

The Board Report

Monday, September 3, 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 community members could view it after it concluded.

Members of Administration in Attendance

Dr. Michael Loughead	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Rebecca Cunningham	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jackie Removcik	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Jeff Kline	Director of Administrative Services
Mr. Daniel Hartle	Director of Facilities Management

** absent*

*** attended remotely*

September 3, 2024

Work Session

A video recording of the meeting can be viewed using the link posted on the district website.

Call to Order

Mrs. Hamlin called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Eight Board members were present, while Mrs. Midgley participated remotely. Mrs. Hamlin opened the meeting to public comment, but there were no comments at this time.

Student Affairs

Mr. Jarrell introduced HHS students Mira Cupps and Emerson Pryal who presented the Student Council Representative Report. Their report highlighted the successful start to the 2024-2025 school year, including the enthusiasm and participation in fall sports. They also shared the success of the high school's Back to School Bash/Activities Fair, which aimed to excite students about clubs and sports. Additionally, they discussed plans for Homecoming, which will have a Kentucky Derby theme, and Spirit Week. The Board encouraged the Student Council Representatives to share their thoughts and ideas at Board meetings, emphasizing that their voices are valued.

Additionally, Mr. Jarrell presented the following action item that will be considered for Board approval at the September 9th Voting Meeting:

- Hampton High School FBLA Job Shadow Field Trip to Washington, DC/Baltimore, March 26, 2025 to March 30, 2025, at no cost to the District.

Dr. Cunningham thanked Mr. Howard for his hard work in pulling the details of the proposed field trip together, and noted that the robust agenda will allow students the opportunity to visit a number of job shadow experiences in addition to regional places of interest.

Facilities

There were no action items on the agenda; however, Cassandra Renninger of DRAW Collective presented updates on the Hampton High School Renovation Project Phase II. The Board in May 2024 authorized DRAW Collective and PJ Dick to proceed with design and pre-construction work to advance Phase II of the high school renovation project. Renninger outlined the bigger-picture changes to the Phase II proposal, which was originally presented at the May 6, 2024 Work Session, following meetings with user groups and the administration over the summer:

- **Food Court Layout:** After meeting with the new food service team, it was determined that the original plan for the kitchen and servery may need to be adjusted to accommodate potential consolidation of lunch periods and expected increase in student participation in the food court.
- **Public Restroom Areas:** The proposal includes upgrading public restroom areas, particularly in the 1968 portion of the building, with two locations: one near the auditorium lobby/cafeteria

corridor and one near the auditorium/classrooms corridor. During the design process, a significant concern was presented relative to the shortage of bathroom facilities during large public events, such as the high school musicals. This proposed bathroom concept is specifically designed to address this significant shortage of bathroom availability during large public events hosted in the auditorium. The goal is to create multi-restroom facilities that will maximize the number of fixtures for event use, make all fixtures available to everyone regardless of gender, and enhance supervision with open sink areas while maintaining added privacy for all users. Considerations for both restroom areas include two single-user restrooms with sinks, as well as additional single-toilet compartments and shared sinks.

- **Biology Labs:** The original proposal did not include two biology labs in the 1999 wing of the building. However, after meeting with teachers, it was determined that the labs needed upgrades to better support the curriculum. Plans call for the labs to undergo selective modifications, adding more sinks to each lab station and installing wheels on the existing lab tables to make them moveable. These changes will address the current limitations of the biology labs and create more flexible and functional learning spaces.
- **Double Classroom/Classroom Swap:** The proposal includes swapping the locations of the double classroom and two social studies classrooms. The current double classroom will be converted into two separate classrooms by removing the foldable wall and constructing a solid partition. These two rooms will be assigned to social studies teachers, giving these teachers classrooms with windows. Meanwhile, the two classrooms near the auditorium, currently used by social studies teachers, will be converted into a double classroom by removing the partition between them.

During the discussion, some Board members expressed concerns about the proposed bathroom design, specifically the ideas of students and faculty of both genders using the same facilities. Renninger reassured the Board that similar designs have been successfully implemented in other schools. The discussion explored possible changes to the bathroom layout, as well as the potential benefits of the design such as enhanced safety for all users. The proposed bathroom concept is specifically designed to address significant shortages of bathroom availability during large public events hosted in the auditorium.

Additionally, Renninger reported that they have met with all user groups in the building, while ongoing user meetings and design efforts are taking place with Tech Ed, Biology & Physics, Kitchen/Food Court, IT Systems, and MEP Systems. Her presentation also highlighted proposed Phase II site work, which will address erosion repair along the parking lot and sidewalk updates near the gymnasium. The current proposal for the multipurpose softball field includes a turn surface, portable outfield fence, netting along the parking lot and Topnick Drive, dugouts and bleachers, and a potential storage building.

By the end of September, 100% of the design development will be completed and submitted to PJ Dick. After PJ Dick provides a cost estimate of the design development, the Board and administration will discuss the estimated costs and potential adjustments to the project. The project will go out to bid in mid-February, with bids to be received in March. In April, contracts will be awarded, and construction is expected to begin in Summer 2025. The PowerPoint presentation from tonight's meeting is available at www.ht-sd.org/about/school-board/board-report.

Buildings & Grounds Summer Projects Update

Mr. Hartle presented updates on the District's buildings and grounds projects that took place over the summer. He expressed his gratitude to the staff who worked on the projects for their hard work. The completed work included the following:

- **Hampton High School:** Completion of the new digital music studio and PAES lab, as well as the purchase of a new Bortex multi-surface scrubber.
- **Hampton Middle School:** Resurfacing of gymnasium floor and a new reach-through cooler for the kitchen staff.
- **Central Elementary:** Relocation of the Gaga ball pit and the addition of a rubber mat, purchased by the Central PTO, to increase all-weather play opportunities; tree cleanup; and repainting of the upper section of the gymnasium.
- **Poff Elementary:** Facilitated a teacher's move from Wyland to Poff, which included furniture.
- **Wyland Elementary:** Repainting of the principal's office; tree removal; and installation of a new entrance sign.
- **Fridley Field:** Following a microburst incident, the flagpole has been repaired and repainted.

Educational Programs

Mrs. Perkins presented the following action items that will be considered for Board approval at the September 9th Voting Meeting:

- Allegheny Intermediate Unit Title I Non-Public School Service Agreement.

Dr. Cunningham explained that this agreement enables the AIU to provide remedial English and math instructional services for non-public students in grades 9-12 who live in Hampton but attend Aquinas Academy.

- Midwestern Intermediate Unit Title I Non-Public School Service Agreement.

Dr. Cunningham explained that this agreement enables the MIU to provide Title I non-public services in English and math for students in grades 9-12 who live in Hampton but attend North Catholic High School.

3rd Day Enrollment 2024-2025

Dr. Loughead presented the District's 3rd Day Enrollment [report](#), highlighting that the District's enrollment is similar to last year's, with a slight decrease of 20-30 students. The report includes students from the Hampton Online Academy (HOA) and those attending approved private schools for special education services. Demographics are trending as expected based on studies conducted 10-15 years ago. Elementary schools continue to experience enrollment fluctuations, but Dr. Loughead said that teachers have been hired and placed in the necessary buildings, and class sizes are currently appropriate.

Finance

Mr. Vasko presented the following action item that will be considered for Board approval at the September 9th Voting Meeting:

- United States Golf Association (USGA) Rental Agreement.

This agreement would authorize the USGA to use Central Elementary School for parking and shuttle services during the 2025 U.S. Open Championship. In return, the District would receive a payment of \$6,000, plus an additional \$2,000 per day if the USGA needs to utilize Hampton Middle or High School as part of its contingency plan in the event of inclement weather.

- District initiated appeals for 2025 real estate tax assessments based on property transactions from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024 where the difference between the adjusted purchase price and the 2024 assessment value exceeds \$50,000.

2023 – 21 of 223 met the criteria
2022 – 79 of 276 met the criteria
2021 – 211 of 369 met the criteria
2020 – 104 of 285 met the criteria
2019 – 93 of 323 met the criteria
2018 – 92 of 295 met the criteria
2017 – 71 of 291 met the criteria
2016 – 71 of 332 met the criteria

Personnel

Ms. Balason presented the following action items to be considered for Board approval at the September 9th meeting:

Resignation

- Mia Smyers effective August 16, 2024. Ms. Smyers was a building substitute teacher at Hampton Middle School.

Teachers

- Ms. Stephanie Levine as the long term substitute mathematics teacher at Hampton High School, effective August 19, 2024 through approximately December 13, 2024. Salary is \$37,500, prorated based on actual days worked. Ms. Levine is substituting for Mrs. Kristin Baker.
- Ms. Jenna Rosenfeld from a .6 reading/reading support teacher at Hampton Middle School to a .8 reading/reading support teacher at Hampton Middle School effective September 10, 2024. This change is due to increased student enrollment.
- Ms. Jenna Rosenfeld from a .4 building substitute teacher at Hampton Middle School to a .2 building substitute teacher at Hampton Middle School effective September 10, 2024.
- The following building substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year:

Name	Building	Effective Date	Salary
Sarah Holton	Wyland Elementary School	August 19, 2024	\$28,500
Maura Carrozza	Elementary Floater	August 22, 2024	\$28,500, prorated
Olivia Scheller	Middle School	August 20, 2024	\$28,500, prorated
Spencer Homitz	High School	August 19, 2024	\$28,500

- The following mentors for the 2024-2025 school year:

Megan Brower	Lauren Humbert	Susan Rothmeyer
Cathy Close	Wendy Hunter	Brooke Stebler
Ken DiDonato	Michele Hurst	Brittnee Stepanik
Sydney Funtal	Julia Kritiotis	Lisa Woods
Shannon Hetrick	Brian Lego	Mike Zdinak
Amy Holtz	Sheree Lucas	

Paraprofessionals, Paraeducators, and Administrative Assistants

- Ms. Marylise Iris Rugero as a two-hour paraprofessional (Class I) at Central Elementary School effective August 21, 2024. Hourly rate is \$17.59 for the 60-day probationary period and \$17.84 thereafter. Ms. Rugero is replacing Mrs. Tricia Sovek.

Custodial/Maintenance

- Change in status for Mr. Anthony Zicarelli moving from a 10 month/8 hour custodian at Hampton Middle School to a 12 month/8 hour custodian at Poff Elementary School, effective August 26, 2024. There is no change in hourly rate. Mr. Zicarelli is replacing Ms. Beverly Siebert.
- Mr. Chad Foster as a 10 month/6 hour custodian, with an initial assignment at Hampton Middle School, effective August 27, 2024. Hourly rate is \$24.18. Mr. Foster is replacing Ms. Laurie Rodgers.

Supplemental Contracts

- The following conditional appointments for 2024-2025, each at a rate of \$152 per point, with each such appointment being conditioned on the District making a subsequent determination that the supplementary position and work associated with such position is needed and approved. Each appointment shall be effective only where the position is approved and operational and where the work associated with such position is actually being performed. This conditional appointment does not obligate the District to approve some, all or any of the supplementary positions for 2024-2025 and does not guarantee any of the persons listed in the document below that his or her supplementary position will be needed and in place, or that it will continue uninterrupted, in 2024-2025.

Name	Position	Building	Points	Stipend
Beth Casey	AV Computer Coordinator	Central Elementary	5	\$760
Kate Eskra	Department Head Social Studies	High School	15	\$2,280

Technology

There were no action items on the agenda.

Policy and Legislative Affairs

Mr. Shages presented the following items to be considered for Board approval at the September 9th meeting:

- First Reading of Policy #247: Hazing.

Updates include minor changes and definitions, reflecting the new Title IX regulations.

- First Reading of Policy #807: Opening Exercises/Moment of Silence/Flag Displays.

Based on a new state law, this change directs the District to annually provide, during instructional hours, a moment of silence for students and staff to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001. Dr. Cunningham noted that the principals are aware of the new regulation in place for this September.

- Policy #824: Maintaining Professional Adult/Student Boundaries.

These minor changes were based on Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) guidance.

Transportation

There were no action items on the agenda; however, Mr. Kline provided an update on the District's busing situation for the start of the school year. All routes are currently covered, marking an improvement from the same time last year. The District continues to utilize Elite Transportation as an alternative transportation option, which has helped to improve staffing.

Public Comment & Adjournment

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

Mrs. Hamlin motioned to adjourn the meeting, and there was no executive session.