



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:13 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, David Asbery, Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill, Greta Johnson, Christopher Piscitelli, Kevin Shea and Andrew Tammaro.

Student Representative: Mark Hu and Matilda Ryder

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Superintendent asked to remove 10.b.i. Approval to repeal Policy #4111 Recruitment and Selection providing Policy #4111.1 is adopted (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023), 3.b. Hamden High School Dance Team, and 11. Superintendent Report.

The Superintendent requested to add 10.a.iv. Approval of Revisions to the Board Approved Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent, along with Barbara Perotti, Principal at Shepherd Glen introduced the April Hamden Heroes.

April Hamden Heroes:

Shepherd Glen School

Ariadna Plaza, Shepherd Glen School Student

Bretta Doherty, SHG Kindergarten Teacher

Matthew Calcagni, SHG Community Member

The Superintendent, along with Coach Forcucci, introduced the Hamden High School Girls' Basketball Team.

The Superintendent acknowledged the SCASA Award nominees:

Aylani Delgado, Ridge Hill School

Ethan Magro, Shepherd Glen School

Camille Domingo, Hamden Middle School

William Swan, Hamden Middle School

Alyssa Giangrande, Hamden High School

Brody Sargolini, Hamden High School

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve of minutes from the February 6, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting with the correction of the spelling of Matilda Ryder's name under Student Representative Report.
Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

2. Move to approve of minutes from the March 5, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

3. Move to approve of minutes from the March 25, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. Move to approve of minutes from the March 12, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

Abstain: Kaplan

MOTION PASSES

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour stated there was no correspondence since the last meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items this evening.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Mark Hu, mentioned there is no paper and other supplies for copies at Hamden High School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Committee Chair, Greta Johnson, reported on attending a meeting with ACES.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Equity Committee - Board Chair, Melissa Kaplan, mentioned a chair is being discussed.

Finance Committee - Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, reported on the activities of the committee.

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

Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Kevin Shea, reported on the activities of the committee

Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Christopher Piscitelli, reported on the activities of the committee.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Superintendent, along with Susan Smey, presented on the District Attendance Campaign that is being created. There is a one page campaign listing the ten strategies.

ACTION ITEMS

PENDING ACTIONS

5. Move to approve the reauthorization of the annual Healthy Food Certification under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (Operations Committee, April 2024) which states Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Hamden Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

6. Move to approve the Food Exemption under Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes (Operations Committee, April 2024) which states the Hamden Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

7. Move to approve of exemptions for beverages that do not comply under Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes (Operations Committee, April 2024) which states the Hamden Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Johnson

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

8. Move to approve of Revisions to the Board Approved Increasing Educator Diversity Plan.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

9. Move to approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: Kaplan, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli and Tammaro

Opposed: Downhour

Abstain: Shea

MOTION PASSES

- i. Approval to revise Policy #5145.5 Sexual Harassment (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- ii. Approval to revise Policy #5145.4 Non-Discrimination (Students) (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- iii. 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 (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - b) Policy #5134 Parenting and Pregnant Students (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - c) Policy #5145 Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
 - d) Policy #5145.43 Human Dignity (Second Read, Policy Committee, January 2024)
- iv. Approval to revise Policy #4118.22 Code of Ethics (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- v. Approval to revise Policy #5144 Discipline (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- vi. Approval to revise Policy #5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drug, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substitutes) (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- vii. Approval to revise Policy #5144. 4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- viii. Approval to revise Policy #5145.12: Search and Seizure (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- ix. Approval to revise Policy #5144.1 Use of Physical Force (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- x. Approval to revise Policy #5111: Admission/Placement (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- xi. Approval to adopt Policy #5129 Chemical Health by Student Athletes (First Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- xii. Approval of Mutualink Project Agreement (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xiii. Approval of a donation of a bench in memory of a former student to Ridge Hill School (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xiv. Approval of the request to plant additional trees at Church Street School along Chester Street (Operations Committee, April 2024)

- xv. Approval of Adult Education Federal Grant proposal (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xvi. Approval of the building use by Hamden Rovers Soccer to use the cafeteria at Hamden Middle School for summer camp June 22nd-July 27th from 8am-12pm (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xvii. Approval of the building use by Building with Ricky to use a classroom at Hamden Middle School for summer camp July 29th – August 2nd from 7:30am-3pm (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xviii. Approval of the building use by Unified Coed Sports to use the athletic fields at Hamden Middle School and Hamden High School for Coed Adult Softball League April 7th – June 2nd from 8:00am-2:30pm (Operations Committee, April 2024)
- xix. Approval of the building use by Hamden Fathers Football and Cheerleading to use the gymnasium at Hamden Middle School, Ridge Hill School and West Woods School for Cheerleading Clinics Thursdays from April 25th to April 30th from 5:30pm-8:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

10. Move to adjourn at 8:16 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill, Johnson, Piscitelli, Shea and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary