



HAMDEN BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 12, 2024
MEETING MINUTES

Peter Downhour, Acting Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Peter Downhour, Acting Board Chair, appointed Christopher Piscitelli as Acting Secretary.

Board Members: Peter Downhour, David Asbery(Virtual), Mario Ciccarini, Nancy Hill, Christopher Piscitelli, and Andrew Tammaro(Virtual).

Student Representative: Kalu Ogbaa

Staff: Gary Highsmith, Tom Ariola, Erin Bailey and Susan Smey

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Move to Executive Session at 7:11 P.M. to have a discussion concerning approval of a tentative agreement with the Teachers' Union. In addition to the Board, the Superintendent was invited, and Tom Ariola and Erin Bailey are invited if needed.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: Downhour, Asbery, Ciccirini, Hill, Piscitelli and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Return to Public Session at 7:46 P.M.

SUPERINTENDENT/BOARD RECOGNITION

The Superintendent along with Bear Path School Principal Ms. Boord introduced the November Hamden Heroes.

6th Grader Luke Bonadies

Lunch/Resource Teacher Jacqueline Shayward

Parent Kelsey Oddo

The Superintendent along with Church Street School Principal Ms. Butler introduced the November Hamden Heroes.

6th Grader Kay'Den Livingston

Math Specialist Jennifer Kennedy-Holm

Community Member Vincent Contrucci, Director, Office of Community Engagement, Quinnipiac University

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Acting Board Chair, Peter Downhour, added Action Item 6b. Approval of minutes from the November 4, 2024 Special Board of Education meeting and removed of 12.b.vii. Approval of potential \$300,00 Capital budget transfer (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Move to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Board of Education meeting

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

3. Move to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2024 Board of Education special meeting

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION ITEMS

Acting Board Chair, Peter Downhour, mentioned that Board member, Kevin Shea, resigned. The Board received a nomination from the Republican Town Committee for Marsha Brown.

4. Move to nominate Marsha Brown to the open position on the Board of Education.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Hamden Town Clerk, Karimah Mickens, sworn in Marsha Brown to the Board of Education.

CORRESPONDENCE

Peter Downhour reported there was one correspondence to the Board since the last meeting as well as several correspondences to individual Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The following person spoke during Public Comments: Dominic Rapini, Laura Sandillo and Rich Diana.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Superintendent introduced the new student representative for 2024-2025 school year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES/Wintergreen - No report this evening.

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

Equity Committee - Committee Chair, Nancy Hill, reported on the activities of the committee.

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

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

Operations Committee - Committee Member, Nancy Hill, reported on the activities of the committee.

Personnel Committee - Committee Chair, David Asbery, stated there was no meeting.

Policy Committee - Committee Chair, Christopher Piscitelli, stated there will be a meeting in 2 weeks.

ACTION ITEMS(Continued)

PENDING ACTIONS

5. Move to approve a temporary agreement with the Teacher's Union.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: Downhour, Piscitelli, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

Downhour

Seconded by: Ciccarini

In Favor: Downhour, Piscitelli, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- i. Approval to repeal Policy #5131.8 1 Use of Beepers – Paging Devices/Cellular Telephones (First Read, Policy Committee, October 2024)
- ii. Approval of Spain Immersion Trip on June 14 to June 28, 2025 (Curriculum Committee, October 2024)
- iii. Approval of reading program discards (Curriculum Committee, October 2024)
- iv. Approval of the Hamden High School Dance Team field trip to Orlando, Florida, January 31-February 2, 2025 for the National Dance Team Championships (Curriculum Committee, October 2024)
- v. Approval of a request by the Hamden Education Foundation to dedicate the Hamden High School football stadium to The Coach Rob Carbone Stadium (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)
- vi. Approval of HHS instrument disposal (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)
- vii. Approval of potential \$300,00 Capital budget transfer (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)
- viii. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on January 11, 2025 from 10:30am – 3pm for figure meet (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)
- ix. Approval of the building use by the Hamden Heronettes to use the pool and locker rooms at Hamden High School on March 22 & 23, 2025 from 7am – 9pm for East Zone Invitational Meet (Special Operations Committee, November 2024)
- x. Approval of budget transfers (Finance, November 2024)

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The Superintendent thanked the Board, Councilwoman Sweet, Dr. Asbery and Andrew Tammaro for approving the tentative agreement of the Teachers Union contract.

The Superintendent talked about Teacher Fridays messages going out districtwide.

The Superintendent had a focus group meeting with HMS and HHS students about the Personal Device Policy. He will be having a meeting with teachers and then two meetings with the community.

The Superintendent asked Assistant Superintendent, Erin Bailey to discuss the Teacher Residency Program.

The Superintendent stated the District applied for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for chronic absenteeism for HCLC.

The Superintendent reported that Hamden Middle School is no longer a turnaround school. It is the first in the State of Connecticut to no longer be a turnaround school in just 3 years.

The Superintendent stated that Principal Coogan was selected as Hamden Chamber of Commerce Leader of the Year.

The Superintendent recognized the Girl's Field Hockey team for making it to SCC finals for the first time.

The Superintendent recognized Dominic from Helen Street School as one of the 7 finalists for becoming the Kids Governor.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Move to adjourn at 8:43 P.M.

Downhour

Seconded by: Piscitelli

In Favor: Downhour, Piscitelli, Asbery, Brown, Ciccarini, Hill, and Tammaro

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Piscitelli

Acting Board Secretary