

The Board Report

Monday, December 4, 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. Jenny Kennedy	School Board Director
Mrs. Joy Midgley	Personnel Chair
Mrs. Maureen Perkins	School Board Director
Mr. Robert Shages	Treasurer/Policy & Legislative Affairs Chair
Mr. Greg Stein	Technology Chair
Mr. Larry Vasko*	Finance 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
Mr. Jeff Kline**	Director of Administrative Services
Dr. Jackie Removcik	Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Ed McKaveney	Director of Technology
Ms. Tammi Kinzel	Manager of Accounting

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

December 4, 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

(7:33)

The Reorganization/Voting Meeting was called to order, and a roll call of holdover Board members was taken. Present were Mrs. Hamlin, Ms. Balason, and Mr. Stein; Mr. Vasko was absent. Ms. Balason was nominated as temporary chairperson.

Mr. Anthony Giresi, GRB attorney, administered the Oath of Office to recently elected Board members: Maureen Perkins, Jenny Kennedy, Matt Jarrell, Robert Shages, and Joy Midgley.

The Board nominated and elected Mrs. Hamlin to serve as President and Mr. Jarrell to serve as Vice President.

Public Comment

(15:33)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting for public comment.

15:59

A community member with two children at HMS advocated for changes to the upcoming 2024-2025 school calendar, which will be developed in the coming months. She said HTSD currently has 185 school days, comparing that number to school districts in the Pittsburgh area. She suggested that the District consider implementing a full week of spring break or to reconsider the 185-day requirement. She noted that students and teachers would benefit from more breaks during the second semester of school.

21:05

A community member with two children at HTSD asked the Board and administration to consider making spring break a week long. She noted that as a teacher in another district, having less time off between January and April is exhausting. She stated that a longer spring break would help families planning vacations, in addition to benefiting students' mental health.

23:00

A community member with two children at HTSD urged the Board to consider a longer spring break and potentially moving away from the District's 185-day requirement, noting that some Key Communicators and PTO parents hold similar beliefs. She also inquired if unused snow days could be used at the end of the year for schools to finish earlier.

President's Report

(24:58)

Mrs. Hamlin announced that the Board had held one Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters since the last meeting.

Superintendent's Report

(25:11)

Dr. Loughhead said that student recognition will resume in January to highlight the accomplishments of Hampton's students. He also noted that the public comments related to the 2024-2025 school calendar were timely and appreciated. Proposals for the 2024-2025 calendar will be presented to the Board in January.

Approval of Minutes

(25:11)

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the November 13, 2023 Board of School Directors Voting Meeting.

Finance

(25:52)

Mr. Kline presented the 2024-2025 Proposed Preliminary Budget & Planning Document. He explained that school districts are required to adopt the Act 1 "not to exceed" resolution prior to January 4, 2024 (a few weeks earlier than usual) due to the scheduling of Pennsylvania's primary election. Mr. Kline said that the Proposed Preliminary Budget is based on historical data and projections. Factors such as department budgets, PSERS contribution rates, and health insurance rates have not yet been factored into the Preliminary Proposed Budget.

Mr. Kline said that the goal of the Planning document is to demonstrate the District's ability to work within the 5.3% Act 1 Index. The not-to-exceed resolution states that property taxes will not increase beyond 5.3%, equating to a 1.15-mill increase. Mr. Kline said the Preliminary Proposed Budget projects a property tax increase of 1.05 mills. The budget includes debt service for a planned \$10 million dollar bond issue for the next phase of the Hampton High School renovation project.

Mr. Kline said that while the 2023-2024 budget projected a \$400,000 deficit, the current projection is approximately \$104,000, resulting in savings for the District. He said this positive projection is due to increases in state subsidies from the final PA budget and a decrease in cyber/charter enrollment.

Mr. Kline recommended and the Board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 Act 1 "not to exceed" budget resolution. Mrs. Hamlin emphasized that this approval solely states that the District will not exceed the Act 1 Index of 5.3%. She added that there will be several more opportunities for Board input before the final 2024-2025 budget is approved.

Board Comments

(32:56)

Mr. Shages said that HTSD used to be a member of the National School Board Association before joining the Consortium of State School Board Associations (COSSBA). He said that COSSBA is a nonpartisan national alliance focused on sharing information and supporting state school boards for the benefit of local school districts and board members. Mr. Shages proposed that he attend COSSBA's three-day event from February 23-25 to assess its potential benefits for Hampton and encouraged other Board members to attend with him.

Additionally, Mr. Shages mentioned that he will be attending an AIU legislative breakfast on December 5, which offers a chance for the 42 AIU member districts to meet with legislators for discussions.

Adjournment

(37:17)

Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting.