed to be pulled from Information items and was going to be discussed with the attorney during Executive Session.

The Superintendent stated that the district has applied for and received two separate grants for security. One of the grants is a 32% match. Tom Ariola mentioned that the process was thoroughly thought out

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Move to Executive Session at 7:20 P.M. to discuss attorney-client privileged communication regarding legal advice pertaining to board policies related to filling board vacancies, hiring of certified staff and increasing educator diversity plan. In addition to the board, the following people were asked to attend: Superintendent Gary Highsmith, and Sue Smey.

Walsh

Seconded by: Asbery

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Returned to Public Session at 9:05 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

3. Move to approve the Hamden High School Dance Team field trip to Orlando, Florida, in February 2024 for the National Dance Team Championships

Kaplan

Seconded by: Parks

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. 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: Parks

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan requested to remove 9a.iii. Approval to repeal Policy #4111/4211 Recruitment and Selection and replace it with a Plan for Increasing Educator Diversity, in accordance with applicable law. (First Read, Policy Committee July 2023).

Peter Downhour requested to remove 9.b.i 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)

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Move to approve Consent Agenda
Kaplan
Seconded by: Parks

- i. 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. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- ii. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4118.11/4218.11, Non-Discrimination, and replace it with the model policy, Non-Discrimination. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- iii. 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. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- iv. Approval to repeal Board Policy 4216, Hiring Clerical, Custodial, and Maintenance, and replace it with the model policy, Hiring of Non-Certified Staff. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- v. Approval to repeal Board Policy 5141.231/4118.234, Psychotropic Drug Use, and replace it with the model policy, Prohibition of Psychotropic Drugs. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- vi. Approval to adopt the model policy, Reports of Suspected Abuse or Neglect of Children or Reports of Sexual Assault of Students by School Employees. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- vii. Approval to adopt the model policy, Abuse or Neglect of Disabled Adults. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- viii. Approval to adopt the model policy, Section 504/ADA (Personnel). (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- ix. Approval to develop a Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Title I) to present to the Board. (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023)
- x. Approval of the revised Building Use Application (Operations Committee, October 2023)
- xi. Approval of Capital plan to replace boilers at Hamden High School and Central Office (Operations Committee, October 2023)
- xii. Approval of Capital plan to replace the existing roof at Hamden High School and Helen Street School (Operations Committee, October 2023)
- xiii. Approval of local funding match for State of CT security grants (Operations Committee, October 2023)
- xiv. Approval for Field Trip to China - World Language Team (Curriculum Committee, October 2023)

- xv. Approval to discard Science department books (Curriculum Committee, October 2023)
- xvi. Approval to discard Fine and Performing Arts materials (Curriculum Committee, October 2023)
- xvii. Approval to discard ELA materials (Curriculum Committee, October 2023)

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Shea, and Walsh
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

6. Move to table 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), with recommendation for the Superintendent to get further details on this policy.

Peter

Seconded by: Asbery

In Favor: Kaplan, Parks, Asbery, Dailey, Downhour, Khan, Shea, and Walsh
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

The Superintendent spoke about a program concerning Young People and Mental Health.

The Superintendent spoke about Elementary and Secondary Professional Development.

Assistant Superintendent, Erin Bailey, spoke about instructional meetings and walkthroughs, learning targets and discourse.

Assistant Superintendent, Linda Tran, spoke about visiting classrooms.

The Superintendent mentioned that Admin Council meetings are monthly and the plan of implementation District Data Team. The plan is to bring on DMG (District Management Group) to help with demographic data.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board Members spoke this evening:
Mariam Khan, and David Asbery.

ADJOURNMENT

3. Move to adjourn at 9:38 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Parks

Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Reu'el Parks, Board Secretary