



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 6, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, David Asbery, Mario Ciccarini, Kevin Shea (7:11 P.M.) and Andrew Tamarro.

Student Representative: Mark Hu and Matilda Ryder

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

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

February Hamden Heroes:

Melanie Ceasar, HMS student

Savion Christley, HMS student

William Gunn, HMS Music Teacher

Nicholas Ugolik, HMS Teacher

Officer Vincent DeStefanis, HMS Community Helper

Senator Chris Murphy's eighth annual "Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay Contest" winner: HHS Student, Livia Doran

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve the minutes from January 9, 2024 Board of Education meeting and the Special Board of Education Meeting on January 25, 2024.

Tamarro

Seconded by: Asbery

In Favor: Asbery, Ciccarini, Downhour, Kaplan, Shea and Tamarro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour stated there was a lot of correspondence or public comment on the action items.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following people spoke or emailed for Public Comment tonight: Cindy Simell-Devoe, Luciana Sheen, Luke Worgo, Nina Blackman, Jackie Downing, Janet Ellis, Mimsie Coleman, Jane Carol, Bethany Dunba, Holly Wargo, Joe Wince, Sara David, John Cherry, Jack Whalen, Ken Devoe, Lewis?, Jacqueline Diggs, Patty Simone, Steve Rosenberg, Amy Sheehan, PJ August, Bob Wargo, L?, and Samuel Rosenberg.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Malida Ryder reported on a few things at the high school.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent briefly reported on Profession Learning Opportunities with a Partnership with Partners for Educational Leadership. The Superintendent introduced Richard Lemons who presented the collaboration.

The Superintendent spoke briefly on the new Kindergarten legislation and asked Erin Bailey to go over more details of the legislation and the impact for Hamden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Committee Chair, Greta Johnson, was not present to speak.
Curriculum Committee - Committee Member, Mario Ciccarini, report on the activities of the committee.

Equity Committee - Committee Chair, Mariam Khan, was not present to speak.
Finance Committee - Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, stated the next meeting would be February 12, 2024.

Goals and Evaluations Committee - Committee Chair, Andrew Tammaro, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Kevin Shea,
Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was no meeting.

Policy Committee - Committee Member, Peter Downhour, reported on the activities of the committee.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent spoke about the National Security Grant that Hamden has applied for.

The Superintendent spoke about an email from the Connecticut State Department of Education where teachers can apply for up to \$1000 for classroom supplies.

The Superintendent stated that before the next meeting, the Board would receive a draft of the school calendar for SY 2024-2025. He mentioned that input was requested from the teacher's union, as well as First Student, in order to hear other groups' voices.

The Superintendent spoke about training for all the SROs.

The Superintendent stated that a Personnel meeting needed to take place before March 15, 2024 to put a plan in place for Diversity recruiting.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, requested to pull:
10.a.i. Approval to revise Policy #5145.5 Sexual Harassment (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
10.a.ii Approval to revise Policy #5145.53 Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)

- 10.a.iv. Approval to revise Policy #5145.4 Non-Discrimination (Students) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- 10.a.vi. a) Approval to adopt Policy #5145.3 Section 504/ADA (Students) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- 10.a.xiv. Approval of the building use by Cassandra's Christian Dance Company to use the auditorium and a classroom at Hamden Middle School on April 19, 2024 for rehearsal from 5:30pm-8pm and on April 20, 2024 for Spring Dance Recital from 12-7pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)
- 10.a.xv. Approval of the building use by The Whitney Players to use the auditorium, cafeteria and music/band room at Hamden Middle School for a Spring Show tech on April 16-19th from 5-10pm and April 25-27th from 12-10pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)
- 10.a.xvi. Approval of the building use by The Whitney Players to use the auditorium, cafeteria and music/band room at Hamden Middle School for a theater summer camp on July 1-12th from 8:30am-4:00pm and July 13th from 8:30am-10pm for camp show (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 2. Move to approve the updated Consent Agenda
Downhour
Seconded by: Ciccarini
- iii. Approval to revise Policy #5131.911 Bullying (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- v. Approval to repeal the following policies providing Policy #5145.4 Non-discrimination (Students) is approved for revision:
 - a) Policy #5000 Concepts and Roles in Student Policies (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - b) Policy #5134 Parenting and Pregnant Students (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - c) Policy #5145 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - d) Policy #5145.43 Human Dignity (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- vii. Approval of HHS student exchange program trip to Italy (Curriculum Committee, January 2024)
- viii. Approval of the DECA International Conference in Anaheim, California on April 26th- May 1st (Curriculum Committee, January 2024)
- ix. Media Department Book Discards – Church Street, Helen Street and Shepherd Glen (Curriculum Committee, January 2024)
- x. Approval to change Civics from 1 credit to 0.5 credit (Curriculum Committee, January 2024)
- xi. Approval of a donation of Stop & Shop and Costco gift cards to use as part of a student life skills field trip at Spring Glen School (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)
- xii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Park and Rec to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School for a Diving Clinic on February 12th from 7:30-8:30pm, February 6th, 13th and 15th from 8-9pm and February 9th from 5pm-6pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)
- xiii. Approval of the building use by the Whitneyville Civic Association to use the boardroom at 60 Putnam Ave. for monthly meetings on March 21st, May 16th,

September 19th and November 21, 2024 from 7-8:30pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

xvii. Approval of the building use by Slamman Jamma basketball to use the gymnasium at Hamden Middle School for a basketball summer camp on August 5-9 & August 12-16, 2024 from 8:30am-1:00pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro
MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

PENDING ACTIONS

3. Move to table to revise Policy #5145.5 Sexual Harassment (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024), Approval to revise Policy #5145.53 Transgender and Non-Conforming Youth (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024) and Approval to revise Policy #5145.4 Non-Discrimination (Students) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)

Downhour

Seconded by: Kaplan

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. Move to approve to adopt Policy #5145.3 Section 504/ADA (Students) (First Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

5. Move to approve the Mural Project at Spring Glen School.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

6. Move to table Approval of the building use by Cassandra's Christian Dance Company to use the auditorium and a classroom at Hamden Middle School on April 19, 2024 for rehearsal from 5:30pm-8pm and on April 20, 2024 for Spring Dance Recital from 12-7pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

Downhour

Seconded by: Kaplan

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

7. Move to approve of the building use by The Whitney Players, as a group 3 classification minimum, to use the auditorium, cafeteria and music/band room at Hamden Middle School for a Spring Show tech on April 16-19th from 5-10pm and April 25-27th from 12-10pm (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

Downhour

Seconded by: Tammaro

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

8. Move to approve of the building use by The Whitney Players, as a group 3 classification minimum, to use the auditorium, cafeteria and music/band room at Hamden Middle School for a theater summer camp on July 1-12th from 8:30am-4:00pm and July 13th from 8:30am-10pm for camp show (Special Operations Committee, February 2024)

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

9. Move to adjourn at 9:55 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Ciccarini

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary