



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
JUNE 27, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M.

Board Members: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, David Asbery (virtual), Mario Ciccarini, Christopher Piscitelli, and Andrew Tammaro.

Student Representatives: Matilda Ryder

Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola (virtual)

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent recognized Safiyah Sawyer, Writer and Director of "From Here", a Hamden High School student play

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Move to approve of minutes from the May 14, 2024 Board of Education meeting and the Special Board of Education meeting on June 3, 2024

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CORRESPONDENCE

The following people sent emails on Hamden Middle School sports being cut:

Sariaya Sofia, Megan Wilkinson, Kayla Gianelli, Marissa Mead, Adam Buskar, Allison Onerfer, Regina Seglin, Cheryl Spreski, Christina Buskar, Ken Sweeten, and Christina Prentiss.

Robin Robinson wrote in about all the suggested cuts, Stacia Flowers commented specifically about her child (sent to the Superintendent), Tina Bouchard and Alex Carmine commented on being against cutting the Director of PE and Health, Lauren Robyn commented on technology waste in the district and Gillian had a question about her child and about BOE policy

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following people spoke during Public Comments on Agenda Items:

Mark Hu

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Matilda Ryder, had no report. Just a goodbye and good luck to exiting Student Representative Mark Hu

COMMITTEE reports

ACES/Wintergreen - Committee Chair, Greta Johnson, was not present to speak.

Curriculum Committee - Committee Member, Mario Ciccarini, reported on the committee's activities.

Equity Committee - Committee Chair, Nancy Hill, was not present to speak and no meeting was held.

Finance Committee - Committee Chair, Peter Downhour, reported on the committee's activities.
Superintendent Highsmith requested guidance on how to proceed with the Town of Hamden and Quinnipiac regarding a donation for Hamden Middle School sports.
Goals and Evaluations Committee - Committee Chair, Andrew Tammaro, stated there was nothing to report at this time.
Operations Committee - Committee Chair, Kevin Shea, was not present to speak.
Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was no meeting.
Policy Committee - Committee Member, Christopher Piscitelli, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

-PENDING ACTION

Move to approve the building use by Kiyama Mentor program to use the gymnasium and a classroom at the Hamden High School for a summer program on July 1st-July 26th from 8:30am-1pm

Motion- Tammaro

Seconded by: Kaplan

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Move to approve the building use by Whitney Players to use the auditorium, black box, dressing rooms and C107 at the Hamden High School for Summer Musical- Footloose July 31st -August 5th from 5:30-9:30pm for rehearsal and August 7th-August 9th from 5-10pm for shows and August 10th from 12-7pm for final show

Motion- Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Move to approve the building use by HFFCA to use the athletic fields at the Hamden High School for the Flag Football Championship on July 19th from 10am-6pm

Motion- Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

Move to Approve the Consent Agenda

Kaplan

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- i. Approval of Hamden High School Trip to Peru April 11-20, 2025 (Curriculum, May 2024)
- ii. Approval of Hamden High School Curriculum – Math Explorations (Curriculum, June 2024)
- iii. Approval of Hamden High School Curriculum – Visual Arts (Curriculum, June 2024)
- iv. Approval of HPS Capital plans and funding (Operations, June 2024)
- v. Approval of Whitsons' yearly addendum pending State of Connecticut approval (Operations, June 2024)
- vi. Approval of the building use by We Are the Village to use the gymnasium at 60 Putnam Ave. for summer camp from July 1st – August 18th from 7:30am-4:30pm and for an after-school program from August 26th to June 30, 2025 (Operations, June 2024)

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent spoke about the Hamden High School graduation ceremony.

The Superintendent reported that Hamden Public Schools received the LEAP grant to help combat chronic absenteeism within the district. Andrew Tammaro and Dr. David Asbery had follow up questions on this initiative.

The Superintendent communicated the board about another grant that the district is applying for, the CSDE Stronger Connections Grant, that will be used for afterschool programming at the elementary schools. Melissa Kaplan and Andrew Tammaro had additional questions on this grant.

The Superintendent informed the Board that he is still waiting to hear whether Clifford Beers can use the Congressional funding to continue their services within the district.

The Superintendent expressed to the Board his goals for the upcoming school year.

The Superintendent told the Board about the upcoming negotiations with the Teachers' Union.

ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn at 6:42 P.M.

Kaplan

Seconded by: Downhour

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary