



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024  
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, Nancy Hill, and Andrew Tammaro.

Student Representative: Mark Hu

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

#### ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Superintendent requested 9.a.i. Approval to repeal Policy #4111 Recruitment and Selection providing Policy #4111.1 is adopted (Second Read, Policy Committee, July 2023) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

The Superintendent requested moving the Superintendent report to before Executive Session.

Board Member, Peter Downhour, requested adding 9.b.ii. Approval of Budget Transfers be added to the agenda.

#### SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent, along with Principal Karen Butler recognized Church Street School May Hamden Heroes.

Diane Melillo, Church Street School Literacy Specialist  
Contessa Brock, Church Street School PTA Treasurer  
Fardin Khan, Church Street School student

The Superintendent, along with Principal Stacie D'Antonio and Board Member Peter Downhour recognized Ridge Hill School May Hamden Heroes:

Hadi Nazim, Ridge Hill School Student  
Christine Prentice, Ridge Hill School Paraprofessional  
Antonio Banaga & Vanesa Biagtan, Ridge Hill School Community Members

The Superintendent along with Board Chair Melissa Kaplan, Hamden Collaborative Learning Center May Hamden Heroes

Rose Pawlikowski, HCLC Social Worker  
Diane Cofrancseco, HCLC Community Member  
Daishaly Diaz, HCLC Student

The Superintendent also recognized the Hamden High School Dance Team, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Awards Winners, and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Awards Winners.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Move to approve of minutes from the April 9, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

In Favor: Kaplan, Downhour, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill and Tamaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

## CORRESPONDENCE

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

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following people from New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, spoke during Public Comments on Agenda Items: Karimah Mickens – May Week Chair, Paula Irvin – President, Katrina Rice – Vice President, Lisa Crutchfield Diggs – Scholarship Chair, and Alexandria Lawrence – Social Action Co-Chair.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Mark Hu, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - Committee Chair, Greta Johnson, wasn't present to report.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Chair, Mario Ciccarini, reported on the activities of the committee.

Equity Committee - Committee Chair, Nancy Hill, stated a meeting was coming up.

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

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

Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Kevin Shea, wasn't present to report.

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

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Christopher Piscitelli, wasn't present to report.

## ACTION ITEMS

### CONSENT AGENDA

#### 2. Move to Approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Ciccarini

In Favor: Kaplan, Asbery, Ciccarini, Hill and Tamaro

Opposed: Downhour

MOTION PASSES

- i. Approval to revise Policy #4118.22 Code of Ethics (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- ii. Approval to revise Policy #5144 Discipline (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- iii. Approval to revise Policy #5131.6 Alcohol Use, Drug, and Tobacco (Including Performance Enhancing Substitutes) (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- iv. Approval to revise Policy #5144. 4 Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)

- v. Approval to revise Policy #5145.12: Search and Seizure (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- vi. Approval to revise Policy #5144.1 Use of Physical Force (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- vii. Approval to revise Policy #5111: Admission/Placement (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- viii. Approval to adopt Policy #5129 Chemical Health by Student Athletes (Second Read, Policy Committee, March 2024)
- ix. Approval of Wit and Wisdom program (Curriculum Committee, April 2024)
- x. Approval of HHS ESOL Course– Academic Preparation for College and Career (Curriculum Committee, April 2024)
- xi. Approval of Gateway Course Name Changes (Curriculum Committee, April 2024)
- xii. Approval of HPS Media Discards for Bear Path, Dunbar Hill, Helen Street, and Spring Glen (Curriculum Committee, April 2024)
- xiii. Approval of a donation of photo equipment to HHS (Special Operations Committee, May 2024)
- xiv. Approval of the relocation of the HEF Distinguished Alumni Bricks from Hamden High School's courtyard to town property (Special Operations Committee, May 2024)
- xv. Approval of building use by Hamden Fathers Football and Cheer of the Ridge Hill and Hamden Middle School gymnasiums on Thursdays from August 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30, 2024 (Special Operations Committee, May 2024)

## SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent told the Board about the Technology Grant and the Mental Health Support Grant that the District applied for and received.

The Superintendent spoke about a few items in the Capital Budget.

The Superintendent spoke about, a Hamden High School Alumni, Blessing Offering, who has performed with Dolly Parton.

The Superintendent spoke about the Superintendent/Board of Education Scholarship process and award winner.

The Superintendent told the Board that he and the Leadership Team will be meeting with all the Bargaining Units to discuss about the potential deficit with the SY 2024-2025 Budget.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Move to Executive Session at 8:03 P.M. to have a discussion concerning approval of a tentative agreement with the Custodial Union

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return to Public Session at 8:36 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS (Continued)

4. Move to approve of a tentative agreement with the Custodial Union  
Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

5. Move to approve Board of Education Budget Transfer

from line 622- Electricity	\$180,000
to line 400 - Property Services	\$15,000
to line 431 - Repair & Maintenance - Equipment	\$20,000
to line 432 - Repair & Maintenance - Buildings	\$115,000
to line 512 - Maintenance Supplies	\$30,000

Downhour

Seconded by: Kaplan

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

10. Move to adjourn at 8:38 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Ciccarini

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary