

The Board Report

Monday, May 13, 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 person at the Hampton Middle School Library. The meeting was recorded so that community members can view it after the meeting.

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
Dr. Marguerite Imbarlina	Hampton High School Principal
Dr. Ed McKaveney	Director of Technology
Mr. Jeff Kline	Director of Administrative Services/Transportation

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

May 13, 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

(2:31)

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Jarrell congratulated the following students for their achievements at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Conference:

- Reed Perry, who won 1st place in Healthcare Management.
- Joseph Nelson, who won 7th place in Personal Finance.
- Jake Killian, Shreyas Chalikonda, and Dominic Jordan won 8th place in Banking and Financial Systems.

In addition, Mr. Perry and Mr. Nelson will attend the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida, in June. The Board wished them the best of luck at Nationals.

The Board also recognized the following students for their achievements at the 2024 Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Tournament:

- Senior Andrew Kaehly made the final round in Impromptu Speaking for the second year.
- Freshman William Zhang advanced to the Super Session of House Congress and was a finalist.
- Senior David Poirier recently earned the Academic All-American Award through the National Speech and Debate Association. This award is awarded to students who have achieved the NSDA Degree of Superior Distinction and academic excellence. David's work in Congress and his leadership on the team have put him in the top 1% of all Speech and Debate students in the country.

Mrs. Hamlin congratulated the students who received recognition and thanked them for attending the meeting. She noted that the Board is very proud of these students and that they enjoy the opportunity for student recognition.

Call to Order

(7:08)

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order, and a roll call was taken. All Board members were present.

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

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the April 9, 2024 and April 14, 2024 Board of School Directors Voting Meetings.

Treasurer's Report

(7:58)

The Board unanimously approved the following items:

- April 2024 General Fund 10 Disbursements totaling \$4,358,782.81.
- April 2024 Capital Fund 39 Disbursements totaling \$18,099.00.
- April 2024 Cafeteria Fund 50 Disbursements totaling \$146,322.66.
- March 2024 Treasurer's Report.
- March 2024 Student Activities Fund Report.

President's Report

(9:30)

There was no report this evening.

Superintendent's Report

(9:38)

Dr. Loughead highlighted upcoming events within the District, such as the annual Remake Learning Days on Tuesday, May 14th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hampton High School. This event celebrates Hampton's world-class teaching and learning, featuring exciting projects that students and teachers have worked on throughout the year. He encouraged the community to attend and to stop by the Busy Bean during the event. Further, he expressed his appreciation for Dr. Cunningham and Dr. McKaveney for their work in planning this event.

Additionally, Dr. Loughead encouraged the community to attend the Music Department's upcoming Spring Concert Series. For the concert schedule, visit www.ht-sd.org.

In athletics, Dr. Loughead highlighted that several Hampton teams are competing in the playoffs this week and encouraged community members to visit the athletics website (www.hamptonathletics.org) for more information.

Facilities

(14:24)

Future Capital Project Plans

Mr. Kline, Mr. Hartle, and Cassandra Renninger of DRAWCollective presented an update on capital improvement projects the District may consider over the next several years. Ms. Renninger mentioned how Hampton completed a District-wide feasibility study in 2019, noting that several items identified in that study have been addressed in Phase I of the high school renovation project. These include the roof, asphalt paving, site concrete, and pool air handling unit.

Phase II will focus on completing items like auditorium sound system upgrades and a walk-in cooler/freezer. Ms. Renninger said that completing Phase II will address all identified items for the high school.

Several capital improvement projects anticipated during the feasibility study have been completed. These include the Wyland Elementary boiler, Poff Elementary playground asphalt, Fridley Field track and turf, Central Elementary roof, Hampton Middle School air handlers, and the Wyland Elementary fire alarms. Exterior lighting at HHS has been replaced with LED, with the other four schools still needing replacement. Additional projects completed include replacing the HMS asphalt roof and refinishing the HHS gym floor.

Ms. Renninger also presented several projects identified in 2019 that still need to be completed, with updated cost estimates. This list includes the following:

- The paving project at Hampton Middle School will be done in the bus loop, main entrance, and Fridley Field parking lot. Ms. Renninger said this is a top-priority item, with an estimated cost between \$330,000 and \$450,000.
- Exterior site lighting must be replaced at all buildings, excluding the high school, which has already been replaced). The estimated cost is between \$245,000 and \$270,000 over a 2-4 year window.
- Replacement of Fridley Field lighting with LED at an estimated cost between \$315,000 and \$385,000 in a 2-4 year window.
- Replacement of unit ventilators and a boiler with a new condensing unit at Wyland Elementary. The estimated cost is between \$4.7 million and \$5.6 million over 3-5 years. The District may potentially seek funding through the state's Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program.
- Middle School unit ventilator replacement is estimated to cost between \$900,000 and \$950,000 over a 5-7 year window. This project is also viable for potential grant funding.

Ms. Balason asked if the grant application only pertains to certain projects. Ms. Renninger said if the District has multiple projects it wants to apply for, it will submit a per-project application. Mr. Kline noted that funding for the grant is capped at \$5 million per project.

Additionally, Mr. Shages mentioned a recent discussion he had with Representative Rob Mercuri about Pennsylvania's multi-billion dollar budget surplus. Mr. Shages said he advocated for more grant opportunities to help schools fund much-needed facilities upgrades.

Renninger presented several new items identified by the District as future capital improvement projects:

- Hampton Middle School's gym floor needs to be refinished. This project, which is planned for this summer and is in the current budget, will cost between \$35,000 and \$40,000.
- Wyland Elementary's concrete sidewalk replacement and repair is estimated to cost between \$130,000 and \$150,000. Ms. Renninger said this would be a 1-2 year priority window.
- Hampton Middle School's roof replacement (flat portion of the roof) is a 3-5 year priority project valued at roughly \$1.9 to \$2.4 million. The District has applied for funding through the Public

School Facility Improvement Grant Program, and if the funding is received, the project could begin sooner.

- Central Elementary unit ventilator replacement. The estimated cost is between \$620,000 and \$650,000, with a 5-7 year priority.
- Hampton Middle School boiler upgrades are estimated to cost between \$850,000 and \$890,000. This project has a 5 to 7-year priority and is viable for grant funding.

Dr. Loughead said that the purpose of the presentation was to be transparent and display what was in the previous capital improvement plan. He thanked Mr. Hartle for looking ahead over the next 5-10 years to ensure no items were missing. Dr. Loughead reflected on the significant accomplishments of the District over the past seven years, noting that there are currently no critical issues expected to fail within the next 3-5 years. He highlighted plans to address safety concerns, including concrete replacement at Wyland Elementary and the gym floor at HMS.

The Board then discussed approving Draw Collective for Architectural and Engineering Services for Phase II of the Hampton High School Renovation Project, subject to contract review and approval by the District Solicitor.

Mr. Vasko expressed concern that the Board is rushing the approval of Phase II of the high school renovation project. He emphasized that there was only one week between the Phase II presentation and voting to proceed with the project. Additionally, Mr. Vasko referenced the District's Pillars for Success regarding fiscal responsibility and effective communication, questioning whether these were upheld in the decision-making process. He mentioned that the project would bring three years of maximum tax increases and asked whether there were sufficient opportunities for community input. Mr. Vasko also expressed concern about increasing the District's fund balance given the number of projects that need to be funded over the next 3-4 years. He suggested conducting a parent survey to gather feedback on tax considerations and their desired improvements for the high school.

Mr. Vasko also questioned the necessity of specific upgrades, such as the high school auditorium. Mrs. Hamlin noted the need for handicap accessibility improvements, while Mr. Vasko inquired about the cost implications for seating replacement. Mr. Shages highlighted the need to proceed with detailed planning and design with Draw Collective, acknowledging potential challenges and unforeseen costs in the renovation process.

Regarding parent involvement, Dr. Loughead explained that previous meetings included input from parents, faculty, and staff several years ago to shape the initial concept for the project, which also included Board presentations. Mr. Shages highlighted the need to advance beyond conceptual stages to more detailed design phases to address practical considerations and ensure feasibility. Ms. Renninger said 100 percent design development would be the next milestone, which would enable PJ Dick to offer a more accurate cost estimate. From there, the District could make decisions regarding the project's scope. She added that this approval would advance the District to this stage. Draw Collective would then prepare bid documents subject to approval by the District's solicitor.

Renninger explained that their contract covers the remainder of the project, with pauses at the end of each phase for the Board to assess progress before proceeding to the next phase. Dr. Loughead noted that the contract structure mirrored the one previously recommended by the District's Solicitor.

He proposed using the amended contract to formalize the current decision and facilitate the next steps in the process.

Regarding Mr. Vasko's concern about the speed of approval, Mr. Jarrell emphasized that the District's renovation plans are several years old and included ample stakeholder input. He also noted that the May 6th presentation was announced several weeks prior. He said the Board takes the anticipated tax increases seriously but stated that they had been planned for several years to achieve educational excellence. Mr. Vasko pointed out that when Phase I was advanced, the District committed to maximum tax increases for three years, adding that Phase II was optional. However, he acknowledged that Phase II is no longer optional but reiterated concern about the project's scope. Mrs. Hamlin emphasized that the Board needs to approve this motion to have the full scope of Phase II.

Mr. Shages discussed the District's budget review meeting in April, highlighting the need for an additional half million dollars, which could be achieved through revenue increase or cost reductions. He challenged the administration to explore cost-saving measures to avoid unnecessary tax increases. Additionally, Mr. Vasko was apprehensive about committing to a \$32 million project without determining what the District could afford. Mrs. Perkins noted that the District must pass this motion in order to determine the project's scope. Renninger clarified Draw Collective's role in prioritizing project elements based on allocated funds, underscoring that the project had been planned in phases aligned with the District's master plan, with each phase budgeted accordingly. She emphasized the need for a clear financial ceiling from the Board to ensure the project remains within budget constraints.

Dr. Loughead highlighted that the master plan was guided by a team of teachers, administration, and Board input that aligned with the District's academic vision and safety upgrades. He added that this plan was shaped through multiple meetings over a long period. Ms. Balason agreed that students and families are aware of the plans but acknowledged that more can be done to communicate current plans for Phase II. Ms. Renninger added that the renovation project is not a complete teardown and rebuild but a targeted effort to address specific areas that will have a meaningful impact on students.

Mr. Stein underscored the importance of cash flow management, highlighting its critical role in covering debt service and funding project expenditures. He emphasized the need to develop a comprehensive cash flow projection once the project's scope is defined, which will determine the District's ability to finance the project and raise the necessary funds. Dr. Loughead acknowledged the financial planning, referencing earlier presentations on project financing and borrowing implications.

The Board voted 8-1 to approve Draw Collective for Architectural and Engineering Services for Phase II of the Hampton High School Renovation Project, subject to contract review and approval by the District Solicitor. Mr. Vasko opposed the motion.

The Board also discussed awarding the contract for pre-construction services for Phase II of the Hampton High School Renovation Project to P.J. Dick Incorporated per their proposal for \$899,329, subject to review and approval by the District Solicitor.

Mr. Vasko noted that the contract amount for PJ Dick seems high compared to what was approved for Phase I. He questioned whether it would make sense to seek additional bids in an effort to lower the cost. Dr. Loughead said that he and Mr. Kline had already worked with PJ Dick to lower the bid significantly from the first proposal, noting that Phase II is a more comprehensive project regarding the work taking place inside the building. Mrs. Hamlin inquired about the possibility of losing PJ Dick as a contractor if this motion is not approved. Dr. Loughead said that would be a likely risk, adding that PJ Dick would be able to adjust accordingly if the District were to modify the project scope. Ms. Renninger noted that the project's duration is a factor for PJ Dick, adding that the Phase II duration is longer due to increased sequencing.

The Board voted 8-1 to award the contract for pre-construction services for Phase II of the Hampton High School Renovation Project to P.J. Dick Incorporated per their proposal in the amount of \$899,329, subject to review and approval by the District Solicitor. Mr. Vasko opposed the motion.

The Board also unanimously approved the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program Resolution.

Mr. Kline noted that applications are due at the end of May. Dr. Loughead added that Hampton's local legislators have encouraged them to apply, and they will provide letters of support.

Student Affairs

(1:09:08)

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

- Hampton Middle School Voices Club.
- Future Business Leaders of America trip to the FBLA National Leadership Conference (Competition) in Orlando, Florida, from June 27, 2024, to July 3, 2024, at a cost to the District not to exceed \$700.

Mr. Shages noted that five Hampton High School students recently helped with landscaping services at his house. He commended their work effort and diligence, which he said reflects many high school students who are exemplary citizens.

Educational Programs

(1:11:06)

There were no action items this evening.

Finance

(1:11:11)

Mr. Vasko recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following items:

- Resolution for the sale of parcel 1076-E-393.
- Budget Transfers totaling \$8,183.61 for the following:

Dist; Tech Supplies & Fees & HS Equipment	\$4,063.00
HMS; General Fund	\$2,465.10
Secondary; General Supply	\$1,655.51

- 2024-2025 Consumable Supply Bids at a total amount of \$231,353.23.
- 2024-2025 A.W. Beattie Career Center Budget with the District's share as follows:

Capital Budget	\$0
Operating Budget	\$758,339
Debt Service	\$119,094
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Total	\$877,433

Dr. Loughead announced that the Board would be tabling an action item regarding approval of the 2024-2025 Senior Citizens Property Tax Rebate Resolution. He said the administration is working on creative ideas to increase the rebate amount for the lowest income bracket.

The Board also unanimously approved an addendum to the Food Service Management Agreement with Metz Culinary Management for the 2024-2025 School Year, per the proposal dated May 6, 2024.

Mr. Kline explained that the Metz bid resulted from a rigorous, four-month process as specified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The District advertised and received three bid proposals. Mr. Kline explained the district's comprehensive evaluation process, which included capabilities, liabilities, and references, with Metz being rated the highest. This allowed renegotiation under PDE guidelines, resulting in Metz matching the financial terms of the low bidder. Additionally, Metz projected a surplus of \$16,297 with a guaranteed profit of \$105,000 in the next year. Mr. Kline said the decision was influenced by employee transition, as all but three employees are currently employed by Metz rather than HTSD.

Dr. Loughead added that the surplus funds will help the District with future cafeteria upgrades. Mr. Kline said that the District would ideally be able to use these funds for Phase II of the high school renovation project, specifically for kitchen upgrades.

Personnel

(1:20:27)

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

Resignation

- Mrs. Marilyn Adams, a Grade 2 teacher at Poff Elementary School, is retiring after 35.5 years of service with the District, effective June 10, 2024.
- Ms. Kelly Emmett, an English teacher at Hampton High School, is retiring after 22.5 years of service with the District, effective June 10, 2024.
- Ms. Jill Sladic is retiring after 24 years of service with the District, effective June 10, 2024. Ms. Sladic is a Science Teacher at Hampton Middle School.
- Mrs. Chris Burd, an administrative assistant at Wyland Elementary School, will retire after 26 years of service with the District on August 2, 2024.
- Mr. Brett Balint, a custodian at Wyland Elementary School, is retiring after 12 years of service with the District, effective June 5, 2024.

Ms. Balason expressed gratitude to the retiring faculty and staff members for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the District over many years.

Teachers

- Mrs. Amy Holtz as a mentor for the 2023-2024 School Year.
- Nancy Kimmel, Lindy McGee, Alexandra Nulf, and Aimee Usher as Guest Substitute Teachers for the Hampton Township School District, effective May 1, 2024. Salary is \$100 per day for days 1-30 and then \$120 per day thereafter. These substitutes will be utilized on an as-needed basis.

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Change in status for Mrs. Jessica Barry moving from the Administrative Assistant to the Middle School Counselors (Class V) at Hampton Middle School to the Administrative Assistant to the Building Principal at Wyland Elementary School (Class VI), effective June 10, 2024. Hourly rate is \$26.36 per hour for the 15 remaining days in the 2023-2024 school year, \$27.01 per hour for the first 15 days of the 2024-2025 school year, and \$27.26 per hour thereafter.

Addendum

- Change in status for Ms. Mia Smyers moving from Building Substitute at Hampton Middle School to Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Hampton Middle School effective April 2, 2024, through the end of the 2023-2024 School Year. Salary is \$36,500, prorated. Ms. Smyers is substituting for Mrs. Lena Clary.
- Resignation of Ms. LaNette Weber effective May 31, 2024. Ms. Weber is a Paraeducator (Class III) at Wyland Elementary School.
- Resignation of Ms. Laurie Rogers effective May 8, 2024. Ms. Rodgers was a 10-month/6-hour custodian at Hampton Middle School.

- The following Summer/Extended School Year Teachers at the current rate per hour as per the HTEA CBA:

Melissa Cambest	Kelly Koble	Christina Shane
Lauren Clark	Jordan Mazzei	Jessica Schmidt
Daniel Garbark	Kylee McCracken	Mia Smyers
Megan Kallock	Kaitlyn Sanguigni	Jessie Wehler

- Heather Paxton as Summer/Extended School Year Health Office Nurse at her current hourly rate per the Health Office Nurse Agreement.
- The following Summer/Extended School Year Paraeducators at their current rate per hour as per the HESPA CBA:

Ashley Arlotti	Kristen Ninehouser
Amanda Filutze	Margaret O’Laughlin
Dawn Huckestein	Mary Steiner

- Tara Brick and Kaitlyn Stoltz as Summer/Extended School Year Paraeducators at the entry-level hourly rate for Paraeducators per the HESPA CBA.

Technology

(1:22:20)

There were no action items this evening, but Mr. Stein noted that, as discussed last week, the District will pre-order some student laptops to ensure they arrive promptly for the 2024-2025 school year.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

(1:22:39)

Mr. Shages recommended and the Board unanimously approved the following policies:

- AIU Mutual Assistance Group Memorandum of Understanding.
- Second Reading and Adoption of Policy #808: Food Services.
- First Reading of Policy #202: Eligibility of Non-Resident Students.
- Mr. Greg Stein and Ms. Maureen Perkins will be appointed as Hampton Township School District’s Representatives for the 2024 PSBA Delegate Assembly, the PSBA’s annual association-wide business meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024. Mr. Stein will attend virtually, and Ms. Perkins will attend in person.

Mr. Shages mentioned his previous discussion with Representative Rob Mercuri about Pennsylvania’s multi-billion dollar budget surplus. Representative Mercuri commented on cyber and charter school reform legislation, indicating that proposals might include additional private school vouchers.

Transportation

(1:26:17)

There were no action items this evening.

A.W. Beattie Career Center Board Report

(1:12:09)

Mr. Stein mentioned tonight's 2024-2025 A.W. Beattie Career Center Budget approval. He also discussed the Allegheny County Schools Health Insurance Consortium's (ACSHIC) seeking new logo proposals, with AWBCC students allowed to submit designs for the new logo. Additionally, Mr. Vasko said that AWBCC is seeking a new business manager. Mr. Stein added that Beattie is looking into a one-year trial to keep the position in-house.

HAEE Report

(1:27:20)

Mrs. Kennedy said that Hampton Alliance for Educational Excellence (HAEE) has selected October 13th as the date for the annual 5K Race. HAEE is seeking additional sponsors. For more information, visit www.hamptonalliance.org. She reminded everyone that the funds support Hampton's schools and that HAEE is a tax-deductible charity. She noted that May 14th is the final day to submit designs for race T-shirts.

Additionally, Mrs. Kennedy announced that the HAEE scholarship winners have been named, with Tiffany Habib and Sarah Shook each awarded \$2,500. The next HAEE meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th.

Adjournment

(1:30:07)

There were no public comments, and Mrs. Hamlin moved to adjourn the meeting.