

The Board Report

Monday, February 12, 2024



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/Personnel Chair
Mrs. Jenny Kennedy	Transportation Chair
Mrs. Joy Midgley	Facilities Chair
Mrs. Maureen Perkins	Educational Programs Chair
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
Dr. Jackie Removcik	Assistant to the Superintendent
Mr. Jeff Kline	Director of Administrative Services
Dr. Ed McKaveney	Director of Technology

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

February 12, 2024

Voting Meeting

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#). The time within the video that each section begins is indicated below.

Student Awards

(4:04)

The Voting Meeting commenced with Mr. Jarrell presenting the Student Awards. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jarrell congratulated the cast and crew of the Hampton High School Drama Club's fall play, "Puff!" for receiving 15 nominations in the Prime Stage Theatre Drama Awards. This is the first year that Hampton has participated in the Awards. The following students were recognized for winning awards:

- Best Student Scenic Design: Jacob Baker, Margaret Sager, and Lily Stalewski
- Best Student Directors: Andrew Kaehly and Kiley Vande Geest

Additionally, Mr. Jarrell noted that Andrew and Kiley were invited to share their experiences and discuss the Awards on KDKA's Pittsburgh Today Live on January 20th.

Call to Order

(7:24)

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order, and roll call was taken. Eight Board members were present, while Mr. Stein participated remotely.

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were none at this time.

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the January 15, 2024 Board of School Directors Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

(8:27)

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

- January 2024 General Fund 10 Disbursements totaling \$3,610,758.88.
- January 2024 High School Construction Fund 35 Disbursements totaling \$1,537.37.
- January 2024 Capital Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$60,151.01.
- January 2024 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$137,561.34.
- December 2023 Treasurer's Reports.
- December 2023 Student Activities Fund Reports.

President's Report

(10:20)

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

Superintendent's Report

(10:31)

Dr. Loughead highlighted how Hampton's academics and arts programming are closely intertwined. He referenced tonight's Student Awards recognition as evidence of the interconnectedness between academics and the arts. Skills such as directing a play and public speaking are also recognized as academic competencies. Dr. Loughead added that successful school districts have strong art programs that complement their academic offerings, citing Hampton's achievements in theater, music, and visual arts as examples.

Additionally, Dr. Loughead announced that Hampton High School's Unified Bocce Team 2 has qualified for the playoffs at Avonworth HS on February 28th. He encouraged the community to come and support the team, which brings together students with and without disabilities. For those who have not yet attended a unified bocce match, he mentioned that they will experience the spirit of what the sport means at Hampton in terms of students supporting each other.

Student Affairs

(13:45)

Mr. Jarrell recommended and the Board approved the following action items:

- AIU Memorandum of Understanding between the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Head Start and Pre-K Counts Programs and the Hampton Township School District.
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Field Trip to the Pennsylvania FBLA State Leadership Conference, Hershey, PA, April 7-10, 2024, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$2,800.
- Hampton High School Forensics Field Trip to the PA High School Speech League State Tournament at Bloomsburg University, Bloomsburg, PA, March 14-16, 2024 at a cost to the District not to exceed \$1,500.

Facilities

(14:38)

There were no action items this evening.

- Proposal from MasterLibrary for facility scheduling subscription services from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025 at a total cost to the District of \$4,700.

Educational Programs

(14:44)

Mrs. Perkins recommended and the Board unanimously approved the Proposed Middle School Program of Studies.

In addition, Mrs. Hamlin discussed feedback from alumni and current parents regarding the removal of certain art-related courses due to low enrollment in the High School Program of Studies that was approved by the Board in January. She wondered whether the decline in enrollment reflected a broader trend of reduced interest in the arts. Mrs. Hamlin also raised concerns about potential negative impacts on the theater program, musicals, and the marching band.

Dr. Loughead asserted that the decision to eliminate courses was not driven by a decline in interest but rather a realistic alignment with consistently low enrollment over several years. He highlighted the practice of combining visual arts courses for students to continue studying through Studio Intensive. The goal is to streamline the program of studies based on ongoing trends, eliminating courses with low enrollment. Additionally, Dr. Loughead addressed concerns about the marching band, stating that numbers are recovering post-COVID and are still healthy for the school's size.

Regarding the elimination of Ceramic Sculpture III and Mixed Media II, Dr. Removcik said that the high school introduced a Studio Intensive course which provides students the flexibility to pursue their interests in a particular medium. This course is also offered as an Honors option, emphasizing the value placed on the experience. The goal is to make the curriculum more efficient while providing students with opportunities to explore their chosen mediums.

Mrs. Hamlin also inquired about the elimination of Stage and Tech Production and Acting courses. Dr. Loughead noted that these courses have experienced low enrollment for several years. He mentioned that Hampton's Program of Studies offers a broad range of courses compared to most high schools, and the administration is aiming for a more realistic Program of Studies by excluding courses with low enrollment. Dr. Loughead stated that the high school's courses, programs, and instructors remain as strong as ever. Mrs. Perkins added that Hampton's musicals and plays consistently feature a robust cast and crew, emphasizing the quality of these productions.

Finance

(23:13)

Mr. Vasko contributed to the discussion on enrollment, requesting that the Board receive an overview of enrollment for each course at the high school level. In response, Dr. Loughead stated that the administration typically offers an overview of the high school's course offerings and class sizes during the budget process. He assured the Board that a detailed overview of course enrollment will be provided in advance of the April budget discussion.

Additionally, Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following addendum:

- Budget Transfer totaling \$5,167.00 for the following:
 - Central - General Fund/Supplies \$3,007.00.
 - Poff - General Fund/Supplies \$2,160.00.

The transfers reflect no change to the overall budget.

Personnel

(23:10)

Ms. Balason recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following personnel action items:

Resignation

- Dr. Gretchen Jones, who is resigning after four years with the District, effective March 29, 2024. Dr. Jones is the School Psychologist for the District.
- Ms. Lisa Somerhalder, effective February 9, 2024. Ms. Somerhalder is a Paraeducator at Hampton High School.
- Ms. Anne Avondolio effective February 7, 2024. Ms. Avondolio is a Library Assistant at Hampton Middle School.
- Mr. Shawn Sloan effective January 23, 2024. Mr. Sloan was a 10 month/6 hour custodian.
- Mr. Richard Ventrice who is retiring after seven years with the District, effective April 5, 2024. Mr. Ventrice is a Custodian at Hampton High School.

Mr. Shages inquired about the replacement of Dr. Jones as School Psychologist. In response, Dr. Loughhead said a strong collection of candidates is being evaluated. He said Dr. Thornton will be conducting the interviewing process, expressing confidence in a strong pool of candidates. Although there may be a temporary period without a full-time school psychologist, Dr. Loughhead said the District has resources from the AIU to continue evaluating students in need of special education services during this transition.

Teachers

- Change in status for Ms. Mia Smyers moving from a Paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary School to a Building Substitute Teacher at Poff Elementary School, effective February 7, 2024. Salary is \$27,500, prorated. Ms. Smyers is replacing Ms. Mary Evankovich.
- Mrs. Hannah Krasnow as a professional employee who has attained tenure status effective February 12, 2024.
- Mrs. Kaitlyn Stoltz as a Guest Substitute Teacher for the Hampton Township School District, effective January 26, 2024. Salary is \$100 per day for days 1-30 and then \$120 per day thereafter. Guest Substitute Teachers will be utilized on an as-needed basis.

Ms. Balason congratulated Mrs. Krasnow on attaining tenure.

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Christine Knudsen as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School, effective February 20, 2024. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Ms. Knudsen is replacing Ms. Lisa Somerhalder.
- Ms. Dawn Biernacki as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School, effective February 1, 2024. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Ms. Biernacki is replacing Ms. LaNette Weber who is moving to Wyland Elementary School.

- Ms. Paige Hartle as a Substitute Paraeducator/Paraprofessional/Administrative Assistant, effective January 25, 2024. Salary is \$15.00 per hour for days 1-20, and \$15.50 per hour thereafter.

Custodial/Maintenance

- Mr. Zachary Crow as a 10 month/6 hour custodian at Hampton High School, effective January 29, 2024. Hourly rate is \$23.68. (Mr. Crow is replacing Mr. Shawn Sloan.)
- Ms. Kelly Hashmi as a 10 month/8 hour Custodian at Central Elementary School, effective February 12, 2024. (Ms. Hashmi is replacing Mr. Chad Fabian.)
- Mr. Josh Stockert, effective February 5, 2024, and Ms. Maya Cannon, effective February 7, 2024, as day-to-day custodial substitutes. Hourly rate is \$14.00 an hour for the first 20 days and \$14.50 thereafter.

Addendum

- Resignation of Mr. Matthew Melovitz effective February 9, 2024. Mr. Melovitz was a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School.
- Mrs. Donna Barthel as a Paraeducator (Class III) at Hampton High School, effective February 20, 2024. Hourly rate is \$18.54 for the 60-day probationary period and \$18.79 per hour thereafter. Mrs. Barthel is replacing Mr. Melovitz.

Technology

(29:30)

There were no action items this evening.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(29:37)

Mr. Shages recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following action item:

- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #254: Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Mr. Shages noted that he will be attending the Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA) conference in Dallas, Texas, from February 23-25th.

Transportation

(30:58)

There were no action items this evening.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report

(31:07)

Mr. Vasko reminded everyone that A.W. Beattie will be holding its Spring Open House on February 29th from 5:15 to 8 p.m. The Open House is for anyone interested in learning more about programs offered at A.W. Beattie and to explore the school.

Additionally, Mr. Vasko noted that A.W. Beattie will host its first Fish Fry of the year on Friday, February 16th from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. He advised everyone to arrive early as they expect a large crowd.

HAEE Report

(32:40)

Mrs. Kennedy said that the Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) has been discussing new fundraising opportunities for the upcoming year such as having food trucks at community events.

Public Comment

(33:22)

Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

Adjournment

(33:35)

Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting.