



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION BOE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024.
Location – Board Room, 60 Putnam Ave., Hamden, CT

1. Call to order and roll call

Melissa Kaplan, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

Board Members Present: Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, Mario Ciccarini, Christopher Piscitelli, Nancy Hill, Kevin Shea (virtual-arrived 7:17pm), and Andrew Tamaro.

Absent: Dr. David Asbery and Greta Johnson

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

2. Additions to the Agenda – Three items were added to the agenda action item (5, 6, and 7) without objection.

- a. Approval of minutes from the August 21, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting minutes
- b. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Educational Foundation/Hamden Alumni Association to use A117 at Hamden High School on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 from 5pm-8 pm for monthly meeting
- c. Approval of the building use by Ken Butricks to use the gymnasium at the Hamden Middle School on Wednesdays starting September 18th - November 20th from 5pm-6:30pm for open gym

3. Approval of minutes

Motion by Kaplan to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2024, Special Board of Education meeting as presented.

Second by – Christopher Piscitelli

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

4. Correspondence –

email correspondence received by Ronald Dennis of 80 Glen Ridge Road, regarding Policy 5117 - Student Placement, specifically about alternate placement and the appeals process.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items –

George Levenson of Shepard Ave commented on the budget and teacher time off/use of substitutes and the impact on the budget.

6. Student Representative Report was given by Matilda Ryder

7. Committee reports

- a. ACES/Wintergreen – no report
- b. Curriculum Committee – no report
- c. Equity Committee – Nancy Hill provided an update on planning meetings
- d. Finance Committee – Peter Downhour provided an update on last year's financial report. Unaudited end-of-year funds were favorable at \$9,000. Additional updates on the EFS reports and the current 2023-2025 budget were given.
- e. Goals and Evaluations Committee – none

- f. Operations Committee – Kevin Shea Provided an update with many items for the Board’s consideration in the consent agenda and under the action items.
 - g. Personnel Committee – none
 - h. Policy Committee – none
8. Information Item
- a. Introduction of New District Administration Members – Superintendent Highsmith introduced new members of the administration to the BOE.

Motion by Peter Downhour to move Action Item 10.a.iv before executive session.

Second, by Melissa, Passed with no objection.

Pamela Mendelson and John Dowley from the class of 1962 presented a request to plant a tree at Hamden High School grounds in honor of a long-serving teacher that the class of 1962 remembers fondly.

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve a donation of a tree in honor of a retired Hamden High School teacher by class of 1962 alumnus.

Second by - Nancy Hill

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

9. Executive Session

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to go into executive session for discussion concerning a.) bargaining strategies with the Teachers’ Union, b.) salary increases for non-union employees, and c.) bargaining strategies with the Professional and Clerk/Para Unions with guests Superintendent Highsmith, BOE attorneys Natalia Millán from Shipman and Goodwin, and Bill Ryan from Ryan & Ryan LLC

Second by – Christopher Piscitelli

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

10. Action Items

a. Pending Action

- i. Discussion and approval of the new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan.
The plan was presented by Superintendent Highsmith and Assistant Superintendent Tran.

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve the new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Plan as presented.

Second – Christopher Piscitelli.

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

- ii. Discussion and approval of SRO MOU extension

The SRO MOU was presented by Superintendent Highsmith and the administration recommended the extension of one year (until June 30, 2025) of the current MOU

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve an extension of one year of the current SRO MOU.

Second – Nancy Hill.

In favor – Melissa Kaplan, Peter Downhour, Mario Ciccarini, Christopher Piscitelli, Nancy Hill, and Andrew Tammaro.

Abstain – Kevin Shea

Against – none
The motion passes.

- iii. Approval of salary increases for non-union employees

Motion by Melissa Kaplan that the Assistant Superintendents and COFO receive a 2% salary increase and the 5 remaining non-administrative, non-union, group 3 personnel receive a 2.5% increase.

Second – Peter Downhour.
All in favor
The motion passes unanimously.

- iv. Discussion and approval of a donation of a tree in honor of a retired Hamden High School teacher by class of 1962 alumnus
This agenda item was moved to an earlier spot on the agenda.

- v. Approval of minutes

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024, Special Board of Education meeting minutes as presented

Second by – Christopher Piscitelli
All in favor
The motion passes unanimously.

- vi. Building use approval

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve the building use by the Hamden Educational Foundation/Hamden Alumni Association to use A117 at Hamden High School on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 5 pm-8 pm for monthly meeting.

Second by – Mario Ciccarini
All in favor
The motion passes unanimously.

- vii. Building use approval

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve the building use by Ken Butricks to use the gymnasium at the Hamden Middle School on Wednesdays starting September 18th - November 20th from 5 pm-6:30 pm for open gym

Second by – Mario Ciccarini
All in favor
The motion passes unanimously.

b. Consent agenda

- i. Approval of the building use by Hamden Senior Services to use the gymnasium at 60 Putnam Ave. Monday, Wednesday and Fridays October 21-November 6, 2024 from 10-11am for senior exercise classes (moved due to early voting at original area) (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- ii. Approval of painting a crossing area at Spring Glen School (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- iii. Approval of the disposal of 17 outdated enlargers in the HHS photography department (Operations Committee, September 2024)

- iv. Approval of the building use by Hamden Soccer Association to use the only athletic fields at Hamden High and only the soccer fields at Hamden Middle School on Saturdays and Sundays from September 7 – November 10, 2024 from 9am – 5pm for games (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- v. Approval of the building use by Hamden Youth Lacrosse to use the fields at Dunbar Hill for learn to plan and skills clinic on Wednesdays from September 11– November 13, 2024 from 5:30pm-7:30pm (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- vi. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Bear Path October 21 & 23, 2024 for skills evaluation from 5:30-7:30pm and player recognition on February 16, 2025 from 11am-1pm (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- vii. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Bear Path on Tuesdays/Thursdays December 3, 2024-March 6, 2025, 2025 from 5:30pm-9:30pm for youth basketball practice (Operations Committee, September 2024)
Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Bear Path on Saturdays December 7, 2024-March 8, 2025, 2025 from 8am-3pm for youth basketball games (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- viii. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Bear Path on Saturdays December 7, 2024-March 8, 2025, 2025 from 8am-3pm for youth basketball games (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- ix. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at West Woods on Saturdays December 7, 2024-March 8, 2025, 2025 from 8am-5pm for youth basketball games (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- x. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Hamden Middle School on Tuesdays/Wednesdays/Thursdays December 3, 2024-March 6, 2025, 2025 from 5:30pm-9:30pm for youth basketball practice (Operations Committee, September 2024)
- xi. Approval of the building use by Hamden Regional Youth Basketball League to use the gym at Spring Glen School on Saturdays December 7, 2024-March 8, 2025, 2025 from 8am-4pm for youth basketball games (Operations Committee, September 2024)

Motion by Melissa Kaplan to approve the consent Agenda as presented

Second by – Andrew Tammaro

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

11. Superintendent's Report – The superintendent presented his report verbally.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Melissa Kaplan.

Second by - Christopher Piscitelli.

All in favor

The motion passes unanimously.

Adjourned 9:17pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Downhour, Board Secretary